

MINUTES
ALTOONA CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
Tuesday, February 5, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT

Randy Isenberg, Chairperson
Michael Haire, Vice Secretary
Dave Albright, Vice Chairperson
Chuck Myers
James Dixon
Richard Haines

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jennifer Mikolajczk, Secretary

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STAFF PRESENT

Lee Slusser, Director Community Development
Nick Ardizzone, Property and Program Coordinator
Mary Johnson, CDBG Manager

GUESTS PRESENT

Bill Kibler, Altoona Mirror

The Altoona City Planning Commission held its monthly meeting on February 5, 2019 at 3:00 P.M. in the Public Meeting Room, City Hall 1301 12th Street, Altoona. Lee Slusser, Director Community Development called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. Election of Officers.

Mr. Slusser introduced and welcomed Mr. Richard Haines as a new member of the Commission replacing Mr. Bob Gutshall who resigned at the end of 2018. He then told the Commission that they would need to elect new officers for a one year term. Mr. Slusser described what each officer's job would be. Mr. Slusser opened the floor for nominations. Randy Isenberg was elected as Chair. David Albright was elected Vice Chair, Jennifer Mikolajczk was elected as Secretary and Michael Haire was elected as Vice Secretary.

2. Approval of meeting minutes of November 6, 2019.

Mr. Isenberg then took over the meeting and asked for approval of the meeting minutes of November 6, 2018. A motion was made by Dave Albright for approval. Motion was seconded by Chuck Myers. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Comment Period

No Public Comment at this time.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ITEMS

4. Staff Level Reviews – Staff has been working on the following subdivision/land development applications since the November 6, 2018, regular meeting.
 1. 108 South Beckman Drive, Land Development - Recorded
 2. 2309 Broadway, Dazzling Realty, Inc., land development, Final Approval
 3. 2400 Eighth Avenue, The Mill subdivision and land development, approved by the ACPC in June and September, 2018, awaiting final plans
 4. 2200 Pleasant Valley Boulevard, Vince's Used Cars, land development, on hold
 5. 301 East Walton Avenue, Martin Oil land development, approved by the ACPC on February 8, 2018, on hold
 6. 2525 16th Avenue, Lear, Subdivision – STAFF LEVEL REVIEW, Under Review
 7. 404 Ash Street, O'Brien, Subdivision – STAFF LEVEL REVIEW Final Approval – Out for Recording

Urban Redevelopment

5. Spot Blight Declaration – The Planning Commission may consider declaring each of the following properties as blighted.

300-02 Walnut Avenue

Owner: Frank Davis
306 Walnut Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601

Property was vacant and in substandard condition. This property was completely destroyed by fire. An Emergency demolition was requested by the City's Fire Chief. Owner did not have insurance. Under the 2009 International Property Maintenance Code, the City will demolish the structure and place a lien on the property for the cost of demolition. A motion was made by Michael Haire to declare the property blighted. Dave Albright seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

304 Walnut Avenue

Owner: Frank Davis
306 Walnut Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601

Property was vacant and in substandard condition. This property was completely destroyed by fire. An Emergency demolition was requested by the City's Fire Chief. Owner did not have insurance. Under the 2009 International Property Maintenance Code, the City will demolish the structure and place a lien on the property for the cost of demolition. A motion was made by Chuck Myers to declare the property blighted. Michael Haire seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2820 6th Avenue

Owner: Gary P. Miller c/o Jackie Miller
2820 6th Avenue
Altoona, PA 16602

Property is vacant and in substandard condition. Owner is currently incarcerated and the spouse is financially unable to repair or raze the structure. Property was submitted to the Blighted Property Demo Program on January 11, 2019. Property exterior is in poor condition, porches need replaced along with foundation repairs. Window casings and frames are broken, rotted, cracked deteriorated, all needing replaced. Unable to inspect interior. Water and electric are off and taxes is owed for 2016 and 2017. Under the 2009 International Property Maintenance Code, the City will demolish the structure and place a lien on the property for the cost of demolition. A motion was made by Dave Albright to declare the property blighted. Chuck Myers seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

559-61 21st Avenue

Owner: James Jameson
2019 19th Street
Altoona, PA 16601

Property is vacant and in substandard condition. Property was submitted to the Blighted Property Demo Program on January 11, 2019. Property's interior is totally burnt out. Windows all need replaced roof and foundation in poor condition, and porch floors are rotted. Property owner is financially unable to repair or raze the structure. Taxes is owed for 2016 and 2017 and all utilities are off. Under the 2009 International Property Maintenance Code, the City will demolish the structure and place a lien on the property for the cost of demolition. A motion was made by Michael Haire to declare the property blighted. James Dixon seconded by motion. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

6. Planning Reports

- a. Grantsmanship activities (CDBG and HOME) 1st Public Hearing for 2019-2020 funding will be held on Wednesday, February 6, 2019.
- b. Zoning Hearing Board – Gilden Barton Funeral Home is asking for variance to put office space in what is a residential zone.
- c. Shade Tree Commission – Still working on new ordinance. A meeting will be held next Wednesday with the Arborists to work on this ordinance.
- d. GAEDC – No report.
- e. Blair County Planning Commission – No report.

7. Commissioners Forum – No report

8. Questions from the Media and Public

9. Adjournment

Michael Haire, Vice Secretary