

The city's bad Hyman Avenue housing deal

The Swiss-chalet looking home at 312 W. Hyman Ave. is a city-owned property with baggage.

City Hall in the early 2000s targeted the then-privately owned property as worthy of historic preservation, but homeowner Jordie Gerberg was having none of it, since the land would be worth more to a scrape-and-replace developer.

The city eventually bought the 2,100-square-foot home and its 6,000-square-foot lot for \$3.5 million on March 12, 2007. In a 3-2 vote, City Council designated the property as historic, meaning it cannot be torn down.

City affordable housing project manager Chris Everson shakes his head at the purchase.

“It was just a bad deal,” he said. “It’s expensive, and there is very little you can do with it.”

The city at one point considered adding four additional units in the backyard, but Everson said that kind of density likely isn’t feasible.

The home has been renovated, and is now leased out to a family.