

The Public Hearing
1603 Wynn Road Land Abatement
July 27th, 2016
9:30 A.M. EDT

Chair Martin called the public hearing to order.

Chair Martin called call the public hearing for the abatement of property at 1603 Wynn Road land abatement.

This property is now owned by Safe Guard Properties. At the July 13, 2016 Commission Meeting the property was declared a nuisance and this public hearing was set for the abatement of land. There were no oppositions to the abatement. Therefore, the public hearing was closed.

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 27th, 2016
9:35 A.M. EDT

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order.

The invocation was given by Steve Pace, Pastor of Summerville Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Screws.

Public Comments:

Russell County Water Authority Manager Mark Clark discussed the Alabama Water Convention and thanked the Commission and all those who helped make the three day convention a success.

Captain Kevin Gulino on behalf of the Command Team of the 199th Infantry Brigade at Fort Benning, who is here as part of a Community Outreach initiative that they are trying to implement. They recognize the support from the County and City and want to give back support to the area in every capacity they can. They are looking forward to working with the Commission.

Service Commander of the Department of Alabama Leroy Davis Jr introduced Johnnie Robinson who is the new Post Commander of the American Legion Post #135 and Post Finance Officer Earl Hutchinson. Commander Davis thanked the Commission for the support that they have given him for the last three years and presented a picture. He also thanked department heads and the community.

Representative of the Phenix City Housing Authority, Steve Pace, thanked the Commission for the welcome extended to their department and developing dialogue in communication in how the community proceeds forward. He especially wanted to thank Administrator Horne for her assistance with Mrs. Mayrose.

Chair Martin thanked Cable T.V. of East Alabama and The Citizen of East Alabama for covering the Commission Meeting. She also welcomed elected officials, department heads, media and guests. She also thanked Butch Brock who is with Congressman Mike Rogers for attending.

The Commission roll was called, members present were: Tillman Pugh, Chair Peggy Martin, Ronnie Reed, Cattie Epps Chance Corbett and Vice Chair 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 requested a motion to approve the July 13th, 2016 meeting minutes. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Screws presented a Certificate of Recognition to Mariah Harrison for being the only Alabama / Georgia representative for the National MLB Pitch, Hit and Run Competition in San Diego, California.

Three positions for the E-911 Board are due to term:

District 3 appointment, Mark Clark, was reappointed by Chair Martin

District 6 appointment, Rusty Robinson was reappointed by Commissioner Corbett

District 5 Appointment, Ferdinand Crawford also was reappointed by Commissioner Epps.

EMA Director Bob Franklin requested approval for Hazard Mitigation Grant Resolution which designates the County's intent to participate in the community construction of community shelters. The County has received grant funding for the program and a meeting was held to discuss how to disperse the fund as required by the State of Alabama. In the past individuals were able to apply for funding for the residential shelter. There were only a few that had applied for the funds and went through with construction of the shelters; therefore, that money was lost. Community shelters will be a better alternative for the county and more affordable because residents will not have to come up with the match for the shelters. The county will do prep work for its part of the match and strategically place those in Seale, Crawford, Fort Mitchell and Hurtsboro areas. If the Commission approves intent to participate for application of the grants, and the County has been awarded each project will be presented to the Commission before construction. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the HMGP Resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Special Enforcement Officer Bill Friend discussed the public hearing held prior to today's Commission meeting for land abatement at 1603 Wynn Road. No one spoke at the public hearing for or against the abatement. At the July 13th Commission it was declared this property was a public nuisance. Pictures were presented for the Commission review. Though the company that now owns the property had been contacted for clean-up, they did not follow through. Two estimates have been received for the clean-up: \$800 and the other estimate was for \$12,000. Mr. Friend recommended awarding the project to Mr. Hall for the amount of \$800. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

County Administrator gave a departmental update. She is currently working on the budget, undergoing an audit by the Department of State Examiners and preparing all the bond information for the refunding opportunity the Commission approved.

County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk announced that the County has closed the purchase of the old Post Office and Library. The Commission will be able to move forward with their plans with the property.

Commissioner Corbett requested that the Commission create a committee to really look at the building for the best use of the property and to update the streetscape now that the County owns the block, other than a very small portion. The property is located on 14th Street across from the Judicial Center.

Commissioner Pugh thanked the Chair and County Attorney for spear heading the project.

Announcements were made:

Commissioner Corbett and Commissioner Epps discussed the NACO Convention that was held in Long Beach, California. At the convention the County won a national award for "Best in Class" for the Crawford Park at the Old Masonic Lodge project.

Commissioner Corbett also noted that the Crawford Park Project also won the State-wide award from the Alabama Historic Commission.

Commissioner Reed discussed an award that he was presented for his community service.

The Chamber of Commerce and the City of Phenix City will hold a political forum, August 2, at 6:30 P.M., at the Central High School.

Commissioner Corbett announced the Annual Labor Day Fair will be held at the Old Seale Courthouse. There will be food carts, vendors and free entertainment at the celebration. Volunteers for the event are welcome. The elevator for the Old Courthouse is schedule to be complete by that day and a ribbon cutting will be held during of the festival. He also discussed future improvements for the facility.

Leroy Davis publicized the Annual Poker Run on August 13th, to raise money for the construction of the Veterans Park.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting.