

Public Hearing for 6 Laney Road Land Abatement
9:30 A.M. EDT.

The public hearing for land abatement of 6 Laney Road was called to order. There were no citizens to speak for or against the abatement. Chair Martin closed the public hearing.

Public Hearing for Removal of Old Seale Hwy Underpass
9:32 A.M. EDT.

C.C. Lamb, Wanda Lamb and Wanda E. Lamb were opposed to the removal of the underpass. Mr. Lamb presented papers that addressed the ownership of the Seale Underpass. Wanda Lamb indicated the Public Hearing had not been properly advertised informing citizens of underpass' proposed removal. Wanda E. Lamb discussed saving the landmark for its historical value.

Attorney Kenneth Funderburk informed the Commission the liabilities the county would take on if something should fall from the structure causing injury to someone. The Commission will have to address the issue of whether or not the county wants to take on the responsibility of maintaining the underpass.

County Engineer Larry Kite asked if he could answer some of their questions. He admitted he did not want to see it removed, but it is his job to protect the safety and welfare of the public. Besides the underpass being safety hazard, drainage around the structure also causes a concern. The concrete wall being within inches of a travel way is dangerous. The removal of the underpass is part of a federal aid project for resurfacing Old Seale Hwy road. This project as well as this public hearing was advertised. It is Engineering's duty to remove obstructions in the clear zone on all federal aid projects and is also mandated from the state to do so.

Commissioner Pugh commented on the preservation of historical sites by the Federal Government and asked Mr. Kite to investigate the historical value to make certain that the county does not violate or jeopardize any future federal projects.

Commissioner Corbett suggested scheduling another public hearing in the evening for other citizens who are concerned with the Underpass can attend. He also asked Mr. Kite to investigate alternatives for the structure besides removal.

Mr. Kite agreed to contact the DOT to see if there may be other options.

Commissioner Lee motioned to close the public hearing.

The hearing was adjourned.

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 23th, 2014
9:58 A.M. E.D.T.

Chair Martin welcomed elected officials, department heads, media and guests. She also thanked Cable T.V. of East Alabama and the Citizens News for coverage of the Commission meeting.

Public Comments:

Hurtsboro Mayor Michael Wells discussed the proposed truck route and reminded the Commission that Hurtsboro was unable to fund maintenance on Hurtsboro's portion of the proposed truck route. There will be a public hearing at the Hurtsboro Town Hall Complex, May 12th, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. C.D.T. Notices have been posted for the meeting as well as mailed to businesses that maybe impacted.

Chamber of Commerce Director of Tourism Kelli Roberts distributed visitor's guides to the Commission and talked about the information it contained.

Citizens Connie Gates and Charles Sizemore discussed the impact that the Phenix Motorcross Track has had on their neighborhood and surrounding homes from noise, declining property values, littering, dust, etc. Mr. Sizemore requested the Commission to place on the ballot for November 2014, under the Alabama Limited Self Government Act, Alabama Code 11-3A-1 for a referendum to control noise pollution for Russell county.

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

A quorum was established.

The invocation was given by Grant Parker, Pastor of Epworth United Methodist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Pugh.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the April 9th, 2014 meeting minutes. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Commissioner Lee momentarily left the meeting all other Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the minutes.

Administrator Horne read a proclamation for Soil and Water Stewardship Week designated for April 27 to May 4, 2014. Chair Martin will present the proclamation at the Soil and Water Stewardship Breakfast on April 24th. Commissioner Pugh motioned to

approve the proclamation and was seconded by Commissioner Reed, The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Corbett gave a brief summary for the Power of Purple Proclamation to be presented at the American Cancer Society's Relay of life, this week-end. Participants and Cancer Survivors Dillie Elliott, Naomi Elliott, Lori White and Jeannie Adams accepted the proclamation.

Community Action Month is observed in May. Macon-Russell Community Action Agency Director Lakeshia Dent attended today's meeting and accepted the proclamation. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the proclamation and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

The first graduation for Russell's County's Citizen's Academy was held during the meeting. This course was created by Commissioner Corbett to help citizens understand the operation of their county government and services of each department. Citizens that completed the 6 month course were: Caroline Batchelder, Tom Beasley Jr, Peggy Blackshear, Deloria Braun, Mike Davis, Earl Dawson, David Ellis, Mark Godwin, Jeanie Jenkins, Barbara LaGrand, Wanda Lamb, Charlotte Little, Steve Pace, Denise Phillips, Kenneth Purvis, and James Sinkule. Each participant received a certificate of completion and challenge coin presented by Commissioner Corbett and Chair Martin.

Phenix City Engineer Mike Pattillo distributed maps for review by the Commission concerning the 14th Street Right-of-way at the Judicial Center. The City is applying for a grant to renovate 14th Street from Broad Street to the Judicial Center 5th Avenue, a portion of Broad Street on the East side across from the Church and a small portion next to the old Post Office. The renovation will include removal of the old sidewalks, replacing them with new materials and street lamps installed on both sides of the street. The \$500,000 grant is through the Department of Transportation; the city's match for the grant \$100,000. A requirement of the grant is the right-of-way belongs to the City. According to the old Totten's Map, when the old Courthouse property was laid out, the county owned a portion of the street. At some point in 1978 a seven foot right-of way was acquired from the old courthouse side and a portion of 5th Avenue was also given up on the east side of the old courthouse. The City has not been able to find the legal documents dating this acquisition of those right-of-ways. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the right-of-ways and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Special Enforcement Officer Bill Friend presented the land abatement for 6 Laney Road. Since there were no objections to the land abatement at this morning's public hearing; Mr. Friend requested final approval for removal of the dwelling located on the property and the services amount is to be added to this year's property tax. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the abatement and was seconded by Commissioner Pugh. Commissioner Corbett stated the homeowner is aware of the process and he agreed for the County to proceed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Lee stated due to the public hearing this morning concerning the Old Seale Hwy Underpass he motioned to schedule another public hearing in Seale at 6:00 p.m. C.D.T., or later, the date to be determined. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin made announcements:

- The Courthouse will be closed April 28th for Confederate Memorial Day
- Saddle –Up Trail Ride to Benefit Masonic Lodge Renovations will be held May 3rd at the Patterson Plantation in Ft. Mitchell.
- May 17th from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. is Russell County Be Ready Day

Probate Judge Harden announced that April 29th the office for State Driver's License will be closed due to computer upgrades. His office will be open for other transactions.

Bill Friend reminded the public this is "Don't Drop It on Alabama Spring Clean-Up Week. Those who would like to participate can contact him at the Building Inspection's Office or the Russell County Sanitation Office.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting.