

***By Jan Schultz***

***The Imperial Republican***

Five properties were before the city council at its Jan. 20 meeting, some being cleared of their former nuisance declaration and another being named a nuisance.

One of the sites was approved for abatement, which means city workers or their designee can go in and clean up the property at the owner's expense.

Two were rescinded from the nuisance list, and one new nuisance property was added.

Karl Elmshauser of West Central Nebraska Development District (WCNDD) presented his recommendations on the nuisance properties. WCNDD serves as the city's nuisance officer.

The empty lot to be abated on a 4-0 council vote is located in the 1100 block of Court Street.

According to Elmshauser's report last week, the vacant lot has come to resemble a repair lot with unlicensed vehicles and trailers, used oil, batteries and more left in the open.

Courtesy and follow-up letters have been sent to the owner, with no response, Elmshauser told the council, so it was his recommendation to abate.

One new property was approved for designation as a nuisance, located at 1027 Chase St. While some items have been removed, Elmshauser said cleanup is at a standstill. Trash and appliances remain outdoors on the property.

Two properties at 315 East 5th St. and Winter's Trailer Court #26 were rescinded of previous resolutions declaring them nuisances.

Elmshauser reported that the tree has been removed at 226 West 13th St., which had been the subject of discussion at several previous meetings. A letter of thanks will be sent to the owner, but the nuisance remains in effect there until some direction on the house siding is taken.

Elmshauser said WCNDD is currently tracking 14 properties in the city that are at different stages in the nuisance process.