



City Council Communication

Meeting Date: August 15, 2022

Requested By: Development Services Department

Item Title: CONSENT AGENDA

Consider a motion authorizing a petition for title to abandoned property located at 410 South 4th Street. (Consent Agenda)

Explanation:

With support from city attorney Dixon, staff requests authorization to proceed with petition for title to abandoned property located at 410 South 4th Street due to property abandonment and ongoing nuisance issues. The first nuisance citation for this property occurred on May 31, 2017, for junk and garbage in the yard. The nuisances have continued every year. On April 4, 2022, a fire broke out in the northeast portion of the house. The property owner, Thomas Rabideau, was given 60 days to obtain permits to make the necessary repairs or to have the structure demolished. As of today's date, the city has not received any communication from the property owner and the property has been abandoned.

The city has judgements against this property with the property owner taking no action to repair the structure and clean up the property. The condition of the property will only continue to get worse, creating a blighted neighborhood and unsafe environment for neighboring property owners. Taking title to the property would give the city control to end the nuisances and find a buyer to return the property to a productive use.

Staff recommends that city council approve a motion directing city staff to proceed with petition for title to abandoned property as permitted under Iowa Code, Chapter 657A.

Budget Consideration:

Minimal costs are expected with this item (less than \$500), paid by the city manager's legal expense budget. If acquired, the property will be presented for public bid for rehabilitation or redevelopment, or used for greenspace. Any proceeds from the sale would be returned to the city's general fund.

Attachments: Pictures of the Property, Map Location