

City concerned about safety of old motel

■ Far south building at old Hiawatha Lodge, which the city has deemed as unsafe /Credit: Greg Bebermeyer/MSC News

**(KNZA)--Hiawatha city officials are concerned about the safety of the old Hiawatha Lodge and want the owner to present a plan to address those concerns.**

**Mary Ananzeh, who owns the Sunflower Motel, recently acquired the old Lodge motel and adjacent Gateway Inn Motel on the south end of town.**

**She appeared before the Hiawatha City Commission Monday evening to request more time to come up with a plan.**

**The motel, which has been closed for some time, has fallen into a state of disrepair over the years.**

**Police Chief John Defore said of primary concern is the far south building, which has been deemed unsafe.**

**The Police Department sent a letter to Ananzeh late last month giving her 45 days to come up with plan for either demolition or renovation of the building.**

**Ananzeh said she had contacted 16 companies seeking estimates, but had only received 3 estimates so far and was waiting to hear back from others.**

**She said, if possible, she wants to save the structure and has been told by some it's worth saving.**

**The Commission directed Ananzeh to return in two weeks with a specific plan for bring the building into compliance with city code.**

**In the meantime, Defore asked that barricades be installed around the building for the public's safety.**