

October 16, 2023

The Board of Public Works & Safety met on Monday, October 16, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the Marion City Council Chambers. Present were Alex Huskey, Janice Adams, Cindy Cunningham, Brian Flynn, Linda Wilk, and secretary to the board.

Motion to approve October 2 minutes-Janice Adams; seconded Brian Flynn. Motion carried.

Public Hearing

Janet Pearson asked the board to approve 1616, 1620, and 1624 S. Gallatin Street for \$1,500.

Motion to approve the sale of 1616, 1620, and 1624 S. Gallatin Street for \$1,500-Brian Flynn; seconded Cindy Cunningham.

Building Department- 302 N. Illinois St.

Jerry Foustnight informed the board that he had not been able to get into the property to do the inspection. He stated no permits have been pulled for this property. The proper permits and inspections need to be done on the property. Cindy Cunningham asked if the property is a danger to the public on the outside. Jerry Foustnight stated no it is not.

Eliza Burton informed the board that the owner is incarcerated and she believes he may get out in December. She informed the board that Family and Social Services paid to have the water lines installed but that is the only work that has to be done. She said there needs to be electrical work, drywall and ceilings put back into the home.

Alex Huskey asked how this will get done if given another ninety days if he is incarcerated? Eliza Burton said he is not going to be able to but she is going to try to see what she can get done herself. She will get the permit and she will ask the guy that came out to put in the waterlines and Family and Social Services to help. Janice Adams asked what the estimated cost is for all of the work that needs done. Eliza Burton said she is not sure. Eliza Burton is going to set up a time for Jerry to go back to the property.

Motion to table 302 N. Illinois with pictures sent to the board as well as proof of the contractor is registered with the city to November 20, 2023- Alex Huskey; seconded Cindy Cunningham. Motion carried.

Demolition Process update

Jerry Foustnight explained to the board that this update is not a draft. It is an update as far as what is going on. Jerry Foustnight said he has spoken with the administration and they feel like this is an administrative issue. Everything that the board is requesting on already on the website. The only thing not on the website is how it determined what structures are going to be demolished.

Linda Wilk explained that there honestly so many people in the community that have questions about how does it get on the demo list. Linda Wilk stated the board is looking for something that says this is how a property gets on the list. She asked Jerry Foustnight if the document they were

given explaining this process is not something that can go on the website. Jerry Foustnight said if the administration wants that put on the website they will put it on the website. Jerry Foustnight stated if the board feels it will be helpful they can put the information on the website for informational purposes. Jerry Foustnight then said he feels at this point Jess or Mike needs to be brought in on the conversation so the board can explain to them what they are wanting to do. Janice Adams said the board is not questioning what Jerry is doing. She said they are not talking changing policy and procedures changing it is just general information. She said the information he has given seems to be exactly what they are wanting. She does not feel there needs to be any more processes just put this information on the website. Alex Huskey said the point is lacking the transparency leads people to interpret what your intentions or actions. Knowing the processes and having the processes transparent will help keep things in balance. Brian Flynn stated Jerry can include a disclaimer at the bottom of the list to explain why the order may change with the demolitions that have been approved. Jerry Foustnight said thank you he appreciates the input and he will sit down and have conversations and we will look into it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

James Shelton lives at 1109 S. Gallatin St. He is complaining about the house at 1106 S. Boots St. There are rats, raccoons, opossums, all of this is coming in my yard and mice are coming in the house. He has asked several times about getting the grass cut, he is trying to find out the process to get this done. Lind Wilk advised James Shelton to speak with Jerry. James Shelton said he has spoken with Jerry and now feels he is being harassed. Jerry Foustnight said no one is harassing Mr. Shelton. He said this property that he is speaking of is a city owned property. There have been estimates on tearing the property down. City Council elected not to pass an appropriation for \$500,000 for use towards demos in the city. Jerry Foustnight said if they concerns about demolitions not getting done in the city they need to contact their city council people. Brian Cowgill said the appropriation was given to the council a couple of weeks ago because the money is to come out of the ARPA fund, which in order for it come out you have to get a plan together. The state required the plan so it is a proper plan, how you are going to use the money, what you are going to do and so on. We have not been shown any kind of paperwork like that or any kind of plan put together. There are rules that the council has to go by and the mayor had not contacted them. Robin Fouce informed the board that she appreciates the comments especially those of Alex Huskey wanting to make the citizens first. The council approving or not approving has nothing to do with system in this case. She feels this gentleman said today that he had for years reported this property not just in the last two weeks. She said it is good to start with something on paper about the process. But she wants to know what the extent is of the blight in the community. How many blighted houses do we have? If we collectively look at the city to determine the full scope of the blighted house then a clear picture of what it will cost will be beneficial moving forward.

Motion to adjourn- Brian Flynn; seconded Alex Huskey.

Meeting adjourned.

Linda Wilk- President
Board of Public Works & Safety

ATTEST:

Aisha Richard- Secretary
Board of Public Works & Safety