

**BLIGHTED PROPERTY REVIEW COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 20, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Blighted Property Review Committee (BPRC) was held on Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 11:30 AM in Council Chambers of the City of Warren Municipal Building, 318 W. Third Avenue, Warren, PA.

ROLL CALL

Chair Ray Pring called the meeting to order. Members present included Vice Chair Denise Whipp, Dave Krogler-Fire Chief, Douglas Hearn, and Maurice Cashman. Also, present were Mike Holtz, DPW Director; Randall Rossey, Director of Codes and Planning; Scott Taylor, Zoning & Ordinance Enforcement Official; Tanya Uplinger, Recording Secretary. Absent from the meeting: Nancy Freenock - City Manager.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS

Josh Cotton – representing the Warren Times Observer

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon a motion by Mr. Krogler and a second by Mr. Hearn, the agenda for the Thursday, November 17th, 2022, meeting was approved, with those in attendance also in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mr. Cashman and a second by Mr. Krogler, the minutes from the October 20, 2022, meeting were unanimously approved as presented by those present.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to come before the Committee.

CONSIDERATION OF 2nd DECLARATION OF BLIGHT

There were no properties to bring before the committee at this time.

CONSIDERATION OF 1ST DECLARATION OF BLIGHT

58 Locust St- Mr. Taylor stated that this property has been before the committee before but has been reintroduced since the property has been purchased by a new owner: James Young at judicial sale in May 2022. Mr. Taylor brought to attention to the committee that this property has had issues since 2016; with 2017 showing more severe concerns. Mr. Young had been asked to come before the committee, but was unable to attend, therefore, Mr. Taylor would relay the information that was given to him regarding the status and progress of the property. Since the purchase of the property in May of 2022, the grass has been cut, but for further issues, the property owner has not been able to secure a contractor. Complaints have been made aware of a hollowed-out tree in the front yard, snakes, and cats. The utilities remain shut off on the property, along with the lack of interior work that needs renovated. Mr. Pring asked Mr. Taylor what he would like the committee to do with the property brought before them as this property has already been through the 1st and 2nd declaration of blight through the Blighted Property Review Committee in late 2021, certified by the Planning Commission, and turned to the Redevelopment Authority and tabled in January 2022. Mr. Taylor stated that since the property was in new ownership upon sale, therefore, restarted the blight process. Ms. Whipp asked if the owner was given the status of the declaration of blight at the time of purchase. Mr. Taylor confirmed that he relayed all information on the property, but if that was disclosed to the property owner at the time of the sale, he had no control over. The main concern on behalf of the committee was that they felt they had no right to declare the motion to make the 1st declaration of blight on the property since the change of ownership on the property, that it was

at the hand of the Redevelopment Authority. Mr. Rossey and Mr. Taylor stated that they would get clarity on if the blight process would start over with the BPRC, or if the property would remain in the hands of the RDA.

NEW BUSINESS

Planning Grant for Blight—Mr. Rossey wanted to bring attention to the Blighted Property Review Committee that the Redevelopment Authority along with the City applied for the Keystone Community Grant. If awarded the grant would provide the funds to hire a firm to develop a blighted property strategy plan. This firm would also assist with finding revenue streams as a means to abate the issues at hand. Mr. Rossey also stated that the committee would be asked to help identify the pockets of blighted areas which need addressed. Mr. Pring asked for a time frame of when this grant would be awarded, and Mr. Rossey said we should be aware of the awarded grant in Spring of 2023.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business to come before the Authority, the meeting was adjourned upon motion by Mr. Cashman and seconded by Ms. Whipp.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, November 17, 2022, at 11:30. a.m.

Minutes prepared by Tanya Uplinger