

★ **Roll Call Number**

Agenda Item Number

52

Date May 19, 2008

COMMUNICATION from Ted and Tatum Scaff seeking to have the previously approved tax abatement for their home at 2832 Sweetwater Drive applied retroactively to the taxable value existing on January 1, 2007, and the taxes payable in Fiscal Year 2008/09.

MOVED by _____ to receive and file.

FORM APPROVED:

Roger K. Brown

Roger K. Brown
Assistant City Attorney

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
COLEMAN				
HENSLEY				
KIERNAN				
MAHAFFEY				
MEYER				
VLASSIS				
TOTAL				

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

.....
Mayor

CERTIFICATE

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

City Clerk

May 14, 2008

Mayor Cownie and City Council Members,

I am desperately seeking a change in the decision that was made, concerning "retro" tax abatement on the address 2832 Sweetwater Dr., during the May 5th City Council Meeting.

We built and closed on our house in September of 2006 and when we signed on the dotted line, it was agreed and understood that "tax abatement" was taken care of when the building permit was sent in. This was explained to us that it was taken care of in May of 2006. We were completely un-aware that this was actually never completed. We have never been contacted in any way of anything different until a prospective buyer's Realtor noticed that there was no tax abatement filed. Having no idea that this had even happened, we reacted as quickly as possible to have the matter corrected. Unfortunately, as you are probably aware in their state, Regency has been a dead end for us. I have stressed my issue to be corrected through numerous individuals and have ended up nowhere. Over the course of 3 weeks I have spoken with Gidget Kennedy, Alan Sprinkle, Dean Shroeder and Ken Portsche. I was passed from one person to the next and no one new where to start or what to do. In an email, from Gidget Kennedy, it clearly shows Regency admitting responsibility on this issue. It was stated by Gidget that she, "doesn't know what happened, but it was sent in May of 2006."

We have sold our house, closing on May 16th, and the buyers were fully aware, at the time as we understood that there would be 4 years tax abatement left on the house. At this time we are asking that the previous May 5th decision be reconsidered to 4 years tax abatement, with the 5 year total tax abatement starting from the 2007 tax year. All we are asking is to have everything corrected to the way we were told it was.

In short, we are asking you Mayor Cownie and City Council to look at this in a human matter. Without this being corrected, we are being asked to be held responsible for taxes that we shouldn't have to pay, only because of someone else's mistake. If this had been our responsibility, rest assured it would have been taken care of. We are a hard working, middle class family with one income. Our daily life strives on a strict budget and we are asking you to understand how we were blind sided by all of this. We apologize for the inconvenience this causes, but are desperately seeking your approval.

We thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Ted and Tatum Skaff