Dave and Dana Meyers

416-7<sup>th</sup> Ave SE

Oelwein, IA 50662

January 6,2020

To Oelwein City Council:

Thank you for your letter dated January 2, 2020 from Jay Shekleton. We are interested in the property at 418- 7<sup>th</sup> Ave SE. At this time our plans would be to maintain it and in the next 5 years add an additional garage. As far as having the resources to achieve this plan, we do have them.

With the quote of \$500.00-\$1,000 and the back taxes of \$140.00 we are concerned since we have maintained (mowed & cleaned up after storms, leaf removal, tree stumps removed) since the house has been removed. If we were to bill the city at \$100.00 an hour for this the City would owe us more than the \$500-\$1,000 amount shown. We have done this as it has been an eyesore and been a problem for the 30+ years that we have lived here. If you would like to refer to the Oelwein Police Department list of complaints including having the Federal Marshalls and Oelwein Police Department showing up at our door after 10:00 pm looking for an occupant. Our children were not allowed to be in their own yard growing up without an adult watching them every minute as we never knew who was living there. This was the original homestead house and didn't have natural gas or a shower facility. This has been on record with former Councilman Paul Ryan and has been brought up to the Council on a couple of occasions.

We are concerned that there is a very large tree, Black Locust, I believe that is encroaching our property line and we would like the city to remove this tree. Is this something that the city would consider since there is no removal of structure that would need to be done? We know

that when we go to build the addition many loads of fill dirt will be required. The tree will need to be removed and roots removal for anyone to use this property as it is very large and a storm could bring this tree down on anyone of the homes in a two- block area. There are large rocks that could possibly need to be removed if we want to set the garage back or if we would add on to our present one. In this short of notice we haven't been able to have a contractor come out and give us a reasonable estimate and which way would be best for our needs.

We are aware that the lot is not large enough under current guidelines to build on and has limited use to many. We have talked to the owners on the other side of this property and they have two lots already and are having to have someone take care of their own property and do not wish to obtain this property.

We would appreciate the Council looking into removing this tree and waiving the fees of updating abstract and all legal matters for the past energy and time spent maintaining this property and we will pay the back taxes of \$140.00. We look forward to your input on this property.

Sincerely,

Dave & Dana Meyers

Signed in the absence /with permission of Dave Meyers as he was out of state