

Council says yes to housing development

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A housing development at Brodart warehouse site on Memorial Avenue took another step closer to becoming a reality Thursday night.

City Council approved an agreement with Lycoming County that obtained \$140,000 of gas impact fees to be used in the demolition of the vacant building so a private developer may build 40 apartments and 32 townhouses at Memorial Avenue and Oliver Street.

The money will be used to demolish the building, remediate the vacant former industrial site and get it pad ready and suitable for residential use, according to John Grado, city engineer and director of the department of community and economic development.

The housing development is considered to be a component in the city's need to find affordable and mixed-priced housing - as it has been impacted by natural gas industries influence on housing costs and availability.

The site will be used by the Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity to build two single-family dwellings.

The primary developer is P&L Investments of Washington, D.C. and prior to the demolition, engineers are tasked to review asbestos abatement needs.

"I am assuming whoever is demolishing can salvage some of the structure," Councilwoman Liz Miele said.

Much of the material inside can be crushed and is suitable for backfill, Grado said. The trusses and steel inside can be recycled by contractors, he added.

Councilman Don Noviello noted the cedar beams inside are worthwhile saving.

Plans are in the works to hold a neighborhood informational meeting about what can be expected during demolition, remediation and construction.

It is most likely going to be at All Saints Episcopal Church on Beeber Street but a time has not been set, Grado said.