

City of Maquoketa
Property Maintenance Board
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, September 27, 2023
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm, Brad Koranda, presiding.

In attendance: Barb Schroeder, Pat Walke, Ginger Bennett, Brad Koranda, Chris Ihrig, Steve Gisel, Dan Holm

The motion was made by Pat, to approve the agenda, seconded by Steve. The motion was made by Steve, seconded by Ginger, to approve the previous minutes.

Audience: none

Building Permit Report

Brad handed out the spreadsheet of the thirty building permits that have been issued from July 20th through September 21st. Various projects were discussed. One of the big projects will be adding an addition onto the Family Dollar warehouse that will house the air conditioning unit for the whole complex. A comment was made about the dog kennel permit, that it is needed. Also, an above-ground pool needs a permit if it is never taken down. The old Owl Furniture store has a permit for a new roof. The cemetery is re-paving all of the internal roads.

Update on Nuisance Properties

Brad handed out the spreadsheet of the status of the thirty-nine nuisance properties. The roof of 315 N 2nd St has been patched, on the south face of the roof for \$2800 which will be added as a lien on the property. Brad pointed out that a lien is attached to a property so that when it is sold, the city gets that money back. The old sale barn at 508 Quarry is slated for demolition in October. 413 S Matteson will be demolished in the spring.

Brad reported that he is working on 313 S Vermont, 315 S Matteson, and 307 E Pleasant St properties. There's a broken window at 905 W Farmland. 802 E Platt has a bad foundation and a difficult owner. There is evidence of hoarding at 804 E Platt. Brad said he checked on the status of the railing on Walnut with the city and they said it was supposed to have been removed a while ago, so that will be looked into.

Failing retaining walls were discussed, such as the one on South Main. Ginger wondered what rules apply about who is responsible, the city or the owner about the maintenance of a retaining wall on the property side of the sidewalk. Brad said that it all depends on the width of the street, which is measured from the middle. Some streets are 60 ft wide with boulevard and are 50 ft wide with boulevard. There are also some smaller streets in town. In an email to Brad, he said that as far as retaining walls go, all the newer walls are put in by the city and maintained by the city, so the question is if the walls are not on the boulevard and on private property who maintains them? Chris mentioned that it depends on where the pins for the property lines are located.

At 321 Jacobsen Drive, an abatement was sent, that the property needs a fence. At 122 McKinsey, the old Pamida store's parking lot has various parked vehicles. Brad said that if they're not licensed, then they are considered junk. If they are, perhaps the owners may have to put up a screen under the junk dealer ordinance. At this meeting, Brad reported that many of the vehicles are legal. It's up to an attorney and/or Josh to sort it out.

Brad reported that the unsightly land behind Dairy Queen, which is visible to anyone using the drive-through, might actually be an alley. A property on Farmland Drive was reported to have a lot of weeds. Properties 210, 211 and 216 Olive, and 208 N Eliza were brought up.

Other Business

On the topic of a proposed ordinance about parked cars in front yards, Brad reported that Josh, the city manager, is not interested in pursuing an ordinance at this time.

In a discussion for a possible city clean up day, to make it easy for residents to get rid of unwanted items, Brad and others said that setting out a dumpster would work the best, instead of going to people's houses to help them get their things out, which apparently had been a huge headache and disaster in the past. This way, people would have to take their things to the dumpster somehow.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm. Moved by Steve, seconded by Chris.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, November 29, at 5:30 pm.