

Minutes and proceedings of the meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Hope, Indiana.

Be it remembered that the Town Council of the Town of Hope, Indiana held a called public hearing at the Hope Town Hall in said town at 5:30 p.m. on May 18, 2022.

A quorum was declared present based on the presence of the following council members: Jerry Bragg (President), John Walstad (Vice-President), Clyde Compton, Ohmer Miller and Ed Johnson. Town Manager Jason Eckart and Clerk Treasurer Diane Burton were also present.

Jerry Bragg called the meeting to order.

MEETING AGENDA

ORDER ON UNSAFE PREMISES AT 211 WALNUT STREET


Matt Galbraith stated we are here today to discuss the Bill Davis Jr. property located at 211 Walnut Street. I believe it is an unsafe structure and that every action should be taken to remedy this situation. Photos of the property were shared with the Council. Matt stated I am willing to answer any questions you might have. Ed asked if attempt of notification has been made several times. Matt confirmed. Ed asked how long the Council is required to wait after the public hearing. Scott Andrews answered we have given him until June 3rd. Scott requested Diane to put a file together. Scott stated I have the order he was sent on April 27th, and I have the signed certified letter mailing receipt notifying him about this public hearing today at 5:30. It looks like he is not here. From this hearing there are three things that the Council can do. Scott explained they can reject Matt's order for him to do these things which are as follows:

- 1) Demolish the existing structure
- 2) Remove and properly dispose of all demolition debris
- 3) Remove and properly dispose of all junk, trash and miscellaneous debris
- 4) Maintain the property in accordance with all the Town of Hope's municipal codes

Scott stated the second option is to affirm what Mat has said here for him to do. The third option is to modify what Matt has ordered him to do. You can also extend the time allowing him additional time to do that. Since he is not here and everybody is in agreement with this, my recommendation is to affirm what Matt has done. You can take action on June 4th. **John made a motion to move forward with what we need to do. Ed seconded.** Scott clarified what you need to do is make a motion to affirm Matt's order. If it passes, as of June 4th the Town can take action and perform all of these options for him. We will bill him back and put a lien on his property for the amount we expend for that. The issue is I don't know how much it's going to cost, and I suspect you may have to get some quotes to do that. Unless an employee of the Town is willing to do that, you are going to have to hire someone to do it. We will keep track of what we expend and then place a lien on the property. Jerry requested a motion as Scott recommended. **Ohmer made a motion to affirm the order as sent by the Building and Zoning Administrator, Matt Galbraith. Ed seconded.** Ohmer stated normally if Mr. Davis had come here with a plea, we might have given him some consideration. He appears that he is not complying with anything that we want as a community, so I think it's in our best interest to resolve this situation. It is a safety hazard. John and I went up there and looked at it. There is broken glass, debris and it is an eyesore. It is

in the best interest of the community to take this action in my opinion. Scott added Mr. Davis has been very reluctant to respond to anything. You've sent him several letters. Matt has sent him several letters. He has never responded to anything that we've given him. In this case, you've given him the order to appear today, he signed for it on May 9th. Unfortunately, the Town is going to have to spend some money to clean it up. Hopefully we will be able to recoup that. We can put a lien on the property. We can try to foreclose on that lien if you want to or obviously if he tries to sell it, that lien will have to be paid. At this point I think it's your best option. Clyde stated the thing we really have to face, we all realize we've been through this for how many years, and I don't want to give the guy one minute longer than it takes. On June 4th somebody needs to start that ball rolling to get quotes and to get it torn down. Scott stated you don't have to wait to get the quotes. I think it's very obvious he's not going to do anything. We just can't take any formal action of going on to the property until then. If you guys want, we can go ahead and get some quotes to tear it down. The Council agreed to dispose of the property the week of the 6th. Clyde stated we are going to probably swallow a loss if the value of the property exceeds the amount to tear it down. Scott clarified that is going to be billed into it. We can take an action to foreclose it as well if we want to. There was discussion on the value of the properties and our potential loss. It was determined that the Building and Zoning Administrator will send a request for a quote to J & J and Robertsons. Matt said he will get three quotes and have them sent to the attention of the Town Manager. **Motion carries 5/0.** Diane clarified the Council will need to take action to approve the cost to proceed. The Council decided to call a special meeting once the quotes are received. The quotes are due by noon on May 31st. Scott requested a copy of the minutes. Diane confirmed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.



Attest

