

Baldwin County Commissioners
Public Hearing
June 5, 2018
5:00 p.m.

A Public Hearing on a proposed amendment to the Baldwin County Code of Ordinances to include the Baldwin County Property Maintenance Code (BCPMC) was held Tuesday, June 5, 2018, at 5:00 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia with Chair Tommy French presiding.

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

Also Present: David McRee
Dawn Hudson
Cindy Cunningham
Carlos Tobar

Call to Order of Public Hearing

Chair Tommy French called the June 5, 2018 Public Hearing to order at 5:00 p.m. He stated the purpose of the hearing is to receive public comments on the proposed amendment to the Baldwin County Code of Ordinances to include the Baldwin County Property Maintenance Code (BCPMC). County Manager Carlos Tobar stated the Public Hearing was advertised in the legal organ, and the current document has been posted on the County's website and has been available for public review in the Commissioners' Office.

Chair French opened the floor for public comment on proposed amendments.

The following people addressed the Board:

Clarence Woodall – Stated he is opposed to a Property Maintenance Code. He has concerns that complaints being filed anonymously will be harassment.

Bruce Dempster – Feels the Property Maintenance Code will place a hardship on some citizens. Feels ordinances on books could be enforced to address blight. Is not in favor of Property Maintenance Code.

Hattie Williams – Concerned that people won't be able to pay fines. If people had money they would have already fixed up their property.

Ray Woodall – Would like to see the issue placed on ballot for citizens to vote on it. If current codes are not enforceable, revise them and use them.

Jonah Arnold – Feels ordinances on books now addressing blighted properties are not being enforced. Feels current codes do address these issues. Stated County has property that has not been cleaned up. Asked Board to vote no.

Joel Brooks – Believes the County has the good intention to make the County a better place for all to live.

Cliff Higdon – Stated he is retired military and has PTSD. He works on old cars to relax and help him cope with his condition. Property Maintenance Code would put a hardship on him if he had to move the old vehicles he is working on.

Hudman Evans – Stated he wants the County to "help" rather than (hurt) people. He suggested looking at alternative plans to revitalize the community such as applying for grants.

Murali Thermal - Spoke in favor of the proposed code. He feels the community must be progressive.

Bruce Dempster – Asked if it would help the situation by publicizing articles about banning together throughout the Community to clean up.

Ashley Bacon – Stated she is with Keep Milledgeville Baldwin County Beautiful, and she strives to identify problems and find solutions. Georgia College is having a service project which will support this effort. There will be a large number of college students participating in the project to assist people who need help such as the disabled and elderly. She encouraged everybody to be a part of this project on August 18th.

Ray Woodall – Stated citizens are being told different things. Stated citizens should have the right to vote on the matter.

Commissioner Emily C. Davis stated she felt Commissioners should not act on this matter until the election of the next Board.

Ashley Bacon – Stated “slum lords” should be held accountable to meet codes and provide decent housing since they are receiving money from their tenants.

Eric Buckley – Stated the portion pertaining to landlords has been removed from the proposed ordinance. He stated he felt the County’s focus should be to help people.

Adjournment

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing at 5:56 p.m. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tommy French
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk
