

City commission holds hearings on six unfit structures

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on this subject.” Garcia said he would emphasize the owners need to work with Brian on a plan. On the one at 1222 Syracuse Ave., James said it was in rough shape, with most of the windows broken out, the roof in bad shape and an outbuilding that could fall over. Owner Randall Fixsen said there is no crap on the property, and he said the windows were shot out by a renter of a neighboring house. He said the roof looks terrible and he will get a roof on it in 90 days. “I will get this fixed up,” he said. “I have owned it for a couple years. Had a problem when they started shooting out the windows. There is no trash or vehicles.

“I am not trying to make it a rat trap. I hope to have someone to rent or live in it.” Dechant said that is why he asked because he used to live down the street. Fixsen said he has the material to do the roof if he can have 90 days. James said the commission has always been willing to give 90 days. Garcia said if Fixsen will go through with the procedure and work with Brian. “As long as we can see some improvement we will work with you,” Garcia said. “We want to keep working to clean up the town.” On 623 W. Ninth, James said the bushes in front are overgrown, the roof is in disrepair, and the siding is in rough shape. The owner, Robert K. Evans, was

present and said he was there to find out what he has to do. “I read it in the newspaper is all I know about it,” Evans said. “I have not talked to anybody about it.” Garcia asked Evans if he received a letter from the city and Evans said he had. Garcia told Evans to talk to Brian James about what he feels needs to be done to the property, and the city would give him 90 days. He said if the city sees progress they will work with him. On 322 W. Seventh, James said he was repeating himself as the windows on the north had been broken out, siding is in rough shape, the front door is loose or open. He said the owner is Brent Hostetler of Siebert, Colo., and he did not know what the plan is for the

house. James said it was one of the worst on the list. “You need to drive by and see these,” James said. “The photos do not do justice to what the place looks like.” Garcia asked if James had heard from the owner. James said he had dealt with the owner before for mowing. He said Hostetler bought it on a tax sale, and said currently the taxes are delinquent. Commissioner Bill Finley asked if the property has been improved at all since the owner purchased it from the tax sale. James said he has not seen any improvement. James said Wednesday Hostetler brought a letter into the city office saying he was going to get the door fixed and a coat of paint.

Garcia said the commission would consider giving the owner the same 90 days as all the others. On 223 E. First, James said he had a conversation with the owner, and she is trying to sell the house. He said the door on the south has been boarded up, windows have been knocked out and the police have been inside because of vandals and the ceiling is falling down. The owner is Robert Duane Cowan, and the woman said a lock has been put on the door. She said the property is in her dad’s trust, and they are trying to sell the property. She said there was not a problem with the yard. James agreed there was no problem with the yard, but said the garage in back is leaning over. Gerber said to those people talk-

ing about selling property, he wanted City Attorney Jeff Mason to talk about who is responsible for the repairs, cleanup or demolition. Mason said the city resolution will follow the property, and any new owner would be responsible for completing the repairs. Garcia said 90 days is the city policy and they urge all owners to work with Brian. The commissioners unanimously approved resolutions on each property giving the owners 90 days to start demolition or get with staff to work out a detailed plan to make improvements.

City considers dropping weed height to eight inches

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Gerber said Brian would like to see it lowered to six or eight inches. He said lowering the height would help with the process, and allow the city to get the lawns mowed in a more timely fashion. Garcia said he could see where the process goes bad. Two weeks after the letter has been sent, the lawn has grown well beyond the 12 inches. He said he could see that lowering the height would be wise. James said he does not want people to think he is picking on them, but does have a list he keeps of lawns and keeps checking back. He said the problem is that once the weeds and grass have gotten to the 12 inches, it is harder to mow the lawn, and lowering the height would make it easier for the people to keep up with getting them mowed. Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said she was not opposed to lowering the height, but was not sure what the magic number should be. Commissioner Bill Finley said going down to six inches might be a bit extreme, but felt eight inches would be reasonable. Commissioner Chris Zimmerman said he was wondering if lowering the weed height would mean the city is going to have to do more inspections.

financial stability. Attorney Mason talked about ethics and conflicts of interest. He said the broad brush about ethics is anything a person would not want their best friend or their parents to find out about is something not to do. On the conflict of interest he said if there is a clear point of involvement the commissioner should not be involved in the discussion or the voting. Gerber said he had already had someone question Zimmerman being on the commission and being a volunteer fire fighter. Mason said there is a specific attorney general opinion about this type of situation on the city level. He said the opinion says there is no problem with the person being elected to the commission and continuing to be a volunteer fire fighter. Zimmerman said if something comes up about the fire service he will step out of the room. Garcia said he was not aware of any question about Zimmerman’s position, but was sure the commission can handle it.

Orscheln’s Easter Egg Hunt



Danica Corke (left photo) and Serena Craig (above) were two of the kids at the Easter egg hunt held on Saturday afternoon at Orscheln Farm and Home Store. Employees had divided the hunt into age groups and had different aisles in the store to look for eggs. The two girls were in the three to five-year-old group. Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

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