

Public Hearing Land Abatement
Meeting Minutes
March 26th, 2014
9:30 A.M. EDT

Chair Martin called to order the Russell County Public Hearing for Wright Road, parcel # 57 05 04 17 4 003 009.000, land abatement.

There were no comments.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting.

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 26th, 2014
9:30 A.M. EDT.

Public Comments: Wanda Lamb announced at 2:00 p.m. on April 26th, there will be a meet and greet with all Democratic State Candidates at the Central Activity Center.

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order. Members present were: Chair Peggy Martin, Vice-Chair Cattie Epps, Tillman Pugh, Ronnie Reed, Chance Corbett, and Larry Screws. Gentry Lee was absent. Also present was the County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk 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 Bobby Watford, Pastor of United Baptist Church. .

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Martin.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the March 12, 2014 meeting minutes. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the meeting minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Board of Registrar Representative Jimmy Adams discussed a bill that was passed last year requiring registered voters to have a valid photo ID to vote. He listed what would qualify for a valid ID. If you do not have a qualified ID, you are eligible to obtain one

from the Board of Registrar' office. The Secretary of State will also have a vehicle in Phenix City at the Central Activity Center on April 3rd from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Chair Martin discussed moving the Judicial Center's flag pole to the new entrance to lessen confusion about which door at the Judicial Center can be used by the public. She also discussed signage for the Courthouse stating the hours of operation. Commissioner Reed suggested to also place a sign at the new entrance with the name of the Russell County Judicial Building. Commissioner Screw motioned to accept Chair Martin's proposal of moving the Judicial Center flag pole and signage. Seconded by Commissioner Epps.

Commissioner Screws also suggested placing a sign at the intersection of Broad Street and the access beside the DMV to direct citizens to the front of the Judicial Center. Commissioner Corbett agreed with Commissioner Screw's suggestion to add to the motion a sign at the old Judicial Center front guiding people to the new entrance as well. Commissioner Screws stated there should also be signage at each side of the building pointing out the entrance. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Larry Kite stated that there is an abandoned railroad overpass located in Seale on Old Seale Hwy, south of Cuthins Drive. This is a potential safety hazard and does not conform to FHWA and ALDOT requirements. There is a planned Federal Aide ATRIP project to resurface Old Seale Hwy. Failure to remove the under pass may cause the county to lose funding. Removal of the overpass will be in house. If approved a public hearing will be held April 23, at 9:30 a.m. prior to the Commission Meeting. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the County Engineer's recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh.

Commissioner Corbett requested to have another Public hearing held in Seale if there should be an outcry of the public. The County Attorney made known that if there is interest in the overpass we are not precluding additional public hearing.

Administrator Horne polled the Commission; the vote was unanimous.

Special Enforcement Officer Bill Friend presented the results of the public hearing held for land abatement of Wright Road, Parcel # 57 05 04 17 4 003 009.000. Mr. Friend requested approval to proceed with the abatement. The land owner, Mr. Gates, who resides in Maryland did make contact and stated he would pay the lien when taxes are due for this year. The property is a family estate and he did not want to lose the property, but due to his residency in Maryland he had been unable to secure a contractor to remove the dwelling. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the land abatement and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Friend also requested the Commission declare by resolution, a public nuisance exists at 6 Laney Road. The owner, Mr. Mobley, understands that this is a clean-up and a lien will be placed on his property. Mr. Friend requested the public hearing for land abatement be held on April 23, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. EDT., prior to the County Commission

Meeting. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve Mr. Friend’s request. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Chief Appraiser Heath Crowe requested to purchase a vehicle for the Mapper/Appraisal Department. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the purchase. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Corbett appointed Tim Jenkins for District 6’s Personnel Review Board appointment.

Probate Judge Harden discussed an error in the amount of the business license purchased by the Briggs Equipment, Inc. When renewing their license the gross receipts for Russell County were incorrectly stated. It was confirmed that the amount they had stated was the gross receipts collected in Mobile, Alabama, which is their company’s location. Revenue collected for Russell County was only \$29,260.50. Therefore, their total amount for their business license would be only \$75.00. The results are an overpayment by the Briggs Equipment, Inc. of \$3,976.46. Judge Harden requested to refund the overpayment to them. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the refund and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne requested a budget transfer within the Maintenance Department as follows:

General Fund 001		
Maintenance Department 51970		
Decrease 001 51970 327	Uniforms	\$750.00
Decrease 001 51970 541	Equipment & Furniture	\$6,000.00
Increase 001 51970 219	Other Misc.	\$3,500.00
Increase 001 51970 304	Contract Services	\$3,250.00
	Total	\$6,750.00
Capital Improvement Fund 116		
Increase 116 35500 000	Fund Balance	\$65,000.00
Increase 116 51970 524	Additions & Renovations	\$65,000.00
	Total	\$65,000.00

Administrator Horne explained the Capital Improvement Fund was under estimated construction expenses and the budget amendment in this budget to meet the continuing projects that have been approved this year. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the budget amendments. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk recommended going into executive session to discussion information received regarding an industry. Commissioner Epps motioned moving into executive session and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Before going into executive session, Chair Martin made announcements:

- Senate Bill 267 “One Time Bonus for State Retirees” you can call your representatives to express your opinions.
- May 17th from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. is Russell County Be Ready Day

Commissioner Corbett announced the Saddle –Up Trail Ride to Benefit Masonic Lodge Renovations will be held May 3rd at the Patterson Plantation in Ft. Mitchell. Also engraved brick pavers will be sold to fund the renovations at the Lodge.

Phenix City/Russell County American Legion Post #135 Post Commander Leroy Davis announced tickets for the American Legion Birthday Ball on April 19th are on sale now.

Commissioner Epps discussed a call she received from City Councilman Day who has invited all local and elected officials to Uchee Hills Baptist Church, April 13th, at 2:30 for an appreciation event.

Chair Martin requested a motion to reconvene the Commission Meeting. Commissioner Pugh motioned to reconvene. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Attorney Funderburk recommended drawing up a resolution with the company and bringing back to the Commission for review, and approval. Commissioner Pugh motioned to allow the Attorney to draw up a resolution along with Shawn Culligan for ILJIN Alabama Corporation with a recommendation to be reviewed by the Commission at the next Commission meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting.