

MINUTES
ALTOONA CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
Tuesday, September 1, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dave Albright, Vice Chair
James Dixon
Richard Haines
Jennifer Mikolajczk, Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT

Randy Isenberg, Chair
Michael Haire, Vice Secretary
Charles Myers

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STAFF PRESENT

Lee Slusser, Director Community Development
Carl Fischer, Deputy Director
Mary Johnson – CDBG Manager

The Altoona City Planning Commission held its monthly meeting on September 1, 2020 in the Public Meeting Room, City Hall 1301 12th Street, Altoona. Dave Albright, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. Approval of meeting minutes of July 7, 2020.

The minutes of the July 7, 2020, were read. A motion was made by Richard Haines for approval of the minutes. Motion was seconded by Jennifer Mikolajczk. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Public Comment Period

No Public Comment at this time.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ITEMS

3. No Subdivision or Land Development at this time.

4. Staff Level Reviews – Staff has approved the following staff level subdivision/land development applications since the July 7, 2020 meeting.

- 1. 1107 4th Avenue – Subdivision – Bryan – Under Review**

URBAN REDEVELOPMENT

5. **Spot Blight Declaration**

1005 5th Avenue

Owner: Keith & Susan Barber

514 Walton Avenue

Altoona, PA 1602

Property is vacant, residential and is in substandard condition not suitable for rehabilitation. Owners plead guilty at their January 9, 2020 hearing. Code Enforcement has not had any contact with them since that time. The property is a wood sided residential building with multi holes in the exterior wood siding. Windows are broken and missing, with rear porch in bad shape. Second floor balcony is missing. Foundation stone and brick are falling out and roof is in satisfactory condition. All utilities are off and no outstanding taxes. Under the 2015 International Property Maintenance Code, the City will demolish the structure and place a lien on the property for the cost of demolition. Motion to declare the property blighted was made by Jennifer Mikolajczk. Motion seconded by James Dixon. Motion passed unanimously.

306 Maple Avenue

Owner: Blair County Repository

423 Allegheny Street

Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

Property is vacant, residential and is in substandard condition not suitable for rehabilitation. Property is in very poor condition with missing and damaged siding, roof and windows. Gutters and downspouts are missing. Holes present with missing shingles. All utilities are off. Taxes are owed for 2017, 2018, 2019. City will apply for funding from the County to share in the expenses of this demolition. Under the 2015 International Property Maintenance Code, the City will demolish the structure and place a lien for the city's share of the demolition. Motion to declare the property blighted was made by Richard Haines. Motion seconded by James Dixon. Motion passed unanimously.

712 3rd Avenue

Owner: Gertrude Weaver

712 3rd Avenue

Altoona, PA 16602

Property is vacant, residential and is in substandard condition not suitable for rehabilitation. Property is in bad shape with trees growing up through the interior of the structure. Siding is loose and missing, roof has holes and missing shingles, window casings are in bad shape and some windows are missing. No contact with the owner has been made. All utilities are off and taxes are current. Under the 2015 International Property Maintenance Code, the City will demolish the structure and place a lien on the property for the cost of demolition. Motion to declare the property blighted was made by James Dixon. Motion seconded by Jennifer Mikolajczk. Motion passed unanimously.

1812 14th Street

Owner: Anita Campanaro

P.O. Box 907

Altoona, PA 16603

Property is vacant, residential and in substandard condition not suitable for rehabilitation. Property is in disrepair and has not been maintained. Roof has multiple holes causing damage and collapse of the front porch interior roof. Windows are satisfactory. Code Enforcement has not had any contact with the owner. Water and Electric are off and Gas is still active. 2019 Taxes are outstanding. Under the 2015 International Property Maintenance Code, the City will demolish the structure and place a lien on the property for the cost of demolition. Motion to declare the property blighted was made by Jennifer Mikolajczk. Motion seconded by Richard Haines. Motion passed unanimously.

1808 11th Street

Owner: Maria Coridad Ignacio (co-owners: Nirrvana Enterprises Co.)

P.O. Box 111

Patton, PA 16668

Property is vacant, residential and is in substandard condition not suitable for rehabilitation. Property is in poor condition – exterior siding has holes along with the roof and rafters are rotted. Windows are broken and missing. Foundation is satisfactory. All utilities are off and taxes are current. Code Enforcement has not had any contact with the owner. Under the 2015 International Property Maintenance Code, the City will demolish the structure and place a lien on the property for the cost of demolition. Motion was made to declare the property

blighted by James Dixon. Motion was seconded by Jennifer Mikolajczk. Motion passed unanimously.

909 27th Street

Owner: Shlomo Dotan

P.O. Box 1780

Altoona, PA 16603

Property is vacant, residential and is in substandard condition not suitable for rehabilitation. Wood siding needs scraped and painted, doors are broken, electrical service and meter base need replaced. Gutters need replaced. Holes in roof, sheathing is worn and rafters are rotted and need replaced. Windows are broken and boarded up. Water damage to interior ceilings which are now falling. Utilities are off, taxes are current and no contact with the owner. Under the 2015 International Property Maintenance Code, the City will demolish the structure and place a lien on the property for the cost of demolition. Motion to declare the property blighted was made by Jennifer Mikolajczk. Motion seconded by Richard Haines. Motion passed unanimously.

1318 N. 4th Avenue

Owner: Mary I. Myers

1318 N. 4th Avenue

Altoona, PA 16601

Property is vacant, residential and is in substandard condition not suitable for rehabilitation. House is in deplorable condition. Siding is rotted, paint is peeling, window framing is falling apart, main roof is sagging. All utilities are off. Property is in the County Repository. Will ask the County for assistance in the demolition costs. Under the 2015 International Property Maintenance Code, the City will demolish the structure and place a lien on the property for the city's share of the demolition. Motion was made by Jennifer Mikolajczk. Motion was seconded by James Dixon. Motion passed unanimously.

1801 6th Avenue

Owner: Howard Gates

624 E. Logan Avenue

Altoona, PA 16602

Property is vacant, residential and is in substandard condition not suitable for rehabilitation. Approximately 5 or 6 rental units. Property is in poor condition and there is no maintenance. Exterior is deteriorating; porch pillars are falling apart, stone above window is falling out; wood cornice is rotted; porch railings are broken off. Porches are deteriorating. Asphalt roof is collapsing, and plaster is

deteriorating from leaks. Foundation is satisfactory. Owner is in bankruptcy. Taxes are owed since 2014 totaling \$17,259. Under the 2015 International Maintenance Code, the City will demolish the structure and place a lien on the property for the cost of demolition. Motion to declare the property blighted was made by Richard Haines. Motion seconded by Jennifer Mikolajczk. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

6. Planning Reports

- a. Grantsmanship activities – Funding has been received for both CDBG and COVID-19.
- b. Zoning Hearing Board – Met on 8/12/20 two Special Exceptions were approved.
- c. Shade Tree Commission – No meeting
- d. GAEDC – No Meeting
- e. Blair County Planning Commission – Met and had a full agenda still trying to catch up.

8. Commissioners Forum – No report

9. Questions from the Media and Public

10. Adjournment

A motion was made by James Dixon to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 P.M. Richard Haines seconded the motion.

Jennifer Mikolajczk, Secretary