



# Minutes

City Council Work Session

Oelwein Community Plaza, 25 West Charles, Oelwein,  
Iowa

May 10, 2021 - 5:15 PM

**Present-** Devore, Fisk, Cantrell, Seeders, Mulfinger, Shekleton

**Also Present-** Gerald VandeVorde

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

## **Discussions**

1. Discussion on future of Gerald VandeVorde properties

Mulfinger started the meeting by letting the committee know the goal of the meeting. Staff is recommending that the city take all five properties and then work toward solutions for each property. Mulfinger said that if the committee is not in favor of a takeover, then they will have to decide if VandeVorde can apply for teardown assistance.

Fisk was in favor of taking the properties to ensure that the code enforcement problems would end, and that the city could move on with these problem properties.

Seeders was not in favor of bailing out another landlord and felt that especially after the Davey Doin project the city should not bail out landlords. Seeders felt that the city cannot tear down all homes and that something has to be available for low income residents.

DeVore was not in favor of bailing out an investor.

Seeders asked VandeVorde why he did not upkeep his properties.

VandeVorde said that interest change and that he would no longer want to invest in the properties.

Shekleton let the committee know that by putting these homes back into the market and not taking them as a city, enforcement will not stop, and the problem will not go away. The City will end up paying more through enforcement than tearing them down.

Fisk asked the committee who is going to fix up these homes and are they going to become a safe and habitable home in Oelwein? Fisk felt that no one will put money into them, and they will be cobbled together just enough to sell on contract.

Seeders felt that it would not be the city's problem who fixed them as long as they were brought up to city code.

Seeders motioned to allow VandeVorde to bring a tear down application, Cantrell Seconded. Seeders and Cantrell voted aye. Fisk voted nay.

Motion Carried

## **Adjournment**

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Dylan Mulfinger, City Administrator