

Atchison Family Trying To Save Former Family Home

(KAIR)--Six houses, along with two outbuildings on another property are set for demolition by the city of Atchison.

City Code Enforcement Officer Curtis Wheeler came before the City Commission during their meeting Tuesday afternoon to present each building to the commissioners and explain why each needed to come down. These properties, located on M Street, Ninth Street, 12th Street, Shaeffer Avenue, and Chestnut Street are in various states of disrepair, and a case was made for each one to be demolished. However, the home located on Shaeffer had some support from it's owners to keep it standing, at least for a little while longer.

Maggie Handke, who is co owner of the home, came before the commission with her brother and sisters to ask what their options were in regard to the house. She said that she thinks the house does need to be demolished, and it is not financially feasible for the family to make the numerous repairs needed to bring the house up to the standards set by the city.

Wheeler told the family that most demolition orders are for thirty days, but he was willing to work with the family and give them sixty days to come up with the finances and a plan to repair the home if that is what they want to do. The commission agreed, and voted 3-0 to issue a thirty day demolition notice for all properties presented except Shaeffer Avenue, which received a sixty day notice.

The meeting was facilitated by Commissioner Rita Hartman, who was acting in place of Mayor Dave Butler. Butler was attending an official function in Topeka with City Manager Trey Cocking, and Commissioner Alan Reavis.

Many Signals Communications