

Memo

To: Honorable Council Members

From: Mayor James Kalb

Date: 2/23/2006

Re: Demolition of structure

Mr. Orville Ferguson Jr. has requested that the City demolish the vacant structure at the corner of 14th St. and Waller St. He stated that the previous Mayor had told him that the City would raze the structure, backfill and level the lot, and absorb all related costs.

I have searched for documentation for this request and the only thing I could find was a copy of a letter from the Mayor to Mr. John Battle (copy attached).

In this 1998 correspondence it clearly states that the City would demolish the "existing structure", which has been done. There is no reference made to demolishing the structure at 14th and Waller. I have spoke with engineering dept. and there is no extra money appropriated for this unforeseen request.

Please let me know how you wish to proceed with this request.

Thank You.

Respectfully,

Mayor James Kalb



GREGORY A. BAUER
MAYOR

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
728 SECOND STREET, ROOM 1
PORTSMOUTH, OHIO 45662

TELEPHONE: 740/354-8807
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Wednesday, August 12, 1998

Mr. John Battle, President
14th Street Community Center
1222 14th Street
Portsmouth, OH 45662
(740) 353-7357

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Dear Mr. Battle:

I have presented and discussed your Board's proposals concerning the center's future with City Council. Our discussion took place at the July 27th City Council meeting, and centered around the three proposals dealing with the different degrees of demolition and ultimately the ownership of the property.

Based on your three proposals, the City of Portsmouth has authorized me to offer the 14th Community Center Board the following option. The City will demolish the existing structure, vacate and remove the north section of the alley next to the center. As far as the structure on the corner of 14th and Waller streets, the City will have the appropriate City departments inspect and take whatever action is deemed necessary. The purchase of this piece of property would be totally up to the center. Also, the City has \$9,250.00 in CDBG formula money that has been earmarked for the community center.

I do have a concern that if the center is demolished, when and how quickly will a new one be built? Has the Board been in contact with an architect? Are there any plans or drawing? Does the community center have sufficient monies to construct a new facility? I know the center is a highly utilized building and there is a concern as to the length of time it would take to replace the structure – if indeed the structure would ever be replaced.

Another option, that I have not had the opportunity to share with City Council, might be for the city to use the \$9,250.00 to replace the roof and floor. This would allow the center to remain open and continue serving the community. In the meantime, the Board could firm up their plans in regards to the future of the



community center, and investigate possible funding sources. If this option is of interest, the City will hire a contractor to perform the roof and floor repair.

If you would like to meet, please call my office and make an appointment or let me know when the next community center board meeting will take place. I look forward to discussing, with the Board, the future of the 14th Street Community Center.

Sincerely yours,



Gregory A. Bauer

Mayor, City of Portsmouth

cc: City Council