

COUNCIL REPORT

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| M&C No. | 2019-211 |
| Report Date | August 12, 2019 |
| Meeting Date | August 19, 2019 |
| Service Area | Growth and Community Development Services |

His Worship Mayor Don Darling and Members of Common Council

SUBJECT: Demolition of vacant, dilapidated and dangerous building at 361-363 Lancaster Street (PID 00367904)

OPEN OR CLOSED SESSION

This matter is to be discussed in open session of Common Council.

AUTHORIZATION

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| Primary Author | Commissioner/Dept. Head | City Manager |
| <i>Catherine Lowe</i> | <i>J Hamilton /A Poffenroth</i> | <i>John Collin</i> |

RECOMMENDATION

RESOLVED, that the building located at 361-363 Lancaster Street, PID# 00367904, is to be demolished as it has become a hazard to the safety of the public by reason of dilapidation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the building is to be demolished as it has become a hazard to the safety of the public by reason of unsoundness of structural strength; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that one or more by-law enforcement officers appointed and designated under the Saint John Unsightly Premises and Dangerous Buildings and Structures By-law are hereby authorized to arrange for the demolition, in accordance with the applicable City purchasing policies.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise Council that a Notice to Comply was issued under Part 13 of the *Local Governance Act* for the building at 361-363 Lancaster Street. The hazardous conditions outlined in the Notice have not been remedied by the owner within the required time frame and staff is looking for authorization from Council to arrange the demolition of the building.

PREVIOUS RESOLUTION

N/A

REPORT

Inspections of the property at 361-363 Lancaster Street, PID# 00367904, have revealed that there is one building on the premise; a multi-storey, five-unit apartment building. The building is currently assessed at \$119,800. Staff first became aware of the property's vacancy in February 2016 and began standard enforcement procedures. The property is located on the City's West side in a mid-rise residential zone on the corner of Lancaster Street and Woodville Road. The Building is a hazard to the safety of the public by reason of being vacant, by reason of dilapidation and by reason of unsoundness of structural strength.

For the reasons described in the attached Inspection Report, a Notice to Comply was issued on June 10, 2019 and was and was posted to the building on June 12, 2019, as per section 132(3) of the *Local Governance Act* that outlines acceptable methods of service. The Certificate of Registered Ownership lists one individual as the owner. The Building is considered to be abandoned. Attempts were made to contact the owner of the Building and any other interested parties, however all attempts were unsuccessful. The Notice provided the owner with 30 days to remedy the conditions at the property. The owner did not file a formal appeal and did not take remedial action to comply with the requirements of the Notice. A compliance inspection was conducted on July 16, 2019 which revealed that the conditions which gave rise to the Notice have not changed since the Notice was issued.

Attached for Council's reference is the Notice to Comply that was issued and the affidavit attesting to service on the owner via posting of the building. Also included are photographs of the building. The *Local Governance Act* indicates that where a Notice to Comply has been issued arising from a condition where a building has become a hazard to the safety of the public by reason of dilapidation or unsoundness of structural strength, the municipality may cause the building to be demolished. As required in the Act a report from an engineer is attached, forming part of the issued Notice to Comply, and provides the evidence to the buildings' vacancy, dilapidation, unsoundness of structural strength and resulting hazard to the safety of the public. A copy of the letter advising of the Common Council Hearing date and affidavit is attached; it was posted to the building on August 2, 2019.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Enforcement of the *Saint John Unsightly Premises and Dangerous Buildings and Structures By-law* aligns with Council's Vibrant, Safe City priority.

SERVICE AND FINANCIAL OUTCOMES

As is written in the *Local Governance Act* that a municipality must commence in the proceedings of remedial action, approval of Common Council is required prior

to starting demolition activities at the property. Total cost of the demolition work is approximated at \$20,000 and will take about 3-5 weeks before it is complete. Staff will seek competitive bidding in accordance with the City's purchasing policy and the cost of the work will be billed to the property owner. If the bill is left unpaid, it will be submitted to the Province with a request for reimbursement.

INPUT FROM OTHER SERVICE AREAS AND STAKEHOLDERS

The City Solicitor's Office provided ownership verification by obtaining the Certificate of Registered Ownership for the property. Additionally, the City Solicitor's Office registered the Notice to Comply with Service New Brunswick's Land Registry.

ATTACHMENTS

Notice to Comply

Affidavit of Posting - Notice to Comply

Affidavit of Posting - Notice of Common Council Hearing Letter

Photos