

The Council for the Borough of Plum held a public hearing on Monday, July 8, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the Plum Borough Municipal Building, 4575 New Texas Road, Plum Borough, PA 15239. Mr. Zavarella explained the subject of the public hearing is to take comment on a structure located at 319 Ohiopyle Drive.

Mr. Zavarella swore in the residents that were in attendance. John Cosentino, Building Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer was also in attendance.

There were no representatives from Well Fargo, K & S Realty, American Home Mortgage, Pittsburgh Wholesale, Homewood Residential or Renowinch Contracting.

Mr. Cosentino stated that 319 Ohiopyle Drive is in violation of Ordinance No. 429. Mr. Cosentino became aware of the dwelling on January 14, 2013; he was notified by the County Sheriff. Mr. Cosentino said that George Anderson of R.F. Mitall Engineering cited the property violations as 1.E, F, G, H, I and J. Mr. Cosentino read the violations.

Mr. Cosentino said that when the property was inspected on January 14th there was an individual and a large dog living there. The home had been occupied for one year without electricity, water or sewage. There was human and dog feces on the basement floor. There was also a strong stench.

Mr. Zavarella inquired when notifications were sent to the property owner. Mr. Cosentino reported that K & S Realty (3 locations) were notified on March 18, 20 and 21, Homewood Realty was notified on 3/20, Pittsburgh Wholesale was notified on 3/20, Wells Fargo Bank was notified on 3/18, contractor on March 18.

Mr. Cosentino stated the property was posted of the ordinance violation on January 23, 2013. Mr. Szarmach asked if the property could be rehabilitated. Mr. Cosentino's personal opinion was to bulldoze the house and erect a new one on the property.

Mr. Zavarella asked if the photos that have been displayed accurately depicted the structure. Mr. Cosentino thought the grass was actually higher. Mr. Zavarella asked Mr. Cosentino when he had last visited the property. Mr. Cosentino said he had been there today, July 8th at 3 p.m.

Mr. Anderson, engineer, reported on the condition of the structure. Mr. Anderson said the structure had not been touched in years, it was rotted and there is surface mold. Mr. Anderson said there are asbestos shingles and he would stick with the opinion that it needs to be demolished.

The Mayor asked if the person living there was the owner. Mr. Cosentino said he was.

Edward Dobrowski of 327 Ohiopyle said he supported the demolition.

Kathryn Sutam of 314 Ohiopyle said that demolition is necessary.

George Brown of 311 Ohiopyle said the only way to fix the property is to tear the house down.

John McClusky of 323 Ohiopyle said the house should be destroyed.

Mr. Zavarella announced that this concludes the public hearing. With there being no further comments, the hearing adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Maria Gingery
Assistant Borough Secretary