

## **PUBLIC HEARING LAND ABATEMENT**

The public Hearing was called to order.

Discussion for the Land Abatement for 35 Terrace Drive, Phenix City was opened. No one was present to oppose the abatement; therefore, the hearing was adjourned.

### **RUSSELL COUNTY COMMISSION OFFICIAL MEETING**

**January 8, 2014**

**9:30 A.M. EST**

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order. Members present were Chair Peggy Martin, Vice Chair Cattie Epps, Gentry Lee, Tillman Pugh, Ronnie Reed, and Larry Screws. Chance Corbett was absent. Also present was Attorney Robert Lane and County Administrator LeAnn Horne who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established.

Chair Martin welcomed elected officials, department heads, media and guests. She also thanked Cable T.V. of East Alabama for production of the Commission meeting for the public's view.

The invocation was given by Dexter James, Pastor of Central Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Martin.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting minutes. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor requested to let the Annual Jail Food Bid. He would like to open bids, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in the Courthouse. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve Sheriff Taylor's request. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Seale Fire Department presented a request to allow Russell County Engineering to deliver and spread 20 loads of dirt to aid in the building of a new fire station for the Seale area. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. Chair Martin stated the dirt and labor will be at no charge to the Seale Volunteer Fire Department. Commissioner Lee asked for it to be known that the County Engineer stated that it would take a day or a day and a half off another project. The vote was unanimous.

Special Enforcement Officer Bill Friend presented the 35 Terrace Drive Land Abatement, which a public hearing was held prior to the Commission meeting with no objections by the land owner. This property was purchased through back taxes by Mr. Cochran. The property clean-up must be paid before the taxes are paid for next year. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the abatement. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne requested approval for a lease with Bancorp South in the amount of \$242,495.40 for two trucks approved for purchase in June 2013 by the Utility Board. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Also presented by Administrator Horne was a resolution for the Severe Weather Preparedness Tax Free Holiday beginning 12:01a.m. Friday, February 21 until 12:00 a.m. Sunday, February 23rd, 2014. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne presented three resolutions to the Commission for review at Monday night's work session for proposed legislation:

- Police Jurisdiction Annexation Conditions - This was advertised last legislation season for 4 weeks. There have been no changes to this proposed legislation and request permission to resubmit. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. Commissioner Pugh stated this will not hurt the City, but county revenue generated through taxes will stay in the county, if properties are annexed into the city. The vote was unanimous.
- County Motor Vehicle Issuance Fee – this will allow the Legislative Delegation to research and have a local law drafted for the Commission's review for an issuance fee, which will be used for road improvements. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.
- Proposed Sales Tax Reduction – To adjust the revenue structure for county-wide benefit, reduce the burden on the taxpayer and encourage a fair revenue structure for citizens. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin made announcements:

- The Courthouse will be closed January 20<sup>th</sup> for Martin Luther King Holiday. The work session for January 20 is cancelled due to the holiday.
- District 6 Community Meeting- January 21, 2014 at 6:30 P.M. EST.
- Chamber of Commerce 2014 Annual Dinner will be held on January 30 at 6:30 p.m. EST. at Central High School.