

**BOARD OF BUILDING STANDARDS
MEETING MINUTES
March 6, 2024 - 8:30 a.m.
BOARD OF BUILDING STANDARDS OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL**

Members Present: Mr. David Beard, Chairman
Mr. Jay Wyatt
Mr. Delbert Allred
Mr. Jeremy McBrayer
Mr. Lloyd Turner
Mr. Sean McNeill
Mr. Will Dugger

Staff Present: Mr. Michael Rice, Assistant City Manager
Mr. Tim Littlejohn, Director of Planning and Development Services
Mr. Van Watson, Building Official
Ms. Kelley Messer, Assistant City Attorney
Mr. Treston Edwards, Legal Intern
Mr. Clay Door, Code Compliance Division Manager
Mr. Stephen Garrison, Code Compliance Manager
Mr. Robert Marsh, Property Maintenance Inspector
Mr. Ricky Wright Jr., Property Maintenance Inspector
Ms. Teri Dollar, Property Maintenance Inspector
Ms. Christi Jones, Administrative Assistant

Others Present: Mr. AJ Gretillat, Alternate Board Member
Ms. Sam House (433 Cockerell)
Ms. Charlotte Houston (433 Cockerell)
Mr. Guy Shaver (1858 Sycamore)
Ms. Mary Lou Gonzales (1158 Lillius)
Mr. Jessie Houston Sr (433 Cockerell)
Mr. Patrick Batten (no address listed)
Ms. Debra Jones (1858 Sycamore)

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Beard called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.; Ms. Jones recorded the minutes. A quorum of members was present, and the meeting proceeded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting, February 7, 2024, were provided in advance to Board Members for review.

Mr. Allred made a motion to approve the February minutes as written.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Wyatt, motion passed.

AYES: Mr. Wyatt, Mr. Allred, Mr. McNeill, Mr. Dugger, Mr. Beard

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. McBrayer, Mr. Turner

AGENDA ITEMS & PUBLIC HEARINGS

Case for Rehabilitation, Demolition or Civil Penalties - Case# 23-000982: 4366 Caldwell Rd. (PLEASANT HILL ESTATE, SEC 4, BLOCK A, LOT 139 REPLAT, TAYLOR COUNTY, TEXAS), Owner: Essex, Mickey

Mr. Marsh presented the case,

Pursuant to Chapter 8; Sec. 8-554 and Chapter 19, Sec 19-15 the following conditions exist:

- Inadequate Sanitation, Chapter 8, Sec. 8-554 (1)
- Structural Hazard, Chapter 8, Sec. 8-554 (2)
- Nuisance, Chapter 8, Sec. 8-554 (3), Chapter 19, Sec 19-15 (4)
- Hazardous Electrical Wiring, Chapter 8, Sec. 8-554 (4)
- Hazardous Mechanical Equipment, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (6)
- Faulty Weather Protection, Chapter 8, Sec. 8-554 (7)

Staff recommendations are as follows:

Finding: The property is a public nuisance in that it is a hazard to the public health, safety and welfare and repair of the structure would be unreasonable.

Order: The owner is ordered to demolish or appeal the order to district court within 30 days or the City may demolish.

Public Hearing: Mr. Beard opened the public hearing. There being no speakers, Mr. Beard closed the public hearing.

Due to a brief power outage, the meeting was called into recess at 8:41am and resumed at 8:48am.

Mr. Allred made a motion that the property is a public nuisance in that it is a hazard to the public health, safety and welfare and repair of the structure would be unreasonable and was seconded by Mr. Dugger, motion passed.

AYES: Mr. Wyatt, Mr. Allred, Mr. McBrayer, Mr. McNeill, Mr. Turner, Mr. Dugger, Mr. Beard
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

Mr. Allred made a motion that the owner is ordered to demolish or appeal the order to district court within 30 days or the City may demolish and was seconded by Mr. Dugger, motion passed.

AYES: Mr. Wyatt, Mr. Allred, Mr. McBrayer, Mr. McNeill, Mr. Turner, Mr. Dugger, Mr. Beard
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

Case for Rehabilitation, Demolition, or Civil Penalties - Case# 23-002935: 850 Vine St. (ALTA VISTA, BLOCK 3, LOT 1, 2 & N19 OF 3, CONT, TAYLOR COUNTY, TEXAS), Owner: Harness, Ronald C

Mr. Marsh presented the case,

Pursuant to Chapter 8; Sec. 8-554 and Chapter 19, Sec 19-15, the following conditions exist:

- Inadequate Sanitation, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (1)
- Structural Hazard, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (2)
- Nuisance, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (3), Chapter 19, Sec 19-15
- Hazardous Electrical Wiring, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (4)
- Hazardous Plumbing, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (5)
- Hazardous Mechanical Equipment, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (6)
- Faulty Weather Protection, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (7)

Staff recommendations are as follows:

Order: Owner is to repair – 30 days to obtain all permits and provide plan of action including a timeframe for repair and costs estimates and if this is done, 60 days to obtain rough-in inspections and if this is done, all final inspections shall be completed by the expiration of all permits.

Public Hearing: Mr. Beard opened the public hearing. There being no speakers, Mr. Beard closed the public hearing.

Mr. Turner made a motion to Owner is to repair – 30 days to obtain all permits and provide a plan of action including a timeframe for repair, and cost estimates and if this is done, 60 days to obtain rough-in inspections and if this is done, all final inspections shall be completed by the expiration of all permits, was seconded by Mr. McBrayer, motion passed.

AYES: Mr. Wyatt, Mr. Allred, Mr. McBrayer, Mr. McNeill, Mr. Turner, Mr. Dugger, Mr. Beard
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

Case for Rehabilitation, Demolition, or Civil Penalties - Case# 23-003527: 1166 Lillius St. (LAKESIDE ADDN, BLOCK 18, LOT E110 LT18 & E110 N18 LT1, TAYLOR COUNTY, TEXAS), Owner: Escobedo Macario Jr

Mr. Marsh presented the case,

Pursuant to Chapter 8; Sec. 8-554 and Chapter 19, Sec. 19-15, the following conditions exist:

- Inadequate Sanitation, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (1)
- Structural Hazard, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (2)
- Nuisance, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (3), Chapter 19, Sec 19-15 (4)
- Hazardous Electrical Wiring, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (4)
- Hazardous Plumbing, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (5)
- Faulty Weather Protection, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (7)

Staff recommendations are as follows:

Finding: The property is a public nuisance in that it is a hazard to the public health, safety and welfare and repair of the structure would be unreasonable.

Order: The owner is ordered to demolish or appeal the order to district court within 30 days or the City may demolish.

Public Hearing: Mr. Beard opened the public hearing. There being no speakers, Mr. Beard closed the public hearing.

Mr. Dugger made a motion that the property is a public nuisance in that it is a hazard to the public health, safety and welfare and repair of the structure would be unreasonable and was seconded by Mr. McNeill, motion passed.

AYES: Mr. Wyatt, Mr. Allred, Mr. McBrayer, Mr. McNeill, Mr. Turner, Mr. Dugger, Mr. Beard

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

Mr. Dugger made a motion that the owner is ordered to demolish or appeal the order to district court within 30 days or the City may demolish and was seconded by Mr. McNeill, motion passed.

AYES: Mr. Wyatt, Mr. Allred, Mr. McBrayer, Mr. McNeill, Mr. Turner, Mr. Dugger, Mr. Beard

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

Case for Rehabilitation, Demolition, or Civil Penalties - Case# 23-003899: 433 Cockerell Dr. (STEVENSON PARK, BLOCK 6 CONT, LOT 14, TAYLOR COUNTY, TEXAS), Owner: Houston, Dorothy

Mr. Marsh presented the case,

Pursuant to Chapter 8; Sec. 8-554 and Chapter 19, Sec. 19-15, the following conditions exist:

- Inadequate Sanitation, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (1)
- Structural Hazard, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (2)
- Nuisance, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (3), Chapter 19, Sec 19-15
- Hazardous Electrical Wiring, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (4)
- Hazardous Plumbing, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (5)
- Faulty Weather Protection, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (7)

Staff recommendations are as follows:

Order: Owner is to repair – 30 days to obtain all permits and provide plan of action including a timeframe for repair and costs estimates and if this is done, 60 days to obtain rough-in inspections and if this is done, all final inspections shall be completed by the expiration of all permits.

Public Hearing: Mr. Beard opened the public hearing. Mr. Jesse Houston, grandson of deceased owner spoke first. He stated that he was only recently made aware of the condemnation. He requested the board accept the staff recommendation so he could rehabilitate the property. Ms. Charlotte Houston, daughter to the deceased owner then spoke. She stated that she too would like to allow Mr. Houston to repair the house.

There being no additional speakers, Mr. Beard closed the public hearing.

Mr. McNeill made a motion to Owner is to repair – 30 days to obtain all permits and provide a plan of action including a timeframe for repair, and cost estimates and if this is done, 60 days to obtain rough-in inspections and if this is done, all final inspections shall be completed by the expiration of all permits, was seconded by Mr. Turner, motion passed.

AYES: Mr. Wyatt, Mr. Allred, Mr. McBrayer, Mr. McNeill, Mr. Turner, Mr. Dugger, Mr. Beard

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

Case for Rehabilitation, Demolition, or Civil Penalties - Case# 23-004017: 1858 Sycamore St. (BELMONT ADDN, BLOCK 15, LOT 8 & S3 OF 7), TAYLOR COUNTY, TEXAS), Owner: Legacy Dwelling LLC

Mr. Marsh presented the case,

Pursuant to Chapter 8; Sec. 8-554 and Chapter 19, Sec 19-15, the following conditions exist:

- Inadequate Sanitation, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (1)
- Structural Hazard, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (2)
- Nuisance, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (3), Chapter 19, Sec 19-15 (4)
- Hazardous Electrical Wiring, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (4)
- Faulty Weather Protection, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (7)

Staff recommendations are as follows:

Finding: The property is a public nuisance in that it is a hazard to the public health, safety and welfare and repair of the structure would be unreasonable.

Order: The owner is ordered to demolish or appeal the order to district court within 30 days or the City may demolish.

Public Hearing: Mr. Beard opened the public hearing. The owner, Mr. Shaver, spoke first. He stated that he had been waiting for an insurance check in order to begin repairs. He stated that he needed to evict "CJ Hamill" and remove the items inside. He stated that he received a verbal estimate of repairs totaling \$25,000. He stated that he knows it needs electrical and structural work. He stated concerns over the cost of demolition. The next speaker was Debra Jones. She stated that she lives at 1850 Sycamore and she has been negatively impacted by the renters and subsequent fire to 1858 Sycamore. She stated that she has been a realtor for 5 years and has seen Mr. Shavers' property devalue the homes in her neighborhood. She stated that her home often still smells of smoke.

There being no additional speakers, Mr. Beard closed the public hearing.

Mr. Wyatt made a motion that the property is a public nuisance in that it is a hazard to the public health, safety and welfare and repair of the structure would be unreasonable and was seconded by Mr. McNeill, motion passed.

AYES: Mr. Wyatt, Mr. Allred, Mr. McBrayer, Mr. McNeill, Mr. Turner, Mr. Dugger, Mr. Beard

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

Mr. Wyatt made a motion that the owner is ordered to demolish or appeal the order to district court within 30 days or the City may demolish and was seconded by Mr. Allred, motion passed.

AYES: Mr. Wyatt, Mr. Allred, Mr. McBrayer, Mr. McNeill, Mr. Turner, Mr. Dugger, Mr. Beard

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

Case for Rehabilitation, Demolition, or Civil penalties - Case# 23-004933: 1158 Lillius St. (LAKESIDE ADDN, BLOCK 18, LOT S32 FT LT 1 & N34 FT LT 2, TAYLOR COUNTY, TEXAS), Owner: Gonzales, Mary Lou

Mr. Allred made a motion to untable this the case for 1158 Lillius St. and it was seconded by Mr. Wyatt, motion passed.

AYES: Mr. Wyatt, Mr. Allred, Mr. McBrayer, Mr. McNeill, Mr. Turner, Mr. Dugger, Mr. Beard

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

Mr. Marsh presented the case,

Pursuant to Chapter 8; Sec. 8-554 and Chapter 19, Sec 19-15, the following conditions exist:

- Inadequate Sanitation, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (1)

- Structural Hazard, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (2)
- Nuisance, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (3), Chapter 19, Sec 19-15
 - Ch. 19, Sec. 19-15 (2) Accumulation of trash and junk
 - Ch. 19, Sec. 19-15 (3) Conditions that provide harborage for vermin
 - Ch. 19, Sec. 19-15 (4) Building that is unfit for human habitation and fire hazard
 - Ch. 19, Sec. 19-15 (9) Illegal activity
- Hazardous Electrical Wiring, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (4)
- Hazardous Plumbing, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (5)
- Faulty Weather Protection, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (7)

Staff recommendations are as follows:

Finding: The property is a public nuisance in that it is a hazard to the public health, safety and welfare and repair of the structure would be unreasonable.

Order: The owner is ordered to demolish or appeal the order to district court within 30 days or the City may demolish.

Public Hearing: Mr. Beard opened the public hearing. Ms. Gonzales, property owner, stated that she needs more time to clean up the property. She stated that she has been paying someone to clean it up. Mr. Beard asked who was cleaning it up. She did not answer his question. She stated that if she cannot sell the property, she will get a bank loan to repair it.

There being no additional speakers, Mr. Beard closed the public hearing.

Mr. McNeill made a motion that the property is a public nuisance in that it is a hazard to the public health, safety and welfare and repair of the structure would be unreasonable and was seconded by Mr. Allred, motion passed.

AYES: Mr. Wyatt, Mr. Allred, Mr. McBrayer, Mr. McNeill, Mr. Turner, Mr. Dugger, Mr. Beard

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

Mr. McNeill made a motion that the owner is ordered to demolish or appeal the order to district court within 30 days or the City may demolish and was seconded by Mr. Allred, motion passed.

AYES: Mr. Wyatt, Mr. Allred, Mr. McBrayer, Mr. McNeill, Mr. Turner, Mr. Dugger, Mr. Beard

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

Case for Rehabilitation, Demolition, or Civil Penalties - Case# 24-000048: 3033 S 11th St. (SAYLES & HUGHES, N/2 BLK 11 BA 91, BLOCK 2, LOT E70 W111 N120, LT 4, TAYLOR COUNTY, TEXAS), Owner: Green, Lois

Mr. Marsh presented the case,

Pursuant to Chapter 8; Sec. 8-554 and Chapter 19, Sec. 19-15, the following conditions exist:

- Inadequate Sanitation, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (1)
- Structural Hazard, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (2)
- Nuisance, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (3), Chapter 19, Sec 19-15 (4)
- Hazardous Electrical Wiring, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (4)
- Hazardous Plumbing, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (5)
- Faulty Weather Protection, Chapter 8, Sec 8-554 (7)

Staff recommendations are as follows:

Finding: The property is a public nuisance in that it is a hazard to the public health, safety and welfare and repair of the structure would be unreasonable.

Order: The owner is ordered to demolish or appeal the order to district court within 30 days or the City may demolish.

Public Hearing: Mr. Beard opened the public hearing. There being no speakers, Mr. Beard closed the public hearing.

Mr. Dugger made a motion that the property is a public nuisance in that it is a hazard to the public health, safety and welfare and repair of the structure would be unreasonable and was seconded by Mr. McBrayer, motion passed.

AYES: Mr. Wyatt, Mr. Allred, Mr. McBrayer, Mr. McNeill, Mr. Turner, Mr. Dugger, Mr. Beard

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

Mr. Dugger made a motion that the owner is ordered to demolish or appeal the order to district court within 30 days or the City may demolish and was seconded by Mr. McBrayer, motion passed.

AYES: Mr. Wyatt, Mr. Allred, Mr. McBrayer, Mr. McNeill, Mr. Turner, Mr. Dugger, Mr. Beard

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the hearing, the Board of Building Standards meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.



Approved, Chairman