



OFFICE OF
CITY MANAGER

CITY OF CLARKSBURG

WEST VIRGINIA

PRESS RELEASE

Release Date: November 2, 2018

Contact: Martin Howe

City Manager

304-624-1677

mhowe@cityofclarksburgwv.com

Dominique Spatafore

Community Relations Specialist

304-624-1620

dspatafore@cityofclarksburgwv.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of W.V. Approves Order to Sell Maxwell-Duncan House

Clarksburg, WV – The City of Clarksburg has been plagued for many years with the Maxwell-Duncan House located at 141 East Main Street sitting idle and continuing to fall into disrepair. The owner of the property, Martin Shaffer, had control and ownership of the property for several decades.

Every opportunity was afforded to Mr. Shaffer since the City condemned the property and cited the structure for code violations in 2007. For nearly two (2) years, Mr. Shaffer failed to comply, at which time the property's condemnation order was upheld in 2018.

The City ultimately has always wanted the structure to be brought into compliance and the historical property restored.

After several court cases and appeals, that have consistently ruled in favor of the City, there is now an agreement. City Manager Martin Howe stated, "We are very pleased that a proven developer came forward to secure the property." Howe added, "There are still several requirements that will need to be fully met, prior to a building permit to be considered." The City anticipates the potential new developer's full cooperation and looks forward to working with them."

To this day the City continues its consistency and is pleased with the ruling of the Court. The City has a vested interest in regulating the abandoned buildings throughout its municipality, which cause depreciation of property values.

City Manager Howe continually states it is not the goal of the City to raze every structure, but it is the responsibility of the property owner to maintain them.

The City wishes only the best to the new investors and their future project to restore the historic structure.

Property Developer Joe Gentilozzi stated, "I see this project as a smaller part of the overall revitalization of Downtown Clarksburg. I feel it dovetails with the Palace on Main, State Office Building and Robinson Grand Performing Arts Center." He concluded, "More people spending money downtown will lead to an enhanced city. As an intermittent visitor, I am also very excited to see downtown pedestrian traffic becoming more representative of the Clarksburg I grew up in 35 years ago."

###