

**Bristol Tennessee Better Property Board
Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2016**

Members Present:

Randall Cook
Wayne Humphrey
John Cartwright
Lonnie Barrett

Staff/Others Present:

Donnie Branson
Danielle Kiser

Members Not Present

Pamela Offield

The Bristol Tennessee Better Property Board was called to order at 5:00 p.m. on September 22, 2016. Roll call was performed and a quorum was declared.

Minutes:

Lonnie Barrett requested one correction to the minutes of the July 28, 2016 meeting; Page 2, under old business, Item B, during the motion process, it was requested that the address of the property be changed from 701 5th Street to 729 5th Street. With this correction noted, John Cartwright made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; Mr. Lonnie Barrett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Preliminary Investigations

A. 2033 Edgemont Avenue

The property owner, Patricia Louise Stone, was not present. The complaint was a dilapidated roof. Taxes were past due. Staff was unable to contact the property owner and recommended a public hearing at the October 27, 2016 Better Property Board meeting.

Wayne Humphrey made a motion to hold a public hearing at the October 27, 2016 meeting; John Cartwright seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

Public Hearing

A. 314 McDowell Street

The property owner, Ever Flowing Well Church, was not present. The complaint was a dilapidated structure. Taxes were past due. Based on the Federal Emergency Management Agent damage assessment of 100%, staff recommended the board issue an order to demolish the structure located at 314 McDowell Street.

John Cartwright questioned if the city would be responsible for demolition on this house. Donnie Branson stated that there were grants available that the city could use to fund the demolition.

Lonnie Barrett made a motion to issue an order to demolish the structure located at 314 McDowell Street; John Cartwright seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

B. 3117 Avoca Road

The property owner, Freddie F. Cox, was present. The complaint was a dilapidated structure. Taxes were past due. Due to the condition of the structure, staff recommended an order to demolish be issued on the structure at 3117 Avoca Road.

Freddie Cox, owner of the property, stated that it was his intention to demolish the property. John Cartwright questioned Mr. Cox if he would be able to complete the demolition in sixty (60) days. Mr. Cox stated that it would be close to sixty (60) days before demolition was complete.

Wayne Humphrey made a motion for an order to demolish the structure located at 3117 Avoca Road; John Cartwright seconded the motion. John Cartwright asked staff for a follow up on this property in sixty (60) days at the December Better Property Board Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Trash and Debris

None

Old Business

A. 1200 Windsor Avenue

The property owner, Travis Campbell, was not present. The structure located at 1200 Windsor Avenue had been demolished. Sewer and water lines had been capped off, with the property receiving seed and straw. Staff recommended closing the file on this case.

B. 224 Elizabeth Street

The property owner, Jettie Louise Mercer, was not present. The structure located at 224 Elizabeth Street had been demolished. Sewer and water lines had been capped off, with the property receiving seed and straw. Staff recommended closing the file on this case.

C. 1214 Broad Street

The property owner, Terry Copenhaver, was not present. The structure located at 1214 Broad Street had been demolished. Sewer and water lines had been capped off, with the property receiving seed and straw. Staff recommended closing the file on this case.

D. 1218 Broad Street

The property owner, Terry Copenhaver, was not present. The structure located at 1218 Broad Street had been demolished. Sewer and water lines had been capped off, with the property receiving seed and straw. Staff recommended closing the file on this case.

Wayne Humphrey made a motion to close the files on the properties located at 1200 Windsor Avenue, 224 Elizabeth Street, 1214 Broad Street and 1218 Broad Street; Lonnie Barrett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Progress Report

A. 701 5th Street

The property owners, James & Wilhelmina Barker, were present. Taxes were current. Staff updated the board that the property owners had made constant repairs on the structure. To date, all the repairs had either passed or partially passed all building inspections. Staff recommended that the board order the property owners to return to the January 26, 2017 Better Property Board meeting for a progress report on the property.

Wilhelmina Barker, owner of the property, apologized for not being present at the July meeting, she stated that they had been busy working on the property and had just forgotten about the meeting. Ms. Barker stated that they are making progress and that all the inspections that they had received so far had passed.

John Cartwright made a motion for a progress report at the December 1, 2016 Better Property Board meeting; Lonnie Barrett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

B. 1006 Tennessee Avenue

The property owners, Brant Grimm and Rick Chappe, were not present. Taxes were current. Staff informed the board that the renovation project had slowed. To date, all repairs made on the home had either passed or partially passed inspection. Staff recommended that the board order the owners to return to the October 27, 2016 Better Property Board Meeting for a property progress report.

John Cartwright made a motion for a progress report at the October 27, 2016 meeting; Lonnie Barrett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

C. 912 Anderson Street

The property owners, Gary and Teresa Slagle, were present. Taxes were current. Staff updated the board that a new roof had been installed on the structure as well as porch stabilization and demolition of a rear portion of the house. To date, all repairs made on the home had either passed

or partially passed all building inspections. Staff recommended a progress report at the January 26, 2017 meeting.

Gary Slagle, property owner, stated that the property was 80% complete and work continued on the renovation of the structure.

Wayne Humphrey made a motion to have a progress report on the property at the January 26, 2017 Better Property Board meeting; Lonnie Barrett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Future Progress Reports

1406 Anderson Street

Other Business:

Katherine Bowen, 404 Maryland Avenue and Barbara Shanka, 408 Maryland Avenue, were present to voice their complaints on some properties in their neighborhood. Ms. Bowen stated that a neighboring property owner, Eric Lambert, had never mowed his property located at 400 Maryland Avenue. Ms. Bowen stated that she owns a shed that borders her property and Mr. Lambert's property and that she was unable to tend to the shed due to the overgrowth on Mr. Lambert's property. Ms. Bowen indicated that Mr. Lambert had let trees grow and the trees were towering over her shed. Ms. Bowen identified that she has been trying for several years to get Mr. Lambert to do something about the overgrowth on his property, but had been unsuccessful.

Ms. Shanka, owner of the property located at 408 Maryland Avenue, stated that she was trying to refinance her house several years ago and was informed that, because of the neighborhood, her property value had decreased and she was unable to get the loan. Ms. Shanka had complaints about overgrowth on other properties in the neighborhood as well.

John Cartwright questioned staff on what had been done to enforce the code violation on these properties that Ms. Bowen and Ms. Shanka were referencing. Donnie Branson stated that he had issued a code violation and a summons for the owner of the property located at 400 Maryland Avenue to appear in court. Donnie Branson explained the process of enforcing code violations and that the next step was to wait until the signed return receipt from the certified letter or the returned letter was received before he could proceed.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.



Randall Cook