

Мемо

To: Common Council – Mayor Teske

From: Daron J Haugh – City Administrator

Subject: Transforming 525 Juneau Avenue: A vision for Affordable Housing

Date: 2025-01-14

At 525 Juneau Avenue in Mauston, a vacant house presents a unique opportunity for community revitalization. With the next of kin uninterested in the property, the City of Mauston has received their verbal agreement to transfer ownership. Our City Attorney has been involved in these discussions and fully supports this initiative. She's committed to helping us navigate the legal requirements and ensuring we complete all necessary steps to make this project a reality.

Although acquiring the property involves settling two years of back taxes amounting to \$4,252.24, and addressing a Medicaid lien (the exact amount to be determined upon title review), and more than likely a reduced rate to settle it due to its age, the potential benefits far outweigh these costs.

The existing structure is beyond repair and needs to be demolished. Our plan is to clear the lot, transforming it into a prime, buildable space. I've already confirmed with our Zoning department that this is indeed a buildable lot, clearing a crucial hurdle in our planning process. By partnering with a non-profit, we aim to construct an affordable home that will welcome a new family into our community.

After consulting with our financial advisors, I am pleased to confirm that we can leverage our Affordable Housing Funds for this project. This initiative not only aligns with our community goals but also brings us one step closer to providing affordable homeownership opportunities.

In essence, this project is more than just clearing a dilapidated property; it's about laying the foundation for a brighter future in Mauston, where new homes and fresh beginnings go hand in hand.