

BRISTOL TENNESSEE BETTER PROPERTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Easley Municipal Annex
104 8th Street | Bristol, TN 37620
February 23, 2023
5:00 PM

Members Present:

Pamela Offield, Chairwoman
Randall Cook, Vice-Chairman
Pamela Ley
John Taylor

Staff Present:

Kevin Beddingfield
Kim Lester
Cari Seaton
Danielle Smith
Bretta Morenings

Members Absent:

Lonnie Barrett

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Pamela Offield called the Bristol Tennessee Better Property Board meeting to order at 5:00 PM Thursday, February 23, 2022. A roll call was performed, and a quorum was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Randall Cook motioned to approve minutes from the January 26, 2022 meeting with the following revision, “Lonnie Barrett” on page 2. John Taylor seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous.

PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS

A. 616 6th Street

Kim Lester discussed the history and presented imagery of the property. She stated the property was previously reported in 2017. The owner defaulted, and it was sold in September. No repairs have been made since it was acquired by the new owner.

Randall Cook motioned to have a public hearing at the March 23, 2023 meeting. Pamela Ley seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous.

B. 266 Indian Trail

Kim Lester presented imagery of the dilapidating property and stated it was presented to the Board in 2017, but due to lack of interior damage, it was not a candidate for demolition at that time. She noted the home is presently secure.

Discussion ensued regarding the chain of title, probate status, and interior access.

Pamela Ley motioned to have a public hearing at the March 23, 2023 meeting. Randall Cook seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous.

PUBLIC HEARING

None.

TRASH AND DEBRIS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

PROGRESS REPORTS

C. 813 Leona Street

Kim Lester stated an ad for the demolition bid was published in the Bristol Herald Courier. Staff anticipates awarding a contract for this property and 1709 Anderson Street in April.

D. 902 Windsor Avenue

Representative: Frances Hamburger (property owner)

Kim Lester presented imagery of the exterior updates. Ms. Hamburger stated her winter help was no longer available and she was repairing the home exterior on her own at this time. She discussed future repairs with the Board and stated she hoped to source more help. She noted she is sourcing roofing materials but did not have a completion timeline due to a lack of workforce.

Discussion ensued over timeframes for exterior completion, workforce availability, and next steps.

John Taylor motioned to have a progress report at the May 25, 2023 meeting. Randall Cook seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous.

E. 2931 Broad Street, Unit 132

Kim Lester stated the City issued a complaint on the property owner through chancery court. She discussed partial demolition and clean-out options reviewed by Staff. She stated Ms. Blevins was not responsive to Staff's requests to explore options to clean her home.

Discussion ensued regarding Ms. Blevins' health, options for cleaning/repairing the property, Ms. Blevins' legal right of entry, and animal cruelty charges.

Lt. Shaun Antonino with the Bristol, Tennessee Police Department (BTPD) stated Ms. Blevins left her door open roughly two weeks ago to allow the police department to remove felines from the property before locking it for approximately one week. She then gave the police department a set of keys to her home. Lt. Antonino stated Animal Control removed seven living felines and two deceased and noted the fire department loaned BTPD air packs so the officers could enter the property. He said Animal Control is frequenting the property 2-3 times a day now that they have a key and permission to enter the property.

Katie Kennedy (Ms. Blevins' neighbor) stated she noticed the urine smell is improving; however, the smell of decaying animals has increased.

Ms. Lester stated the City would not press charges against Ms. Blevins if she was assisting officers at the property, and noted she was not permitted to enter the residence to remove belongings unless she received a right of entry. Lt. Antonino stated he would present the case to the DA to determine if charges would be filed.

Bill Haga, Katie Kennedy, and Deborah Jones expressed their gratitude to Animal Control for their efforts to remove the felines from the property.

Discussion ensued regarding a process server. Cari Seaton stated it was a conflict of interest for a city employee to act as a process server and confirmed documentation was filed with the chancery court.

Randall Cook motioned to have a progress report at the April 27, 2023 meeting. John Taylor seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous.

FUTURE PROGRESS REPORTS

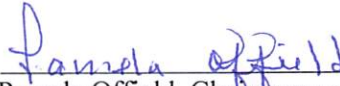
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|---------------------------|----------------|
| A. 1709 Anderson Street | 03/23/23 |
| B. 515 ½ Queen Street | 03/23/23 |
| C. 1105 Broad Street | 04/27/23 |
| D. 1215 5th Street | 04/27/23 |
| E. 102 E Cedar Street | 04/27/23 |
| F. 2089 King College Road | TBD Litigation |

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other matters to present to the board, Chairwoman Pamela Offield adjourned the meeting at 5:43 PM.



Pamela Offield, Chairwoman