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City reacts to residents' concerns

Rick Hohlt, Publisher

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Many times when people make suggestions or register complaints, they are met with no response.

This is not the case regarding an issue in Ruston, however. During the Community Visioning Day recently organized by the city, many residents expressed concern about the number of abandoned houses throughout town.

Fast-forward to a few weeks later, and the city council has quadrupled the number of substandard houses on its list to start the property condemnation process.

When government responds to resident concerns so readily, that's something worth recognizing. We are fortunate to live in a city with leaders who respond to our requests, especially in such a timely manner.

Taking care of blighted property is a logical first step in making the changes the city needs as it heads into the future. It makes sense to assess and address the existing buildings and infrastructure in town before embarking on new construction projects.

Community Visioning Day was an innovative idea on behalf of the city, and it's even more impressive that the ideas that came out of it are already being put into action.

To those residents who took time out of their busy days to attend and contribute to the Ruston 21 plan, thank you. We hope this is just the first of what will become a regular session where residents have the opportunity to brainstorm, vent and propose ideas.

Now that the city has made dealing with substandard houses a priority, it is important for it to remain one. Somehow, we got into a situation here where the number of abandoned buildings grew to the point that it became not only an eyesore, but also a danger.

Let's not allow it to get that bad again. Along with the city employees, as residents we also have a responsibility to keep an eye out in our neighborhoods and on city streets and voice concerns to our council members.

We hope the repair and removal of blighted property will be swift and fair, because the city of Ruston will be better for it. It's one small step toward making this an even better place to live.

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