



Minutes
City Council Tour of Homes
Oelwein City Hall, 20 Second Avenue SW, Oelwein, Iowa
February 22, 2020 - 8:00 AM

Present Mayor DeVore, Fisk, Cantrell, Weber, Gerdt, Stewart

Also Present Seeders, Mulfinger

Discussions

1. City Council will tour from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM then meet to discuss the future of housing at City Hall until 2:00 PM

Council toured 15 homes, with a handful only being viewed from the outside because they were occupied.

Council completed their tour at 11:00 AM and asked tour participants their thoughts. Audience members were pleased that the city was doing this for the community and said that it should continue each year. One group of tour participants felt that each property should be completely demolished, and none should be saved.

Shekleton discussed the work the city is doing. Shekleton said that they are going to look at the Iowa Prison Industry Homes in Newton and they plan to reach out to Rural Iowa.

Mulfinger thanked everyone for coming and encouraged them to talk to community members about the work that is being done. Mulfinger let the audience know that the question and answer part of the meeting was over, but participants could stay for the council work session.

Mulfinger said that staff would put each property through the same test.

- Can it be sold as is?
- Can it be remodeled?
- Can it be sold to the neighbor?
 - City will provide up to \$5,000 or half the tear down cost to the neighbor
- Last option is a city tear down

Council determined that four properties should be sold; 801 3rd Ave NE, 134 North Frederick, 17/19 1st St NE, and 308 6th Ave SE. Council wanted to make sure neighbors of all properties had the chance to purchase the properties for tear down. Council determined that the homes would not be sold to the current tenants, as the investment needed in the homes would be too much for the tenants. Council wanted to see a large plan for 134 North Fredrick and asked that staff work on a plan. Staff let council know that if no good bids are received, the four houses would fall back on the tear down list.

Shekleton went through all the Davey Smith properties with council and direction was provided by council.

Mulfinger talked about grant opportunities from North East Iowa Housing Trust Fund for tear downs.

The work session ended at 2:00 PM.

Adjournment

Dylan Mulfinger, City Administrator