

Garage given clearance by Hanover

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A new mechanic might soon be opening shop in Mitchell.

Hanover council voted unanimously to allow the business but with a few restrictions.

Daniel Block, owner of a property on Hildebrandt Drive applied to turn his newly built garage into a private shop.

Because it is a residential neighbourhood, Block's property already has a house metres away from the garage.

As a result, Block can't hire any employees, meaning he will have to do all the work himself, which he said will only be done in the evenings and on Saturdays, as he has a full-time job.

Tim Proveda, Block's neighbour across the street opposed the business.

"He's a great neighbour," said Proveda. "But what happens if he moves or sells? Right now, no problem, but a future problem I could see. That's my concern."

It's not that Proveda didn't want Block to make some extra money, but because it could potentially turn into a dumping ground for broken cars if certain limits aren't put into place.

"It's going to start maybe looking like a junkyard, and I hope that never happens because this is a rural residential area, and I'm right across the street."

Ward 1 Coun. Travis Doerksen supported Block's vision by making the motion to allow the business, but he did make sure more restrictions were put in place.

"Mr. Block is very well intended, he's doing a good thing," said Doerksen. "My concern is that what he decides stays with the property forever, and this isn't supposed to be an OK Tire or a massive mechanic shop in a two-acre zone."

In the end, council decided Block can't have more than two vehicles outside the garage at any time (excluding his personal vehicles). He also has to put a privacy fence around the working area, and he has to keep his property tidy, at the municipality's discretion.

Block's garage is very close to his East-side neighbour's house, but this neighbour doesn't have an issue.

"I have no opposition," said neighbour Kevin Torpey. "I probably do just as much work in my garage as he does."

Both Torpey and Proveda didn't want a privacy fence, as they said it would make it look more like an industrial business than it currently does, but council disagreed.