

The Rumor Mill Vol. 6

March 17, 2022

What is the Rumor Mill?

In an effort to enhance communication between the City of Elgin and our citizens, from time to time, we will update with topics that will hopefully clarify and address some of the more well-known rumors that may be out in our community.



Rumor of the Day: The Old Elgin Oil Cotton Mill

What's happening with the old Cotton Mill downtown? I had heard there is a new owner of the property that was finally going to develop it, but it still looks as trashy as ever.

It is true that the former Elgin Oil Cotton Mill property was acquired by an Austin land investor and developer approximately two years ago. City staff worked with the buyer to support this acquisition, as it was seen as a potential opportunity to address many concerns about the property, as well as move it forward to a redeveloped use that would provide many benefits to the City.

One scenario that was discussed at that time was the potential for a public-private partnership with the City that would result in the construction of a new City Hall/Municipal Building, along with a commercial development to essentially "extend" the historic downtown area onto this property. Unfortunately, those discussions never went further than the preliminary concept phase, as the developer desired a financial investment that was unaffordable for the

City.

Due to those discussions as to a potential partnership and/or other development possibilities, the City has not previously pursued obvious code compliance issues with the property. Given its current status, however, city staff is now fully engaged in an effort to address all public safety concerns and bring the property into full compliance.

In situations such as this, city staff is obviously compelled to follow a specific legal process that also assures protection of the owner's property rights. As such, Development Services Staff are in the process of obtaining an administrative search warrant in order to search the buildings on the property and the other portions that are not visible. The purpose of the search is to verify whether the remaining buildings on-site are safe, and all code issues are documented and addressed.

Once that warrant is issued for the property, Development Services staff, along with the City's Fire Marshal, Building Inspectors and City Engineer, will walk the site to document all Code related issues. When this process is complete, progress will then begin on getting the code issues addressed and the property cleaned up.

Have you heard a rumor you would like the city to address? If so, contact City Secretary Jennifer Stubbs at jstubbs@ci.elgin.tx.us.

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Downtown Revitalization and the Elgin Main Street program

<http://elgintx.com/208/Do-Business-Downtown>

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