



Minutes

City Council Work Session Meeting

Oelwein City Hall, 20 Second Avenue SW, Oelwein, Iowa

May 26, 2026 - 6:30 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Discussions

1. Tear Down Discussion.

Richio discussed looking through the current capital improvement program to determine what could be held back so more money could go toward the city's tear down program.

Gearhart wants the city to be more proactive with inspections downtown. Gearhart does not want the city to continue to receive buildings that are falling down.

Cannon asked what is being done to make sure downtown business owners are maintaining their buildings.

Mulfinger discussed how the city does inspections on some buildings during rental inspections. Mulfinger stated the city has helped with repairs through the downtown TIF fund.

Gearhart said if demolition of buildings is what everyone wants in the community, the city should allocate more resources. The city should not move priorities based on only a handful of input.

Mulfinger said the city can shift priorities with a vote of the city council. The city just approved the budget so moving funds right now would be unusual. Mulfinger provided examples of what could be done to allocate more funding to building tear down. Mulfinger said some of the ideas are not practical, but often you need to get out all of the ideas for the good one to show up.

Ricchio said people would probably rate road repair higher than demolition.

Mulfinger said a bond for demolition is possible, but it would require a vote. The city council agreed a vote would be the best way to gauge the community's interest in making demolition a priority. Mulfinger advised a straw poll could be conducted during the new goal setting process. Mulfinger asked for direction from the city council.

Payne advised she was not ready to move money around in the current budget. She said the goal setting process could be used to determine the community's interest.

Local business manager and downtown property owner Paul Schemmel thanked council for their commitment and asked that the city stay diligent on dilapidated properties.

Mulfinger said he would work with community members during the goal setting to gauge the interest in making demolition of dilapidated properties a higher priority.

2. Evaluation Preparation.

Mulfinger advised the city council that the city administrator evaluation was the most important task for the city council. Mulfinger walked the city council through the timeline and reminded them to turn the evaluation into the Mayor.

Adjournment