

City of Maquoketa  
Property Maintenance Board  
Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, July 26, 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 Ginger, to approve the agenda, seconded by Chris. The motion was made by Chris, seconded by Steve, to approve the previous minutes.

Audience: none

**Building Permit Report**

Brad handed out the spreadsheet of the forty-two building permits that have been issued from May 22<sup>nd</sup> through July 24, 2023. Various projects were discussed. A comment was made that the facades of the east side of Main Streets need to have permits so that they can be inspected. Also, a comment was made that if decking is to be replaced, it doesn't need a permit. A variance may be needed for a carport on 402 Cynthia Drive. The Zoning Board gives variances and they are final unless the owner wishes to sue the city. Brad said he has taken some training so we have to be careful about what is done. If it gets to the courts, they decide.

In larger projects, Brad reported that the work on Forest Drive is coming along. The owner of the truck wash is working on a storm water plan.

**Update on Nuisance Properties**

Brad handed out the spreadsheet of the status of the thirty-seven nuisance properties. Four have been charged since the last meeting in May, including 315 N 2<sup>nd</sup>, the house with the hole in the roof. The rule now is if the owner doesn't show up, there's a \$500 fine and there are two choices, to either clean up the property or go to jail. The old sale barn at 508 Quarry is slated for demolition in October.

Chris mentioned concerns about 215-211 S Otto and 716 S Main's failing retaining wall. Ginger brought up the fact that a sidewalk on Walnut Street with three steps needs to have a railing. At 321 Jacobsen Drive, 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. Brad said he'd look into these concerns.

**Other Business**

The members of the property board decided to abandon the House of the Month program. There was always a problem with how the public would be notified of the recipients. Apparently the newspaper wouldn't publish that information and we weren't sure where it should be on the city website.

Steve said he would like to know what the status is about adopting the ordinance about parked cars in property owners' front yards. He wanted to know if it will be advanced to the city council. Brad said he'd look into it. Apparently, it could be illegal if the vehicle is not parked on a hard surface. City infractions now are about grass and snow. A comment was made that whatever the ordinance is, it needs to be made easy for the enforcers to do their jobs.

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

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 5:30 pm.