

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY & STORMWATER BOARD

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 18, 2023 REGULAR MEETING
Convened in the Goshen Police & Court Building, 111 East Jefferson St., Goshen, Indiana

Present: Mayor Gina Leichty, Mike Landis, Orv Myers, Barb Swartley and Mary Nichols

Absent: None

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Gina Leichty called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES: Mayor Leichty presented the minutes of the Dec. 11, 2023 Regular Meeting as prepared by Clerk-Treasurer Aguirre. Board Member Barb Swartley moved to approve the minutes as presented and the motion was seconded by Board Member Orv Myers. Motion passed 5-0.

REVIEW/APPROVE AGENDA: Mayor Leichty presented the agenda as submitted by the Clerk-Treasurer. Board member Swartley moved to accept the agenda as presented. Board member Myers seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

1) Downtown Goshen Inc. requests: Approval for multiple street closures and related City resources and services for 2024 First Friday activities

Amanda McMahon, Director of First Fridays for Eyedart Creative Studios, asked the Board to approve multiple street closures and related City services for 2024 First Friday activities.

In a memorandum to the Board, McMahon made the following requests:

Jan. 5, Fire & Ice Festival – Close East Washington Street, between the alley and Main Street, from noon to 11 p.m.; two parking spots in front 117 East Washington St. from noon to 11 p.m.; first four parking spots on East Washington Street (north side of street) from 8 a.m. to noon for unloading of ice blocks; trash trailer behind the Electric Brew; two police officers from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; two sanitation crews from 6 to 9 p.m.; and access to the alley between Constant Spring and Fables Books.

April 5, Arts Tour – Four parking spots in front of the Goshen Theater, from 1-8 p.m.

May 3, Green Day Celebration – Close Main Street, between Clinton and Lincoln streets, and Main Street, from Lincoln to Washington streets, from noon to 11 p.m.; two police officers from 6 to 10 p.m.; two sanitation crew from 6 to 9 p.m.; access to the alley across from the Courthouse (and closed with barricades) from noon to 11 p.m.; additional request for parking spaces for trailers to follow; and access to Parks Department gator.

June 7, Wheels and Deals – Close Main Street, from Jefferson to Lincoln streets, from 1 to 11 p.m. and East Washington Street, from the alley to Main Street, from 8 a.m. to 11 pm.; orange fencing (pending DORA approval) around Main Street, from Jefferson Street past the intersection of Washington Street; trash trailer behind the Electric Brew; two police officers from 6 to 10 p.m.; two sanitation crews from 6 to 9 p.m.; an additional closure request may follow for specific businesses wishing to utilize parking spaces for their sidewalk sales; access to the alley between Constant Spring & Fables Books; and access to the Parks Department's gator.

July 5, Great Goshen Car Show – Close Main Street, from Clinton to Lincoln streets, and Main Street, from Lincoln to Jefferson streets, and East Washington Street, from 5th to Main streets, from 1 to 11 p.m.; orange fencing (pending DORA approval) around the closure on East Washington Street; trash trailer behind the Electric Brew; two police officers, from 6 to 10 p.m. and two additional officers from 4 to 6 p.m. for traffic control; two sanitation crews, from 6 to 9 p.m.; access to the alley, between Constant Spring and Fables Books; and access to the Parks Department's gator.



August 2, Picklefest – Close Main Street, from Jefferson to Washington streets, from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., Main Street, from Washington to Lincoln streets, and East Washington Street, from the alley to Main Street, from 1 to 11 p.m.; orange fencing (pending DORA approval) around the block between Lincoln and Washington streets; trash trailer behind the Electric Brew; two police officers from 6 to 10 p.m.; two sanitation crews from 6 to 9 p.m.; access to the alley between Constant Spring and Fables Books; and access to the Parks Department's gator.

September 6, Savor Summer Showcase – Close Main Street, from Jefferson to Lincoln streets, and West Washington Street, from the alley to Main Street, from 1 to 11 p.m.; orange fencing (pending DORA approval) around the entire area; trash trailer behind the Electric Brew; two police officers from 6 to 10 p.m.; two sanitation crews from 6 to 9 p.m.; access to the alley between Constant Spring and Fables Books; and access to the Parks Department's gator.

October 4, Goshen Gives Back – Close four parking spots in front of the Goshen Theater, from 1-8 p.m. November 1, Goshen Light Parade – Close East Washington street, from the alley to Main Street, from 1 to 11 p.m., Jefferson Street, from 6th to 5th streets, and 5th Street, from Madison to Jefferson streets, from 1 to 11 p.m. (please leave Jefferson and 5th intersection OPEN until parade route closure so that cars can turn west on Jefferson). The parade route is: 5th and Jefferson streets west to Main Street, north on Main Street to Clinton Street, east on Clinton Street to 5th Steet and south on 5th Street to Jefferson Street. Please place "no parking" signs along the parade route from 4 to 9 p.m. The parade route closes at 5:45 pm. Will also need the Street Department, police, and fire to help with traffic control and street reopening. Also requested: four police officers, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.; two sanitation crews, from 6 to 9 p.m.; and a trash trailer behind the Electric Brew.

December 4, Hometown Holiday – Close West Washington Street, from the alley to Main Street, from 1 to 11 p.m.; orange fencing (pending DORA approval) around the entire area; trash trailer behind the Electric Brew; two police officers from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.; two sanitation crews, from 6 to 9 p.m.; and access to the alley between Constant Spring and Fables Books.

Mayor Leichty informed Board members that **McMahon** had reviewed all of the street closure and service requests with the affected City Departments.

Board member Landis asked if there were any major changes since last year's request. **McMahon** said there were not, adding these were all streets that had been closed for previous First Fridays. She said the only major change was a longer requested closure for West Washington Street for the December First Friday.

Swartley/Myers made a motion to approve the multiple street closures for 2024 First Friday activities as presented in the written request and accompanying street closure maps. Motion passed 5-0.

2) Legal Department request: Approve and authorize the Mayor to execute the agreements with VFP Fire Systems, Inc. for fire sprinkler system inspections required at the Police and Courts building, Wastewater Treatment Plant and Combined Sewer Overflows site for \$6,127

Brandy Toms, a paralegal with the City Legal Department, told the Board that an annual and a five-year fire sprinkler system inspection are required by the National Fire Protection Act (NFPA) at the City's Police and Courts Building, the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) site.

Toms said the City has contracted with VFP Fire Systems to conduct these inspections and desires to continue to do so.

The following table notes the costs for each facility by year with a total cost for all inspections performed in all three facilities over the course of five years:



	Goshen CSO	Police & Courts	Wastewater Treatment	
Year 1	\$480	\$345	\$345	
Year 2	\$480	\$345	\$345	
Year 3	\$499	\$358	\$358	
Year 4	\$518	\$372	\$372	
Year 5	\$538	\$386	\$386	Total all years
Total per site	\$2,515	\$1,806	\$1,806	\$6,127

Toms recommended that the Board approve and authorize Mayor Leichty to execute the agreements with VFP Fire Systems, Inc. for the required fire sprinkler system inspections for the next five years.

Swartley/Myers made a motion to approve and authorize Mayor Leichty to execute the agreements with VFP Fire Systems, Inc. for the fire sprinkler system inspections required at the Police and Courts building, Wastewater Treatment and CSO for a total contract amount of \$6,127. Motion passed 5-0.

3) Legal Department request: Approve contract with New Avenues Inc. - 2024 Employee Assistance Program – A la Carte Service Contract for City Employees

Shannon Marks, the Legal Compliance Administrator for the City Legal Department, told the Board that attached to the Board's agenda packet for approval was a contract with New Avenues Inc., in substantially final form, to provide the City an employee assistance program (EAP) in 2024 based on an "EAP A la Carte Service."

Marks said this EAP covers all active, full-time employees and their immediate family members, but excludes Police Department employees; an EAP for the Police Department is provided under a separate contract.

Marks said the City will pay New Avenues based on the "EAP A la Carte Service" fees set forth in Exhibit A of the contract which includes an administrative fee of \$168 per month (same fee as 2023), plus the additional fees for the specific services utilized. She requested that authorization be given to the Mayor to execute the finalized contract with New Avenues Inc.

Board member Swartley asked if there was a final amount for the contract. **Marks** said there was a final amount, but some last minute language was being worked out on this and the next New Avenue contract. In response to a further question about the cost from **Board member Landis**, **Marks** said the cost would be \$168 per month, plus an additional fee for the specific services requested.

Swartley/Myers made a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to execute the contract with New Avenues Inc. to provide the 2024 Employee Assistance Program based on the "EAP A la Carte Service." Motion passed 5-0.

4) Legal Department request: Approve contract with New Avenues Inc. - 2024 Employee Assistance Program - Full Service Contract for the Police Department

Shannon Marks, the Legal Compliance Administrator for the City Legal Department, told the Board that attached to the Board's agenda packet for approval was a contract with New Avenues Inc., in substantially final form, to provide the City with an employee assistance program (EAP) in 2024 for the Police Department based on an "EAP Full Service."

Marks said this EAP would cover all active, full-time Police Department employees and their immediate family members. The City will pay New Avenues in 2024 based on the "EAP Full Service" fees set forth in Exhibit A of the contract, which includes a per employee fee of \$4.05 per month (2022-2023 per employee fee was \$3.87 per month), plus the additional fees for the specific services utilized. (The "Full Service" EAP includes additional services that are not included under the "A la Carte Service Contract" EAP for the other City employees.).



Marks asked that authorization be given to the Mayor to execute the finalized contract with New Avenues Inc. Swartley/Myers made a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to execute the contract with New Avenues Inc. to provide the 2024 Employee Assistance Program for the Police Department based on the "EAP Full Service." Motion passed 5-0.

5) Legal Department request: Approve the Letter Agreement with Sun Brookside Manor LLC, with the Mayor given authority to execute the agreement, for the City's acquisition of property near the intersection of Peddlers Village Road and Reliance Road

Assistant City Attorney Don Shuler told the Board that attached to the Board's meeting packet for approval and execution by the Mayor was a Letter Agreement with Sun Brookside Manor LLC for the City's acquisition of property near the intersection of Peddlers Village Road and Reliance Road.

Shuler said the property is being acquired in lieu of eminent domain as part of the County Courts Roadway Improvement Project. The Letter Agreement provides the terms and conditions of the City's acquisition, including the sum payment of \$20,000 to Sun Brookside Manor LLC for the land to be acquired and \$23,180 for fencing to be constructed as a barrier for their remaining property, as well as restrictive covenants limiting the City's use of the acquired property for roadway, drainage, and utility purposes.

Shuler said the terms and conditions of the Letter Agreement have been reviewed and approved by the City's Engineering and Redevelopment departments.

Swartley/Myers made a motion to approve the Letter Agreement with Sun Brookside Manor LLC as presented, with the Mayor given authority to execute said agreement. Motion passed 5-0.

6) Engineering Department request: Approve a two-day closure of 10th Street, south of Douglas Street, and approve parking restrictions on Douglas Street and 11th Street between Jan.2 and Jan. 11, 2024, so Niblock can install a water main across 10th Street as part of the Tenth Street Reconstruction project City Director of Public Works & Utilities Dustin Sailor told the Board that Niblock Excavating has requested permission to close 10th Street, just south of Douglas Street, during the day for two consecutive days sometime between Jan. 2 and Jan. 12, 2024. The closures are dependent on weather and work progress between now and the first week of January.

Sailor said additional notice will be provided to the public before the closure. Appropriate traffic control devices will be utilized, and access for Gleason Industrial Products will be maintained.

Sailor said Niblock was requesting this closure to install water main across 10th Street as part of the Tenth Street Reconstruction project. Parking will also be restricted along Douglas Street, from 10th Street to 11th Street, and on 11th Street, within 50 feet of Douglas Street, during the closures.

Swartley/Myers made a motion to approve a two-day closure of 10th Street, south of Douglas Street, and approve parking restrictions on Douglas Street and 11th Street starting between Jan. 2 and Jan. 11, 2024 Motion passed 5-0.

7) Engineering Department request: Approve lane restrictions on 10th Street, Plymouth Avenue, and Reynolds Street, and daytime parking restrictions along 10th Street, Jan. 8, 2024 until Feb. 16, 2024, so NIPSCO can complete a gas main relocation in preparation for the Tenth Street Reconstruction project City Director of Public Works & Utilities Dustin Sailor told the Board that NIPSCO Gas has requested permission to restrict the northbound lane of 10th Street, just south of Plymouth Avenue, to Reynolds Street, and the westbound lanes of Plymouth Avenue and Reynolds Street near 10th Street.



Sailor said the lanes will be closed during the day only from Monday, Jan. 8 until Friday, Feb.16, 2024. Flaggers will maintain two-way traffic, including at intersections. Appropriate traffic control devices will be utilized.

Sailor said NIPSCO is requesting these lane restrictions to complete planned gas main relocation in preparation for the Tenth Street Reconstruction project. Access for Gleason Industrial Products will be maintained. Parking will also be restricted along 10th Street during the lane restrictions.

Swartley/Myers made a motion to approve lane restrictions on 10th Street, Plymouth Avenue, and Reynolds Street, and approve daytime parking restrictions along 10th Street from Jan. 8 thru Feb. 16, 2024. Motion passed 5-0.

8) Engineering Department request: Approve the closure of East Douglas Street, between South Main Street (SR 15) and South 6th Street, so NIPSCO can complete a gas valve replacement from Jan.8, 2024, thru Jan. 12, 2024

City Director of Public Works & Utilities Dustin Sailor told the Board that NIPSCO is requesting permission to close East Douglas Street, between South Main Street and South 6th Street, starting Jan. 8 through Jan.12, 2024, to replace a gas valve.

Swartley/Myers made a motion to approve the closure of E Douglas Street, between South Main Street (SR 15) and South 6th Street for the gas valve replacement from Jan. 8 to Jan. 12, 2024. Motion passed 5-0.

9) Engineering Department request: Approve the agreement with Arcadis, U.S., Inc. for \$93,000 for consulting engineering services to develop a Lead Service Line Replacement Plan and Indiana Finance State Revolving Fund application

City Director of Public Works & Utilities Dustin Sailor asked the Board to approve an expenditure of \$93,000 for engineering support from Arcadis U.S., Inc. toward the City's effort to request a \$300,000 grant for developing its Lead Service Line inventory and a request of \$4-\$6 million in low-interest state matching funds for replacement of lead service lines. The state application is due by April 2024.

According to the contract, Arcadis will provide the City with services for achieving compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR). The consultant's duties under this agreement include:

A. Development of Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) plan.

B. Review of City's Type III application and development of a State Revolving Fund application, including the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Memo.

C. Allowance for additional LCRR support services, if requested by City.

Swartley/Myers made a motion to approve the attached agreement with Arcadis, U.S., Inc. for \$93,000 for Consulting Engineering Services to develop a Lead Service Line Replacement Plan and Indiana Finance State Revolving Fund application. Motion passed 5-0.

10) Engineering Department request: Approve the agreement with Rejuvtec, Inc. for the 2024 Asphalt Paving Rejuvenation project in the amount of \$102,176.10

City Director of Public Works & Utilities Dustin Sailor told the Board that on Dec. 11, 2023, the City received proposals for the 2024 Asphalt Paving Rejuvenation project. Following are the results: Rejuvtec, Inc. - \$102,176.10. Engineering Department staff members asked the Board to award the contract to Rejuvtec, Inc. as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

Board member Landis said given that there was only one bid, was the amount close to what the City expected to pay. **Sailor** said it was, adding that this will be one of the first times the City has sought this type of treatment.



Swartley/Myers made a motion to approve the Agreement with Rejuvtec, Inc. for the 2024 Asphalt Paving Rejuvenation project in the amount of \$102,176.10. Motion passed 5-0.

11) Stormwater Department request for Boar of Public Works & Safety: Approve and authorize the Board to execute the agreement with Last Dance, LLC for the completion of the construction project at 1280 Brinkley Way East

City Stormwater Coordinator Jason Kauffman asked the Board to approve an agreement for the Completion of Construction for the Brinkley Lamination Plant located at 1280 Brinkley Way East.

Kauffman said the building has passed its final building inspection and the project is substantially completed except for 120,800 square feet of disturbed area that is to be stabilized with seed and covered with erosion control blankets, installation of 401,241 square feet of asphalt topcoat on the parking lot, and installation of all required parking lot striping for parking spaces. These final requirements cannot be completed at this time due to weather conditions.

Kauffman said the property owner, Last Dance, LLC, agrees to complete the remaining items of work no later than June 15, 2021. No surety bond is required due to the City holding a 5% contingency for the overall public infrastructure project from the bond proceeds purchased by the developer, totaling \$8,000,000,which would be available to fund the work if not completed by Brinkley.

Swartley/Myers made a motion to approve and authorize the Board to execute the agreement with Last Dance, LLC for the completion of the construction project at 1280 Brinkley Way East. Motion passed 5-0.

Privilege of the Floor (opportunity for public comment for matters not on the agenda): Mayor Leichty opened Privilege of the Floor at 2:20 p.m.

City Street Commissioner David Gibbs announced that the City will collect used live Christmas trees from Jan. 2 to Feb. 2, 2024. Gibbs said the collection will be limited to live trees, free of all decorations.

There were no further public or City staff comments, so the Mayor closed the comment period at 2:21 p.m.

At 2:21 p.m. Mayor Leichty recessed the Board of Public Works and Safety meeting and opened public hearings to review orders of the City of Goshen Building Commissioner for three Goshen properties.

CITY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY PUBLIC HEARINGS:

2:00 p.m., December 18, 2023 Goshen Police & Court Building, 111 East Jefferson Street, Goshen, Indiana Members: Mayor Leichty, Mike Landis, Orv Myers, Mary Nichols, Barb Swartley

Mayor Leichty began the hearings by swearing in three witnesses to give complete and truthful testimony: City Building Inspector Travis Eash, Michael Schmucker of M&H Rentals of Goshen and Craig B. Blough, a licensed real estate broker and auctioneer for Bartel & Company, who was representing Ronald E. Davidhizar, the owner of the three properties subject to the three hearings on Dec. 18, 2023.



12) Review of the Order of the City of Goshen Building Commissioner for 407 Center Street (Ronald E. Davidhizar, property owner)

At 2:21 p.m., Mayor Leichty convened a hearing to review the Order of the City of Goshen Building Commissioner for 407 Center Street (Ronald E. Davidhizar, property owner)

BACKGROUND:

An unsafe building review hearing on the Nov. 8, 2023 demolition Order of the City of Goshen Building Commissioner by the City Board of Public Works & Safety was scheduled Dec. 18, 2023 for the property located at 407 Center Street, Goshen (Ronald E. Davidhizar, property owner). The Board of Public Works and Safety needed to conduct the hearing and affirm, rescind, or modify the Building Commissioner's Order and determine what action to order concerning the property.

Along with hearing evidence, questioning witnesses, reviewing the record and making findings, the Board had the option of affirming the Building Commissioner Order (if it agreed with demolition), rescinding the Order (if property violations had been fixed), or modifying the Order (if it believed that the property could be fixed). It could also postpone the hearing to a future date.

According to a **Dec. 18**, **2023** memorandum from the City Legal Department to the Board of Works, the Dec. 18 hearing was scheduled for the consideration of evidence and a decision on the Order requiring:

"Demolition of the unsafe buildings at the Real Estate and removal of all demolition remains, trash, and debris on the Real Estate and return the site to natural grade, all of said work to be completed on or before December 1, 2023."

The Building Commissioner identified the following Goshen City Code violations:

- 1. The foundation of the residential structure has not been kept in good repair, is not capable of supporting all nominal loads, and is likely to fail, violations of Sections 6.3.1.1(b) and (p). Areas of the foundation have cracks, where large gaps and holes have formed; the foundation is beginning to sink; certain areas of the foundation are beginning to fail and are in disrepair.
- 2. The ceilings inside the residential structure have not been kept in good repair and are likely to fail, a violation of Sections 6.3.1.1(b) and (p). Multiple ceilings have collapsed due to significant water damage. Many ceilings have cracks and holes.
- 3. The floors inside the residential structure have not been kept in good repair and are likely to fail, a violation of Sections 6.3.1.1(b) and (p). The kitchen floor has become so damaged due to water that it is in danger of collapse. The floor in the main living areas has detached from the wall and begun to sink.
- **4.** The walls inside the residential structure have not been kept in good repair, a violation of Section 6.3.1.1(b). Multiple walls have cracks and holes in them. A wall in the main living room is poorly constructed with brick and in danger of collapse.
- 5. The roof of the residential structure has not been kept in good repair and has defects permitting rain, violations of Sections 6.3.1.1(b) and (c). There is evidence of the roof leaking due to persistent water damage to floors, walls, and ceilings. The roof in the rear of the structure was poorly installed and has multiple areas where it permits weather to enter, impacting the structural integrity of the structure. There are areas where the soffit and fascia are missing, and places where the shingles are damaged or loose.
- **6.** The heating and mechanical system at the residential structure is not operable, a violation of Section 6.3.1.1(a). The ductwork is not properly connected.
- 7. The plumbing system at the residential structure is not operable, a violation of Section 6.3.1.1(a).
- **8.** The electrical system at the residential structure is not operable, a violation of Section 6.3.1.1(a). The electrical panel has been tampered with; there are multiple areas with exposed electrical wiring; areas of the residential structure's electrical wiring has been damaged by water and continues to be exposed to weather conditions.



- **9.** The windows and doors have not been kept in good repair, a violation of Section 6.3.1.1(d). There are many broken windows and broken doors throughout the residential structure.
- **10.** The painted surfaces inside the residential structure are not properly coated and weather tight, a violation of Section 6.3.1.1(g). There is chipping and peeling paint throughout the residential structure.
- 11. The residential structure is not secure from intrusion by unauthorized persons, a violation of Section 6.3.1.1(ff). There are accumulated materials inside the residential structure and other evidence of animals and vagrants. The carpet is saturated with urine and feces.

The Board hearing was scheduled because the time to complete the demolition required by the Building Commissioner's Order had passed and the conditions and violation cited in the Order still existed. The Building Commissioner determined the cited conditions rendered the building and residential structure to be unsafe and that it should be demolished.

The property owner was given notice of the Dec. 18 hearing and notified of his right to appear, present evidence, cross-examine opposing witnesses and present evidence. He also was advised of his right to appeal the findings of fact by the Board of Public Works and the Building Commissioner's Order to the Elkhart County Superior Court.

DEC. 18, 2023 HEARING ON THE ORDER OF THE CITY BUILDING COMMISSIONER FOR 407 CENTER STREET (RONALD E. DAVIDHIZAR, PROPERTY OWNER) AND THE BOARD'S ACTION:

Assistant City Attorney Don Shuler said the first property to be reviewed was at 407 Center Street, which he said was the subject of a Nov. 8, 2023 demolition order from the City of Goshen Building Commissioner. He said the order was issued Nov. 9 and served on the property owner on Nov. 13. He presented proof of the Certificate of Service, which included a signed certified mail receipt (EXHIBIT #1).

Shuler said that after the order was issued, there was some discussion with the property owner and the property was included in auction and sold on Dec. 16, 2023. He said the sale isn't yet completed to **Michael Schmucker of M&H Rentals of Goshen.**

Shuler said Schmucker planned to ask the Board to continue the hearing. He said the Building Department was ready to proceed with its request to demolish the building, but was willing to allow Schmucker to address the Board. Schmucker told the Board that his company purchased the property on Dec. 16. He said he informed Craig Blough of Bartel & Company that M&H wants to close the sale as soon as possible and begin work on the property. Schmucker said he doesn't yet have a plan in place for the property, but plans to "gut" the interior and then assess what more needs to be done to make the building safe and bring everything up to code.

Schmucker added, "We've done a number of properties in town. We've been doing it 25 years or so. It's going to take us some time, hoping three or four months, but you will see progress on it from day one that we own the property. We're already trying to get things scheduled with contractors and get things lined up."

Craig B. Blough, a licensed real estate broker and auctioneer for Bartel & Company, confirmed that the property was auctioned Dec. 16, 2023. He said his company also sold another property, which didn't have a demolition order. Blough said his company forwarded the title work for 407 Center Street in order the accelerate the closing so work can begin soon on the property.

Board member Swartley asked if the sale could close within two weeks. **Blough** said he hopes it will be as soon as possible and ":certainly" within the 30 days advertised.

Shuler said City Building Commissioner Myron Grise advised him today that he supported tabling this matter. Shuler said the Building Commissioner's demolition order has been recorded and remains in effect. If the matter were continued, Shuler said he and Grise would want the owner to return at that date with a scope of work and projected timeline for repairs that the Board could review and decide whether demolition was still warranted or if the property could be rehabilitated. He said at that time, the Board could then issue an order to the new property owner. Still, Shuler said the Building Department was ready to proceed with a hearing today if that's what the Board desired.



Mayor Leichty said she would be receptive to a rehabilitation plan and reviewing it.

Board member Swartley said if the sale has been a cash transaction, a one month delay should be an adequate delay for the new owner.

Board member Landis said he drove by the property today. He said given the buyer's experience, the biggest unknown would be the condition of the foundation. So, he said he wasn't opposed to the new owner trying to rehabilitate the home. Landis said it also seemed reasonable to give the new owner time to develop a plan. **Mayor Leichty** asked other Board members to share their opinions.

Board member Myers said it seemed better to give the property owner 30 days than to demolish the home.

Board member Nichols also concurred with a delay in the hearing.

Mayor Leichty asked the City Attorney for the protocol for moving forward.

City Attorney Stegelmann recommended that a motion be made to table the matter to Jan. 22, 2024 (since Jan. 15 is a holiday) and require that the new owner, at that meeting, to present a scope of work plan to rehabilitate the property, to the best of their ability.

Swartley/Myers made a motion to delay the hearing on the City Building Commissioner's unsafe building order for 407 Center Street until Jan. 22, 2024 at which point the property will have conveyed to a new owner, who will come with a scope of work detailed plan for the rehabilitation of the building. Motion passed 5-0.

13) Review of the Order of the City of Goshen Building Commissioner for 218 N. 9th Street (Ronald E. Davidhizar, property owner)

At 2:32 p.m., Mayor Leichty convened a hearing to review of the Order of the City of Goshen Building Commissioner for 218 N. 9th Street (Ronald E. Davidhizar, property owner).

BACKGROUND:

An unsafe building review hearing on the Nov. 8, 2023 demolition Order of the City of Goshen Building Commissioner by the City Board of Public Works & Safety was scheduled Dec. 18, 2023 for the property located at 218 North Ninth Street, Goshen (Ronald E. Davidhizar, property owner). The Board of Public Works and Safety needed to conduct the hearing and either affirm, rescind, or modify the Building Commissioner Order and determine what action to order concerning the property.

Along with hearing evidence, questioning witnesses, reviewing the record and making findings, the Board had the option of affirming the City Building Commissioner's Order (if it agreed with demolition), rescinding the Order (if property violations had been fixed), or modifying the Order (if it believed that the property could be fixed). It could also postpone the hearing to a future date.

According to a **Dec. 18**, **2023** memorandum from the City Legal Department to the Board of Works, the Dec. 18 hearing was scheduled for the consideration of evidence and a decision on the Order requiring:

"Demolition of the unsafe buildings at the Real Estate and removal of all demolition remains, trash, and debris on the Real Estate and return the site to natural grade, all of said work to be completed on or before December 1, 2023."

The Building Commissioner identified the following Goshen City Code violations:

- 1. Multiple areas of the residential structure are likely to fail, a violation of Section 6.3.1.1(p). The kitchen floor has become detached from the wall and is sinking. The kitchen floor is spongy from a possible water leak and in danger of collapse. Wood structural members have been exposed to weather elements causing deterioration and compromising structural strength.
- **2.** The residential structure's floors and walls have not been kept in good repair, a violation of Section 6.3.1.1(b). There are multiple areas where there are holes in the walls.



The flooring throughout the property is torn or removed; areas of the floor have detached from the walls; the kitchen floor is spongy from a possible water leak and in danger of collapse. Areas of the wall and siding have so deteriorated that the bathroom plumbing lines are accessible from the exterior of the structure and exposed to all weather elements.

- 3. The residential structure's garage's roof has not been kept in good repair and is not sound, a violation of Sections 6.3.1.1(b) and (c). The soffit and fascia are not properly weather protected and are rotted from being exposed to the weather elements.
- **4.** The residential structure's siding has not been kept in good repair, a violation of 6.3.1.1(bb). There are multiple areas where the siding is damaged and/or missing. Areas of the siding have deteriorated so that the bathroom plumbing lines are accessible from the exterior of the structure and exposed to all weather elements.
- **5. Windows have not been kept in good repair**, a violation of Section 6.3.1.1(d). There are broken windows throughout the residential structure. 6. The heating and mechanical systems at the residential structure is inoperable, a violation of Section 6.3.1.1(a).
- 7. There is no operable plumbing system at the residential structure, a violation of Section 6.3.1.1(a). The Board hearing was scheduled because the time to complete the demolition required by the Building Commissioner's Order had passed and the conditions and violation cited in the Order still existed. The City Building Commissioner determined the cited conditions rendered the building and residential structure to be unsafe and that it should be demolished.

The property owner was given notice of the Dec. 18 hearing and notified of his right to appear at the hearing, present evidence, cross-examine opposing witnesses and present evidence. He also was advised of his right to appeal the findings of fact by the Board of Public Works & Safety and the Building Commissioner's Order to the Elkhart County Superior Court.

DEC. 18, 2023 HEARING ON THE ORDER OF THE CITY BUILDING COMMISSIONER FOR 218 NORTH 9th STREET (RONALD E. DAVIDHIZAR, PROPERTY OWNER) AND THE BOARD'S ACTION:

Assistant City Attorney Don Shuler said the next property to be reviewed was located at 218 North 9th Street, which he said was the subject of a Nov. 8, 2023 demolition order from the City Building Commissioner. He said the order was issued Nov. 9 and served on the property owner on Nov. 13. He presented proof of the Certificate of Service, which included a signed certified mail receipt (EXHIBIT #2).

Shuler said there had been some communication with City staff that the owner planned to arrange for the demolition of the property. He said the City Water and Sewer Department today granted a related request and the City Building Department notified the owner that a demolition permit could be picked up today and plans were made to pick it up. **Shuler** said City staff was ready to proceed with a hearing on the order of the City Building Commissioner to demolish the home at 218 North 9th Street, but he said it would be good to hear from the property owner or his representative on the plans for the building.

On behalf of the property owner, Craig B. Blough, a licensed real estate broker and auctioneer for Bartel & Company, said he was informed today by the City Building Department that a demolition permit for 218 North 9th Street had been approved and could be picked up today. He said he would do so later today or on Dec. 19. Blough said he had also contacted the City Sewer and Building Department to facilitate the demolition. He said NIPSCO had been contacted to arrange of the shutdown of gas and electric services. Blough also said plans have been made with a contractor to demolish the building before the end of the year.

Mayor Leichty asked Shuler the appropriate procedure on how the Board should proceed.

Shuler recommended that the Board adopt the City Building Commissioner's orders as the Board's findings, with the consent of the property owner, and affirm the Building Commissioner's order that the property be demolished by Jan. 19, 2024, which was the date specified in the Commissioner's order.



Swartley/Myers then made a motion to adopt the City Building Commissioner's order and with the consent of the property owner, Ronald Davidhizar, that the property at 218 North 9th Street be demolished by Jan. 19, 2024. Motion passed 5-0.

14) Review of the Order of the City of Goshen Building Commissioner for 602 N. 5th Street (Ronald E. Davidhizar, property owner)

At 2:36 p.m., Mayor Leichty convened a hearing to review of the Order of the City of Goshen Building Commissioner for 602 N. 5th Street (Ronald E. Davidhizar, property owner).

BACKGROUND:

An unsafe building review hearing on the Nov. 21, 2023 demolition Order of the City of Goshen Building Commissioner by the City Board of Public Works & Safety was scheduled Dec. 18, 2023 for the property located at 602 North 5th Street, Goshen (Ronald E. Davidhizar, property owner). The Board of Public Works and Safety needed to conduct the hearing and affirm, rescind, or modify the City Building Commissioner's Order and determine what action to order concerning the property.

Along with hearing evidence, questioning witnesses, reviewing the record and making findings, the Board had the option of affirming the Building Commissioner Order (if it agreed with demolition), rescinding the Order (if property violations had been fixed), or modifying the Order (if it believed that the property could be fixed). It could also postpone the hearing to a future date.

According to a **Dec. 18**, **2023** memorandum from the City Legal Department to the Board of Works, the Dec. 18 hearing was scheduled for the consideration of evidence and a decision on the Order requiring:

"Demolition of the unsafe buildings at the Real Estate and removal of all demolition remains, trash, and debris on the Real Estate and return the site to natural grade, all of said work to be completed on or before December 1, 2023."

The Building Commissioner identified the following Goshen City Code violations:

- 1. The structure is likely to partially or completely collapse due to deterioration of its foundation and general dilapidation, a violation of Section 6.3.1. I(r). The foundation wall in the rear of the structure has collapsed into the basement. This has permitted animals and weather elements to enter, flooding the basement. The collapsed foundation wall compromises the integrity of the structure to the extent that interior floors have begun to collapse.
- 2. The structure's foundation has not been kept in good repair and is not capable of supporting all nominal loads, a violation of Section 6.3.1.I(b). Multiple areas of the foundation have significant cracks. The foundation wall in the rear of the structure has collapsed, causing a collapsed sidewalk and flooding the basement. The basement is under water.
- **3.** The structure's floors have not been kept in good repair, a violation of Section 6.3.1.I(b). Flooring throughout the structure is torn, and the floor near the rear door has begun to collapse due to the collapsed foundation wall. Areas of the subfloor have become spongy and soft.
- **4.** The structure's walls have not been kept in good repair, a violation of Section 6.3.1.l(b). Multiple walls inside the structure have cracks and holes, and also show signs of water damage.
- **5.** The structure's ceilings have not been kept in good repair, a violation of Section 6.3.1.I(b). Ceilings show signs of water damage.
- **6.** The structure's roof and flashing are not sound and tight, a violation of Section 6.3.1.l(c). Areas around the structure have collapsed soffit.
- **7.** The structure's painted surfaces are not properly coated and weather tight, a violation of Section 6.3.1.I(g). The interior and exterior of the structure has chipping and peeling paint throughout



The Board hearing was scheduled because the time to complete the demolition required by the Building Commissioner's Order had passed and the conditions and violations cited in the Order still existed. The Building Commissioner determined the cited conditions rendered the building and residential structure to be unsafe and that it should be demolished.

The property owner was given notice of the Dec. 18 hearing and notified of his right to appear at the hearing, present evidence, cross-examine opposing witnesses and present evidence. He also was advised of his right to appeal the findings of fact by the Board of Public Works & Safety and the Building Commissioner's Order to the Elkhart County Superior Court.

DEC. 18, 2023 HEARING ON THE ORDER OF THE CITY BUILDING COMMISSIONER FOR 602 NORTH 5th STREET (RONALD E. DAVIDHIZAR, PROPERTY OWNER) AND THE BOARD'S ACTION:

Assistant City Attorney Don Shuler said the third property to be reviewed was located at 602 N. 5th Street, which he said was the subject of a Nov. 21, 2023 demolition order from the City Building Commissioner. He said the order was issued Nov. 21 and served on the property owner on Dec. 8. He presented proof of the Certificate of Service, which included a signed certified mail receipt (EXHIBIT #3).

Shuler said City staff had received "somewhat mixed signals" from the property owner's representative about this property and whether to proceed with demolition. He said the City Building Department was ready to proceed with a hearing on the order to demolish the property unless there was an agreement from the property owner to demolish the structure pursuant to the Building Commissioner's order.

Shuler invited the property owner's representative to address the issue.

On behalf of the property owner, Craig B. Blough, a licensed real estate broker and auctioneer for Bartel & Company, said the property owner planned to arrange for the demolition of the home at 602 N. 5th Street. However, he said the timeline won't be by the end of the year.

Blough said the property owner would like to salvage some items from the house. He also said that given an appropriate timeline, he will ensure that the house is torn down. Asked by **Mayor Leichty** to clarify the requested timeline, **Blough** said he would like until the end of January 2024.

Shuler said City Building Commissioner's order called for the property at 602 N. 5th Street to be demolished by Jan. 19, 2024. He said a 12-day delay could be granted or City staff would be prepared to proceed with a hearing and request an order from the Board to proceed with an earlier demolition.

Mayor Leichty asked Blough if his company has contracted for the demolition of 602 N. 5th Street. Blough said there is not yet a signed contract for the demolition, but there has been a conversation about having the home demolished.

Mayor Leichty asked Board members their thoughts on how to proceed.

Board member Landis said waiting 12 days for a demolition seemed like an "inconsequential delay." Other **Board members** agreed.

Shuler asked Blough if the property owner would consent to the City Building Commissioner's demolition order. **Blough** said he would, with the 12-day time extension.

Swartley/Myers then made a motion to adopt the City Building Commissioner's order to demolish 602 North 5th Street and with the consent of the property owner, Ronald Davidhizar, to allow a 12-day extension for carrying out the order, until the end of January 2024. Motion passed 5-0.

At 2:41 p.m., Mayor Leichty adjourned the hearings on the Orders of the City of Goshen Building Commissioner for three properties and reopened the Board of Public Works & Safety meeting.



Approval of Civil City and Utility Claims

As all matters before the Board of Public Works & Safety were concluded, Mayor Leichty/Board member Swartley moved to approve Civil City and Utility claims and adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

Adjournment

Mayor Leichty adjourned the Board of Works meeting at 2:42 p.m.

EXHIBIT #1: A Certificate of Issuance of the Building Commissioner's Order for the premises at 407 Center Street, which was dated Nov. 8, 2023 and addressed to Ron Davidhizar, with a Certified Mail Receipt, which was dated Nov.13, 2023 and signed by Ron Davidhizar This document was submitted by Assistant City Attorney Donald Shuler during the Board's consideration of agenda item #12, Review of the Order of the City of Goshen Building Commissioner for 407 Center Street (Ronald E. Davidhizar, property owner).

EXHIBIT #2: A Certificate of Issuance of the Building Commissioner's Order for the premises at 218 North 9th Street, which was dated Nov. 8, 2023 and addressed to Ron Davidhizar, with a Certified Mail Receipt, which was dated Nov.13, 2023 and signed by Ron Davidhizar This document was submitted by Assistant City Attorney Donald Shuler during the Board's consideration of agenda item #13, Review of the Order of the City of Goshen Building Commissioner for 218 North 9th Street (Ronald E. Davidhizar, property owner).

EXHIBIT #3: A Certificate of Issuance of the Building Commissioner's Order for the premises at 602 North 5th Street, which was dated Nov. 21, 2023 and addressed to Ron Davidhizar, with a Certified Mail Receipt, which was dated Dec. 8, 2023 and signed by Ron Davidhizar This document was submitted by Assistant City Attorney Donald Shuler during the Board's consideration of agenda item #14, Review of the Order of the City of Goshen Building Commissioner for 602 North 5th Street (Ronald E. Davidhizar, property owner).

APPROVED:

Mayor Gina Leichty

Mike Landis, Member



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Myers, Member	Myers, Member	1	1	
		Myers, Me	ember	

Mary Nichols, Member

Barb Swartley, Member

ATTEST:

Richard R. Aguirre, City of Goshen Clerk-Treasurer

EXHIBIT #2

Certificate of Issuance of Building Commissioner Order

RE: Premises at 407 Center Street, Goshen, Indiana

The undersigned hereby certifies that the Order of the City of Goshen Building Commissioner dated November 8, 2023 for the above-referenced premises was issued to the following parties via Certified Mail on November 9, 2023, with the tracking and return showing signature and service of said Order as indicated:

Ron Davidhizar 203 Middlebury Street Goshen, Indiana 46528

Certified Mail # 7021 2720 0002 9062 3708

Delivered: November 13, 2023

	,
U.S. Postal Service REC CERTIFIED MAIL REC Domestic Mail Only	CEIPT
For delivery information, visit our website	e at www.usps.com®.
GOS CONTRACTOR AL	USE
Certified Mall Fee \$ Extra Services & Fees (check box, add fee as appropriate) Return Receipt (lardcopy)	Postmark Here
Sent To Street and Api Ne, or PQ Box No. City, State, ZIP+	701 Y St 410528
PS Form 3800, April 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9047	See Reverse for Instructions

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Donald R. Shuler, #26587-71 Assistant City Attorney City of Goshen Legal Department 204 East Jefferson Street, Suite 2 Goshen, Indiana 46528

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON D	ELIVERY
■ Complete items 1, 2, and 3. ■ Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you. ■ Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits. 1. Article Addressed to: RON DOVICHIZON 203 Middlebury 4.	A. Signature X B. Received by (Printed Name) D. Is delivery address different from If YES, enter delivery address by	Agent Addressee C. Date of Delivery Item 1? U Yes Pelow: No
GISHEN. IN UG528 9590 9402 7388 2055 6853 40 2. Article Number (Transfer from service label) 2021 2720 0002 9062 3708	3, Service Type Adult Signature Adult Signature Restricted Delivery Certified Mail® Certified Mail® Certified Mail Restricted Delivery Collect on Delivery Collect on Delivery Insured Mail Insured Mail Restricted Delivery (over \$500)	□ Priority Mail Express® □ Registered Mail™ □ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery □ Signature Confirmation™ □ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery
PS Form 3811, July 2020 PSN 7530-02-000-9053		Domestic Return Receipt

EXHIBIT #2

Certificate of Issuance of Building Commissioner Order

RE: Premises at 218 North Ninth Street, Goshen, Indiana

The undersigned hereby certifies that the Order of the City of Goshen Building Commissioner dated November 8, 2023 for the above-referenced premises was issued to the following parties via Certified Mail on November 9, 2023, with the tracking and return showing signature and service of said Order as indicated:

Ron Davidhizar 203 Middlebury Street Goshen, Indiana 46528

Certified Mail # 7021 2720 0002 9062 3692

Delivered: November 13, 2023

	U.S. Postal Service™ CERTIFIED MAIL® RECEIPT
김	Domestic Mail Only
35	For delivery information, visit our website at www.usps.com®.
П	Gos O FIF6 2C AL USE
906	Certified Mail Fee 44.35
2000	Extra Services & Fees (check box, add fee as appropriate) Return Receipt (hardcopy) Return Receipt (electronic) Certified Mail Restricted Delivery Adult Signature Required
2720	Adult Signature Restricted Delivery \$ Postage \$ 10 . 90 \$ Total Postage and Fees
7021	Sent To Street and Aut. Are, or RO Bax Arb. Street and Aut. Are, or RO Bax Arb. ON STREET AND AUGUST AND AUG
	PS Form 3800, April 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9047 See Reverse for Instructions

Donald R. Shuler, #26587-71 Assistant City Attorney City of Goshen Legal Department 204 East Jefferson Street, Suite 2 Goshen, Indiana 46528

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON E	DELIVERY
Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you. Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits. Article Addressed to: Ron Davidhi Zov. 203 Midd Libry St. Goshan IN Uw628	B. Received by (Printed Name) D. Is delivery address different from If YES, enter delivery address to	Agent Addressee C. Date of Delivery A item 1? Yes Delow: No
9590 9402 7388 2055 6853 33 2. Article Number (Transfer from service label) 7071, 2720 0002 9062 3692	3. Service Type pt Adult Signature Adult Signature Restricted Delivery Certified Mail Restricted Delivery Collect on Delivery Collect on Delivery Insured Mail Insured Mail	□ Priority Mail Express® □ Registered Mail™ □ Registered Mail Restricte Delivery □ Signature Confirmation™ □ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

EXHIBIT #3

Certificate of Issuance of Building Commissioner Order

RE: Premises at 602 North Fifth Street, Goshen, Indiana

The undersigned hereby certifies that the Order of the City of Goshen Building Commissioner dated November 21, 2023 for the above-referenced premises was issued to the following parties via Certified Mail on November 21, 2023, with the tracking and return showing signature and service of said Order as indicated:

Ronald Davidhizar 203 Middlebury Street Goshen, Indiana 46528

Certified Mail # 7019 0160 0000 5623 6765

Delivered: December 8, 2023

ה ם	U.S. Postal Service [™] CERTIFIED MAIL [®] RECEIPT Domestic Mail Only	
	Certified Mail Fee \$ Extra Services & Fees (check box/add fee as appropriate) Return Receipt (hardcopy) Postmark Certified Mail Restricted Delivery Adult Signature Required Adult Signature Restricted Delivery Postage	法表义
	Street and Apt. No., or RO Box No. Street and Apt. No., or RO Box No. City, State, ZIP+4* City, State, ZIP+4* See Reverse for Instruct See Reverse for Instruct	60.2 ions

Donald R. Shuler, #26587-71 Assistant City Attorney City of Goshen Legal Department 204 East Jefferson Street, Suite 2 Goshen, Indiana 46528

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON I	DELIVERY
 Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you. Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits. 1. Article Addressed to: Ronald Dowidhitar 203 Middlebury Street Goshen, IN H6528 	A. Signature X	Agent Addressee C. Date of Delivery Addressee C. Date of Delivery Yes Delow: No
9590 9402 4989 9063 1433 07 2. Article Number (Transfer from service label) 7019 016 000 5623 6765	3. Service Type Adult Signature Adult Signature Restricted Delivery Certified Mail® Certified Mail Restricted Delivery Collect on Delivery Collect on Delivery Insured Mail Insured Mail Restricted Delivery (over \$500)	□ Priority Mail Express® □ Registered Mail™ □ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery □ Return Receipt for Merchandise □ Signature Confirmation™ □ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery
PS Form 3811 July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053		Domestic Return Receipt