

The Russell County Public Hearing  
For Land Abatement  
July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
9:30 A.M. EDT

The Russell County Public Hearings for the land abatements of Rusk Mobile Home Park # 20 Rusk Drive, Phenix City and 9 Mt. Zion Street, Seale, Alabama were called to order.

There were no comments from owners or residents concerning these abatements.

Commissioner Lee motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

The public hearing was adjourned.

The Russell County Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
9:40 A.M. EDT

Public Comments: Charles Gayles discussed an issue he has with a neighbor who will not cut their lawn or clean trash up on their property. He asked the Commission to consider passing an ordinance that would require homeowners to keep approximately 200 feet around their home maintained, lawn cut and debris cleared.

Commissioner Pugh stated he would ask for the Commission to put this item on the next agenda for discussion. We may not resolve these problems but the Commission needs to talk about a solution for issues of this nature.

Walter Thomas discussed a problem he had getting clearance from the Building Inspector to have lights turned on at a mobile home that he purchased.

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. Vice Chair Epps was absent. Also present was the County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and the County Administrator LeAnn Horne, who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established.

Chair Martin stated Hurtsboro Mayor Michael Wells asked to add to the meeting agenda his request for Special Enforcement Officer Bill Friend to assist Hurtsboro in carrying out

the town's code enforcement. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the additional agenda item seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the meeting agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Commissioner Corbett stated at the July 10, 2013 he asked to table the item, DHR Board appointment until this meeting and motioned that it be added to today's agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

The invocation was given by Marvin Minton, Pastor of Crawford Road Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Reed.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2013 meeting. Commissioner Corbett motioned to accept the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Pugh. District 1(Lee) abstained; due to his absence at that meeting; District 2 (Pugh) voted, yes; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, yes; District 6(Corbett) voted, yes; District 7(Screws) voted, yes. 5 yes votes and one abstention. The motioned passed.

A letter was received by Chair Martin from the USS Alabama Battleship requesting support from each Alabama County for the Memorial Park. Chair Martin requested \$1,000 to come from the contingency fund and sent to the park. Commissioner Pugh motioned to give \$250 at this time and if other counties give support of \$1000 then he will come back and amend his motion. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Assistant Coroner Billy Dixon presented the court ordered cremation of George Houston Denny approved by Circuit Judge Albert L. Johnson. Cremation fees are not to exceed \$400 and are to be paid to Stovall Funeral Home. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Probate Judge Alford Harden submitted a renewal of the Russell County Business fee schedule. There is one change to the schedule, which is Russell County will adopt the fee schedule as adopted by the Hurtsboro Fee Schedule at Hurtsboro's last meeting. House Bill 932 allows the County to use any fee schedule from any municipality within our county. There is a small change in item D; any future amendments made by the City of Hurtsboro license procedure will not affect this resolution. This will clear up confusion. The County has used Phenix City over the last several years. The City has made changes and constituents thought that their fees apply to them. The County actually adopted the City schedule at the time, not their changes. This should be clarified in our resolutions that the County does not have to adopt changes that the City approves. The fees are not changing or increasing. Previously we had adopted 75% of Phenix City's Business License fees. Now we are adopting Hurtsboro's Business License fees at 100%,(resolutions on file). Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the resolution and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Mayor Wells stated the Town of Hurtsboro's law enforcement has been through the Russell County Sheriff's Department for the last 2 years. It has been discovered that Hurtsboro does not have the ability to enforce the local ordinances, because there is not a local police department as was in the past. Therefore, residents have taken advantage of the situation such as business license fees not being bought and nuisance ordinances being ignored. Special Enforcement Officer Bill Friend has agreed to help enforce Hurtsboro's ordinances with Commission approval. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve Mayor Wells request and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin called for discussion concerning the DHR board appointments which was added to the agenda. Commissioner Lee motioned that future appointments to the Russell County Human Resource Board be approved by process, which included nominations being made by any Commissioner and voted on in reverse order of the nomination and continue voting until a majority is received by the present quorum of the Russell County Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh. Discussion took place and the Commission was polled. District 1(Lee) voted, yes; District 2 (Pugh) voted, yes; District 3 (Martin) abstained; District 4 (Reed) voted, no; District 6(Corbett) voted, yes; District 7(Screws) voted, no. 3 yes votes, 2 no votes and 1 abstention; the motion passed.

County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk discussed a county vehicle that had been damaged by another vehicle. If the insurance company of the party responsible for the damage does not pay for all the repairs, he requested authorization to file suit to collect. Commissioner Pugh motioned to allow the County Attorney to protect our interest and to file any claims against the insurer that does not pay the claim as the county deems fit. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Announcements:

Coach Parker gave an update on the 11 and 12 year old All-Star Team who competed at the 2013 Alabama Dixie Youth State Tournament.

Chair Martin announced the Russell County Soil and Water Conservation Meeting will be held August 20, 2013.

Commissioner Lee publicized Alabama Governor Bentley will visit the Courthouse Thursday July 25<sup>th</sup>.