

**MEETING MINUTES
APPEAL OF CONDEMNATION, OCTOBER 16, 2018**

The members of the City Council of the City of Phenix City, Alabama held a called meeting at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 16, 2018, in the Council Chambers located in the Public Safety Building at 1111 Broad Street, Phenix City, Alabama. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a Public Hearing regarding the Appeal of the Condemnation of a substandard structure located at 1309 8th Street.

Upon roll call the following members answered present: Mayor Eddie N. Lowe, Councilmember Arthur Day, Jr., Councilmember Vickey Johnson, Councilmember Steve Bailey and Councilmember R. Griff Gordy. Also in attendance were City Manager Wallace Hunter, City Clerk Melony Lee, and City Attorney Jimmy Graham. The following Department Heads were also present: Building Official Gil Griffith, Engineering Director Angel Moore, Engineer John Spraggins, Utilities Director Steve Smith, Fire Chief Kris Kennedy and Parks and Recreation Director Todd Hughes, and Police Chief R. J. Smith. Also in attendance was property owner, Mr. Albert Scott.

Upon a quorum being established, Mayor Lowe called the meeting to order and City Clerk Melony Lee called the roll.

Mayor Lowe advised the Public Hearing is open for the Appeal of Condemnation of 1309 8th Street. Mayor Lowe called for the property owner to come forward. Mr. Albert Scott came forward.

Mr. Scott advised that he had lived in Phenix City for 84 years and was surprised that the building was being condemned, when he lives within fifty feet of the structure. Mr. Scott also advised Mayor and Council that the house was vandalized on March 14, 2018 and this was the first time he knew of the condemnation. Mr. Scott further stated that the building did not need a roof as it was replaced recently and his long term goal was for it to be a private hideaway. Mayor Lowe discussed with Mr. Scott the timeline leading up to today's meeting. Councilmember Bailey inquired about how long the house had been vacant. Mr. Scott advised that the house had been vacant for two to three years. Councilmember Johnson discussed the unsafe living conditions at the location. Mr. Scott noted that repairs were made on and off during that time but now he does not feel like the house is worth fixing after it was vandalized. Mr. Scott then presented two photographs to Mayor and Council.

City Attorney Jimmy Graham verified Mr. Scott's signature on the return receipt card for the certified letter from the Phenix City Building Department. Mr. Graham advised there has been no water or power connected to the residence for at least two to three years.

Building Official Gil Griffith discussed the procedures of the National Property Code Laws that the Building Department followed and explained the housing report to Mr. Scott, Mayor, and Council and advised that the time to save the house was five years ago. City Manager Wallace Hunter discussed the options of the City removing the structure with a lien to the property taxes or Mr. Scott could remove the structure on his own at his expense. Mr. Scott advised the Mayor and Council that the home was vandalized after the City entered his residence. City Manager Wallace Hunter advised Mr. Scott that the City would not leave the house open so it could be vandalized.

Herman Mitchell, Mr. Scott's nephew, stepped forward and spoke on problems with the structure. Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Scott advised the Mayor and Council that they will be removing the structure. Building Official Gil Griffith advised that the house would be torn down within six months or the City of Phenix City will take it down.

Councilmember Day made a motion to deny the appeal, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordy. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Bailey, Gordy and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: Johnson. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus carried.

Mayor Lowe asked for a motion to close the hearing. Councilmember Day moved to close the hearing, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordy. Upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded: YEAS: Councilmembers Day, Johnson, Bailey, Gordy, and Mayor Lowe. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The motion thus carried.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.