

Baldwin County Commissioners
Public Hearing
November 21, 2017
5:00 p.m.

A Public Hearing was held Tuesday, November 21, 2017, to consider a proposed amendment to Baldwin County Codes to include the International Property Maintenance Codes (IPMC). The Public Hearing was held at 5:00 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia with Chair Sammy Hall presiding.

Members Present: Emily C. Davis
Tommy French
Sammy Hall
Henry Craig
John Westmoreland

Also Present: David McRee
Cindy Cunningham
Dawn Hudson

Call to Order of Public Hearing

Chair Sammy Hall called the Public Hearing to order at 5:00 p.m. He stated the purpose was to receive public input on a proposed amendment to the Baldwin County Codes to include the International Property Maintenance Codes (IPMC). He stated a legal notice has been published in the newspaper. Mr. Hall opened the floor for public comment. He asked those making comments to limit their remarks to three minutes.

The following citizens addressed the Board:

Mr. Eric Buckley, 151 Meriwether Circle, stated he felt the trash and unsightly conditions of the County should be addressed; however, he stated he did not agree with the IPMC being approved which would mandate how situations would be addressed.

Mr. Ferrell Thompson, 233 Pettigrew Road, stated he owns 5 properties and felt the policy was definitely needed in order for the County to be able to enforce these type issues.

Mr. Ray Award, 1860 Nesmith Road, stated he is against the adoption of IPMC. He is against too many regulations for people living out in the "country".

Mr. Mike Couch, Central State Local Development Authority, stated he is in favor of the adoption of the IPMC which he thinks will enhance the community, especially focusing needed help on the gateways into the County. He feels it is very important to further grown and development.

Ms. Mary Purcell stated she is a former resident of the County, and she is against more restrictions on individuals on their own property. She stated she is very concerned about the proposed adoption of the IPMC.

Ms. Lynn Bill, 188 W Lakeview Dr NE, strongly supports the adoption of the Codes. She stated she is in a current legal battle with her neighbor due to the deplorable condition of the property.

Mr. Julian Hood, 122 Taylor Drive, reported he has addressed the County numerous times regarding blight throughout the County. He stated he is very much in favor of the adoption of the new code.

Mr. Gary Spillers, 146 Wildwood Lane, stated he is very much in favor of the County adopting the IPMC.

Mr. Joe Blount, 144 Merry Drive, said he is opposed to the County adopting the code. He stated there are people who cannot afford to clean up their property. He stated he has a problem with this being mandated Countywide; he feels it is not the County's responsibility to implement such an ordinance.

Mr. Ray Woodall, 163 Collins Road, expressed his opposition to the IPMC. He stated the Solicitor should enforce what is currently on the books to address such situations.

Mr. Jerry Lester, 148 Sinclair Marina Road, reported he has also addressed the Board many times about this, and he is in favor of the adoption of the IPMC. He stated it is needed to help clean up the community.

Mr. Jerry McCommon asked if portions of the code could be adopted without adopting the sections that would not apply to a community such as ours.

Mr. Clarence Woodall, 143 Collins Road, addressed the Board to express his opposition to the County adopting the International Property Maintenance Codes. He stated the County should not mandate what people can do in their homes. He also stated there are people who are not able to clean up their properties due to age, health issues, and limited finances. He felt the County should utilize the ordinances currently on the books.

Mr. Marion Nelson, 918 Nelson Road, stated enforcement personnel needs enforcement tools to be able to address these situations. He asked the County to please develop tools for a better way to manage property in Baldwin County.

Chair Hall and Commissioners are holding public meetings to "hear what citizens have to say" about the proposed adoption of the IPMC. He thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.

Vice Chairman French stated elected officials have the responsibility and are challenged to solve problems such as these for the community and all citizens.

Commissioner Davis agreed that there is a problem with litter and Abandoned structures in the County. She felt citizens need to have more input.

Commissioner Craig stated there is a big problem with this in the County, and a solution must be found. Commissioners must do what is best for the entire community. He stated he does not feel there will be overreach; but, there has to be a solution.

Adjournment

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sammy Hall
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk

