

## **Emergency Meeting of the Wingate Town Council**

**Sunday December 29th, 2024**

### **Roll Call**

The Emergency Meeting of the Wingate Town Council convened at 9:49 a.m. on Sunday December 29, 2024. Council Members Kyle Campbell and Curt Hadley responded to roll call. Town Maintenance Supervisor Jay Busse was present in person, while Janet Alexander participated by telephone.

### **Discussion**

Kyle Campbell opened the meeting, explaining that the meeting was called to address the urgent situation involving the roof collapse of the old bank building, also known as Cording Hall, located at the corner of State Highway 25 and High Street in Wingate. The Council had been alerted to the roof collapse due to a 911 call to Montgomery County around 6:30 a.m. that resulted in a call to the Coal Creek Fire Department. Kyle noted that severe weather over the weekend—high winds and heavy rainfall—likely contributed to the collapse. Kyle added that he had spoken with Council Member Andrew Lorenz just before the meeting, who expressed support for hiring Walden to demolish the building.

The council members agreed that the collapsed roof poses a hazard to the community, necessitating immediate demolition to prevent further harm. Jay Busse reported that the State Highway Department had been notified, and barricades were requested and are en route. He also confirmed that Fire Chief Darren Forman had contacted Montgomery County authorities.

Jay Busse provided updates on ownership and coordination efforts. Town Marshal Kirby had reached out to John Wilkerson, the deeded owner of the property. Additionally, Marshal Kirby was tasked with obtaining written authorization from Terri Fritts, the owner of an adjacent building section, to allow its removal if needed to facilitate the demolition.

Jay Busse shared that Walden, the contracted firm, quoted \$8,000 to bring the building down, excluding cleanup costs, and confirmed that Walden carries insurance. Janet Alexander requested that Walden provide a W-9 form. Jay assured her that he would obtain proof of insurance and the W-9 from Walden's secretary by the following morning, December 30, 2024.

Janet Alexander inquired whether the owners of the adjacent bar had been informed about the building's condition and the planned demolition. Jay confirmed they had been contacted and were expected to arrive at the site around 11:00 a.m.

Regarding documentation, Janet asked about the town's records. Jay replied that they had extensive photographic evidence, including drone footage from two years ago and more recent images. Both Jay and Janet noted that the building's condition had been a topic of discussion at council meetings dating back two years.

### Council Vote

Kyle Campbell made a motion to secure the building/site by hiring Walden for the demolition and to maintain open right-of-ways on Highway 25 and High Street. Curt Hadley seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote and carried unanimously.

### Post-Demolition Plans

The council discussed next steps following the demolition. They agreed to hold the property owner, John Wilkerson, responsible for cleanup costs, given his status as the deeded owner. Janet was directed to contact the Town Attorney Stu Weliever to advise him of the situation.

### Documentation and Coordination

Council Member Curt Hadley offered to create a shared folder to store all photographs and related records for easy access. Jay Busse noted that a timeline of events was available from Montgomery County Dispatch, which had been kept updated throughout the incident.

### Adjournment

As there was no further business, a motion to adjourn at 9:56 a.m. was offered.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Campbell  
Town Council President / Acting Clerk-Treasurer

- *\*\*Indiana Code 5-14-1.5-5\*\* allows for emergency meetings of public agencies, including town councils, under certain conditions. This section of the code states that in the case of an emergency involving actual or threatened injury to person or property, or actual or threatened disruption of the governmental activity under the jurisdiction of the public agency, less notice than required for regular meetings can be given. However, the notice must be given to the members of the governing body and to news media that have requested such notices in the same manner. - Additionally, \*\*Indiana Code 36-5-2-11\*\* outlines the powers of the town council, which implicitly supports the calling of emergency meetings if they are necessary to exercise the town's powers or deal with urgent matters like those described under the public access laws.*