

**CITY OF GAUTIER
MEMORANDUM**

To: Mayor & Council
From: Eric Meyer, Director of Economic Development and Planning *EM*
Date: July 30, 2012
Subject: Extension of Abatement for 2321 Starfish Road

REQUEST:

The Director of Economic Development and Planning recommends granting Richard K & Diane L LaGarde property owners of 2321 Starfish Road a two week extension to meet cleanup and demolition of abated property.

BACKGROUND:

2321 Starfish Road sustained substantial damage during Hurricane Ivan and Katrina and has fallen into a state of disrepair. Property was approved by Mayor and Council for abatement on June 5, 2012. Mr. LaGarde has been in contact with Joe Belles, Code Enforcement Officer and has requested an additional two weeks extension for the cleanup and demolition. Three estimates have been obtained by the owner, but he has not had time to execute a contract. The owner is making progress and the extra time requested is not substantial.

RECOMMENDATION:

Director of Economic Development and Planning recommends that City Council approve a two week extension date for abatement of 2321 Starfish Road. Richard K & Diane L LaGarde property owners of 2321 Starfish Road will have until August 21, 2012 to complete demolition and cleanup or the City of Gautier will move forward with abatement.

The City Council may:

1. Approve two week extension date for 2321 Star Fish Road.
2. Disapprove two week extension date for 2321 Star Fish Road.

ATTACHMENT:

Email from Joe Belles & Kevin Lagarde

Chassity Bilbo

From: KEVIN LAGARDE <rklagarde@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Friday, July 27, 2012 1:14 PM
To: jbelles@gautier-ms.gov
Cc: phuffman@gautier-ms.gov; Chassity V Bilbo
Subject: Re: 2321 Starfish Property

Mr. Belles,

I have called the number you provided several times but no one answers. I will continue to call through the afternoon to attempt to contact Ms. Bilbo. If I am unable to contact her today, I will be traveling over to Gautier this coming Monday so I can see her in person if that works with her schedule.

Thanks again for the assist.

V/R,

Kevin Lagarde

From: Joe Belles <jbelles@gautier-ms.gov>
To: KEVIN LAGARDE <rklagarde@bellsouth.net>
Cc: phuffman@gautier-ms.gov; Chassity V Bilbo <cbilbo@gautier-ms.gov>
Sent: Fri, July 27, 2012 11:37:37 AM
Subject: 2321 Starfish Property

Mr. Lagarde

I spoke to our department director and he advised me you must request an extension from the Mayor and City Council. The Mayor and Council issued an order to abate the property if not completed by the owner effective August 4, 2012.

You will need to contact City Hall @ 228 497-8000 and talk to the city managers assistant (Ms. Bilbo) regarding an agenda submission request from a citizen. I copied Ms. Bilbo on this email so she is aware of the situation. Council meets on August 7, 2012, after the effective date of the order to abate the property and the deadline for agenda items are Monday July 30.

Joe Belles

Joe Belles

Code Enforcement Officer

City of Gautier

3305 Gautier-Vancleave Road

Gautier, MS 39553

Ph: 228 497-8802

Cell: 228 219-7035

Email: jbelles@gautier-ms.gov

From: KEVIN LAGARDE [mailto:rklagarde@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2012 7:23 PM
To: jbelles@gautier-ms.gov
Subject: 2321 Starfish Property

Mr. Belles,

I wanted to give you an update on our work at the property in preparation for the demolition. Since we returned from moving our daughter to Virginia , we have been clearing out our belongings from the attic and inside the house. I have hired two of my nephews to assist in our efforts and also have gotten my sister and brother & son over to help. After working on the property for almost three weeks, I have come to the realization that I severely underestimated the scope of this work and we still have much to do before the house can be demolished. In addition to the oils, paints & solvents in my workshop (in the "basement" area) we also discovered we left many belongings in the attic when we moved to Florida . Obviously many items are of no use since they are rain damaged, but we still must go through things to sort out what's worth keeping and what can be discarded. The work we have to complete in the time window imposed by the city is bearing heavily on all of my family trying to help and we are working long hours in the summer heat. We have been injured on broken glass and rusty nails and with no running water or electricity, the working conditions are very tough. To add to the problems, we must work around the daily thunderstorms which make for very unsafe conditions and cause hours of delay each day.

Logistically we are not able to work on the property on consecutive days. We spend one full day sorting through our belongings and loading trucks and trailers and then return to Florida that night. The next day we unload in Florida and prepare for the return to Gautier on the day after unloading. In the beginning of the work we tried working every day but quickly realized that everyone was too exhausted to work through the night unloading and then driving the next day back to Gautier. Again we are trying to work efficiently but also work safely to avoid injuries to the people helping us. Also the daily thunderstorm conditions in Gautier "follow" us to Florida so the next day we have the same delays while unloading at home.

So despite the very difficult conditions, we continue to work the project in good faith to meet the requirements of our agreement with the city. I herewith request another two weeks to complete our clean-up efforts prior to demolition. This would allow us to ensure an environmentally clean debris removal and also allow us to remove our personal property. With this schedule the actual demolition would be completed during the week of August 13th.

I understand we may have to pass this through the city management and I am prepared to meet with you and anyone from the city to discuss in detail. I can meet with you or city officials on Monday the 30th of July if necessary. Also I thought it would be a good idea if you came by the Starfish property while we were working to see the conditions we are working under and also view the progress.

Thanks for your consideration of our request for additional time. Please understand we are working very hard to complete this work. Also I have not mentioned that I have taken a leave of absence from work and therefore will have no income until this project is completed. So I have much incentive to finish the demolition as soon as possible.

Thanks again for working with us on this difficult situation and please call my cell if you need to discuss further or if you need any other details.

V/R,

Kevin Lagarde

Pace, FL
Cell: 850-748-7020
