

COUNCIL REPORT

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| M&C No. | 2018-335 |
| Report Date | November 26, 2018 |
| Meeting Date | December 03, 2018 |
| 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 13-15
Albert Street (PID 374777)***

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>Rachel Van Wart</i> | <i>J Hamilton /A Poffenroth</i> | <i>Neil Jacobsen</i> |

RECOMMENDATION

RESOLVED, that the building located at 13-15 Albert Street (PID #374777), 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 said 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 13-15 Albert 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 13-15 Albert Street, PID# 374777 have revealed the building on the premise is vacant, dilapidated and structurally unsound. The building is a 2-unit multi-storey, wood-framed apartment building. Staff first became aware of the property's vacancy in March 2016 and began standard enforcement procedures. The property is located in the City's North End in an urban centre residential zone. 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 September 19, 2018 and was posted to the building on September 21, 2018, as per section 132(3) of the *Local Governance Act* that outlines acceptable methods of service. The Certificate of Registered Ownership lists one company as the registered owner. 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. On November 16, 2018, an email was received from the owner's property manager that indicated the owner wished to demolish the building at the end of February 2019. This timeline is not acceptable and the owners have not been responsive since that time. A compliance inspection was conducted on November 21, 2018 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. 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 building's 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 sent to the owner via registered mail on October 11, 2018 and was posted to the building on October 12, 2018.

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 \$10,000 – \$15,000 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