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Just the Facts Lourdine Florek, Owner
Thursday, November 9, 2017
Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942 www.justthefacts.net

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The abandoned building at 107 E. Main, right, was approved for demolition at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting. Dustin Tarter, owner of Corn Town Auctions at 109 E. Main, expressed concern about the process at the meeting.

Demolition of 107 E. Main approved, 109 owner concerned

City officials on Tuesday night approved demolition of a second building in the 100 block of East Main, but the owner of an adjacent building expressed concern on the effect the action might have on his building. In a 6-0 vote, the council, with aldermen Bill Goodwine and Chad Yaden absent, approved a \$2,000 demoli-

tion proposal from Glynn Demolition, who also took down 105 E. Main. Also approved were a \$120 per hour trucking rate for Bobby Herman and the city's \$46 per ton landfill fee, all recommended by Ald. Bill McElhane, civic improvement committee chairman. See **DEMOLITION** on other side

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Thank you, vets, for precious moments

By BERTHA PARSONS

What is a precious moment? Does it make you smile, laugh or cry?

Some of my most precious happened with babies. When our three children were born, our lives became richer. Then when we were blessed with three awesome unbelievable grandsons, I really had to say, "Thank you vets."

Moving into a smaller house was another precious moment. Some of us have lived in the same house 25 to 45 plus years and moving from that home is certainly an unbelievable moment for us. Thank goodness for veterans who fought to be sure we have a choice to live wherever we want.

When our son retired from the military and decided, at age 45, to go to law school, it was a precious moment. Here in America, we can go to college at any age. Thank you vets.

Another precious moment, when our #2 son told us he had missed out on much and wanted to have more time with his nephews, brother, Mom and Dad and old friends, so was moving back from California.

You may be wondering about my military background. My father was in WWII, my uncle, my sweet husband and my oldest son all served in the military. I grew up flying the US flag. I stand with my hand over my heart as the National Anthem is presented.

A precious moment for me was Mother's Day, 2016. We were leaving a restaurant hand in hand in the parking lot when my quiet husband grabbed me and gave me a big kiss right in front of many. It is a moment I'll never forget.

Today it seems like we have too many freedoms which we fully take for granted. It's easy to speak before we think. Thanks, veterans, for giving us that right.

We have to be careful to use our freedom in the right way. This week, make a choice to thank a veteran every day. Without veterans there would be fewer precious moments and a lot less freedom.

Thank you to all veterans who gave their all and those who continue to serve.

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Demolition

McElhane estimated the total cost to be \$4,000 to \$5,000 and said the structure "poses just as much of a threat to the public as the other one did, but maybe not on the same scale."

In taking down 105, structural damage to 107 became evident, causing some passersby to wonder if it was damaged during demolition, a claim some officials denied.

McElhane said the damage was unrelated to the demolition, a view echoed by Ald. Alex Houmes, who said after being on-site and looking at the situation, damage at 107 was not caused by the demolition work.

But Dustin Tarter, owner of Corn Town Auctions at 109 E. Main, wondered whether his building would be damaged when 107 is taken down.

"It's slightly terrifying to own a business and watch the building next to you is falling apart," Tarter said at the meeting.

McElhane said machinery was used to demolish the first building but that 107 and Tarter's building would be separated by hand to leave the common wall standing.

Several residents and owners of downtown buildings attended the council meeting, asking questions about building demolition, owners' responsibilities and tax sale auctions

While 105 E. Main has an owner with whom the city hopes to have a reimbursement agreement, Mayor Bill Crusinberry said county Treasurer Darrin Duncan found that while 107 E. Main was awarded to a bidder at last year's tax sale auction, final payment was not made, meaning it is still in the hands of tax trustees.

Paul Kelnhofer, of rural Wellington, asked why owners of properties bought at tax sales aren't responsible for renovation or demolition costs.

Crusinberry explained that properties are sold after taxes have not been paid for three years and that many buyers have the \$600 minimum bid "but they don't have much more."

Resident Kellie Ferrell asked if there was a way for the city to have contracts giving new owners a specified amount of time to renovate or demolish and whether owners could take advantage of Rural Development loans for the properties.

Crusinberry again stated that while many buyers have the purchase price, they would be unable to make loan

payments.

Others asked why the county's land bank doesn't take on the property. Houmes said the land bank is trying to get funding to do something with properties but they will not take a property if they don't have the money or a plan to do something with it.

Houmes has worked with the land bank to get possession of the Willdon Building for the Save the Lorraine Foundation.

Tarter said the city should take properties, like those being demolished. "Those are the ones you should want to take," he said, because the city - not buyers with insufficient funds - would have control over them.

In unrelated business, the council heard from Ald. Carl Ankenbrand, ambulance committee chairman and Larry Sapp, Arrow Ambulance director, of the need for a new ambulance, priced at \$153,223.



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