



Building and Standards Commission
Minutes of Public Nuisance Abatement Hearing
Thursday, November 21, 2024
4:00 PM

Commissioners Present: Wally Cox, Jess Cason, Scotty Thurman and Michael Blake

Commissioners Absent: Jock Conner

Acting Chair Person(s): Wally Cox

Staff Present: Code Enforcement Officer Jennifer Ekstrand, Code Compliance Officer Tim Stanley, Code Enforcement Officer David Lauteren, Building Official Mike Doughty, Permit Tech Patty Pierce, and Administrative Assistant Javonna Cannon

Visitors Present: Christy Thurman, Bob Lemons and Chad Simpson

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Acting Chair Cox called the hearing to order at 4:00 p.m.

ITEM 2: SWEARING IN OF WITNESSES

Acting chair Cox swore in witnesses that would be testifying in the hearing.

ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 15, 2024 HEARING

The Commission considered the minutes from the last hearing on August 15, 2024. A motion to approve as presented was offered by Commissioner Blake and seconded by Commissioner Thurman. All present voted AYE. Two absent. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 4: CASE #24-001659 | 1400 ½ WITHERSPOON

CEO Ekstrand presented the violation history for 1400 ½ Witherspoon. She then presented the city's case based off the observed violations. She advised the Commission that no one was in the audience to represent the structure and proceeded to give the city's recommendation to demolish the structures (primary and accessory building). Commissioner Blake moved to accept staff's recommendation as presented. Commissioner Thurman seconded. All present voted AYE and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 5: CASE #24-001658 | 1402 WITHERSPOON

CEO Ekstrand presented the violation history for 1402 Witherspoon. She told the Commission that the front door had been standing open since July. CEO Ekstrand then presented the city's case based off the observed violations. She advised the Commission that no one was in the audience to represent the structure and proceeded to give the city's recommendation to demolish the structures (primary and accessory building). Commissioner Blake moved to accept staff's recommendation as presented. Commissioner Thurman seconded. All present voted AYE (two absent) and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 6: CASE #24-001660 | 1401 N COMMERCE

CEO Ekstrand presented the violation history for 1401 N Commerce. CEO Ekstrand then presented the city's case based off the observed violations. She advised the Commission that no one was in the audience to represent the structure and proceeded to give the city's recommendation to demolish the structures (primary and accessory building). Commissioner Blake moved to accept staff's recommendation as presented. Commissioner Cason seconded. All present voted AYE (two absent) and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 7: CASE #24-001992 | 421 N I-35

CEO Ekstrand presented the violation history for 421 N I-35. She explained she had responded to the address for a trash complaint. CEO Ekstrand then presented the city's case based off the observed violations. She advised the Commission that the previous tenants were in the audience to represent the property. Mr. Chad Simpson addressed the Commission and stated that his family had been leasing the property from the owner for several years. He said he had been in contact with the owner but the owner would not be repairing the building. Acting Chair Cox reiterated that he was the tenant, not the owner, so the problems to be addressed were not on him. Commissioner Thurman thanked Mr. Simpson for coming to tell the Commission that while he had occupied the space, he had vacated it. Acting Chair Cox requested the city to present their recommendation. CEO Ekstrand read the city's recommendation. Acting Chair Cox then requested a motion to accept staff's recommendation as presented. Commissioner Blake moved to accept staff's recommendation as presented. Commissioner Thurman seconded. All present voted AYE (two absent) and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 8: CASE #22-000733 | 411 N MORRIS

CEO Ekstrand presented the case history to the Commission. She explained that she had started the case in 2022 but had put it on hold because it was owner-occupied. She told the Commission that she had been notified by the Gainesville Housing Authority on 9/10/2024 that they had relocated the property owner to one of their properties. CEO Ekstrand then presented the city's case based on the observed violations. She told the Commission that there was no one in the audience to speak on behalf of the property and proceeded to give staff's recommendation to demolish the structure.

Commissioner Blake motioned to accept staff's recommendation without change. Commissioner Thurman seconded. All present voted AYE (two absent) and the motion carried unanimously

ITEM 9: ADJOURN

With no further business, Acting Chair Cox adjourned the hearing at 4:41 p.m.

Signature of Chairperson: W Cox Date: 5-19-25

Signature of Secretary: Javonna Cannon Date: 5-19-25