



By JENNIFER DENEVAN, Needles Desert Star
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City seeks to raze Overland Motel

NEEDLES — City council members approved authorizing legal counsel to seek a court order to demolish the property at 710 to 712 W. Broadway during their meeting Dec. 10.

Permission is needed because the property is privately owned but nothing is being done to bring the building up to code, according to the city. The property has been in receivership for several months.

The request is to extend that receivership so the receiver can have time to demolish the structures, commonly known as the Overland Motel. Receivership is when an individual or company is made responsible for a property or asset. The goal was to get the property sold and have the motel renovated.

Rick Daniels, city manager, said that option doesn't appear to be working out thus far. No one has shown interest in purchasing the property and renovating the building.

If everything works out, getting the court order could take about 35 days, he said. It would then take about another 30 days before the city could get to demolishing the building. It could be March before any work is done on it, he said.

The hope is that if the old motel is demolished then maybe someone will buy the empty property. The preference is to just restore it, he said, but no one seems interested in doing so.

Daniels said there was some hesitation over demolishing someone else's property but it's an eyesore for the city. The structure in its current state only hurts the city in terms of economic development, he continued.

It's also to a point that building is a hazard for the city, Daniels said. Abandoned properties tend to attract homeless folks. Because the structure doesn't have heating, fires get started, he continued.

There aren't any sprinklers in that building and if a fire were to get out of hand, it could be a real problem for the city, Daniels said. There are transformers for the city behind that building and that could be problematic if a big fire were to break out at the Overland, he added.

Cost of demolishing the building is unknown at the moment. Daniels said the process would work with the city paying for the demolition and then putting a lien on the property. Once sold, the city could recover that money from the lien.