

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF ARAB, ALABAMA
OF JANUARY 18, 2018**

The City Council of the City of Arab, Alabama, met in a special meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 18, 2018, in Arab City Hall, the time and place duly noticed for this special meeting.

Mayor Bob Joslin called the meeting to order. Upon roll call, the following answered present:

MIKE ALLEN
MARK GULLION
CHRIS HARPER
JOHNNY HART
RENAE WARREN

Also present were Superintendent John Mullins and all members of the Arab City School Board, Tony Willis (City Clerk), Summer Bixler (Administrative Assistant), Rodney Edmondson (City Attorney), and representatives of the media and members of the public.

The Mayor declared a quorum present and thanked the City School Board members and Supt. Mullins for their attendance. The Mayor reported that the purpose of the special meeting was to discuss the Board of Education's new property being developed and potential issues that the City has viewed related to the ingress and egress of the property.

Mayor Joslin then opened the special meeting by re-capping the events that have occurred since June 2017 related to the property and the concerns regarding access. He reported and discussed:

1. Meeting with partial Board of Education – June 2017
2. Meeting with ALDOT/City/Board of Education – July 2017

3. Meeting with ALDOT/City/Board of Education/Skipper Consulting – August 2017
4. Email from Curtis Vincent (ALDOT) on September 5, 2017, stating ALDOT getting scope and cost for preparing traffic study.
5. ALDOT letter to City – December 27, 2017

Superintendent Mullins agreed that on behalf of the School System, he had agreed to split the costs in excess of the \$15,000.00 ALDOT grant, with the City. The Mayor then explained the scope of work for Skipper and that he had sent the same to Superintendent Mullins to ensure it was appropriate and he agreed he felt it was.

Mayor Joslin stated he expects the traffic impact study to be completed within 6 weeks and that in order for it to be complete and in the best interest of everyone, the expected location and extent of development of the property would be needed.

Mayor Joslin then gives the floor to Superintendent Mullins to give an overview of the expected locations of other large improvements/structures expected to be built and the various utilization of the property.

Mr. Mullins then explained the anticipated locations of the school and other features on an overhead photo enlargement. He explained that Board looked at this as building a stadium for the next 50 falls, not just next fall and thus wanted to ensure the stadium was large enough for future use and that increased the cost of the stadium as did wetland, rock and other issues.

He further stated that when voters agreed to grant additional taxes of about \$7 million, the stadium was expected to be about \$6 million but cost more. They are still planning on doing everything they had told the public they were going to do, but it is just expected to take longer as they have to wait and plan around tax revenues. Also, they are building a new gym which cost

money. They have excluded internet and the PA system for now and also waiting on track surface before finishing the stadium. He stated they would like to have the stadium and track finished and hopes to host 8 track meets a year, along with a field to play soccer.

The Mayor then asked about parking. Mr. Mullins reported that the School Board just purchased 23 acres adjoining this (the Perkins property). It will be the site of the future high school in 15 or so years and the thought is to go ahead and do parking there so it will serve both functions.

Council Member Johnny Hart added that he is concerned because of the expected traffic flow and asked why they didn't try to use the property straight across from Golf View at Highway 231 intersection.

School Board Member Wayne Tremble stated that they had attempted to buy the property straight across intersection but that it was cost prohibitive and more property than they needed.

Council Member Renae Warren asked how the conceptual recommendation flow would affect Waffle House. Mr. Mullins replied that it will not negatively affect Waffle House. The school district paid for the conceptual study, but it wasn't broad enough and he understood further study would have to be performed. Mr. Mullins reported that the current senior class has voted and they have chosen to graduate at the existing stadium which has moved the first expected use event from May to September 2018.

Council Member Mike Allen stated that regardless of how fast they City attempts to move to get adequate ingress/egress it will still take many months or longer to get the work and access done and also have to deal with ALDOT on Hwy 231 connection. He also questioned the availability of parking on the school property.

Mr. Mullins stated that they want people parking on school property because they make money. The new stadium will have a seating capacity of 4500 and they need to have parking to

accommodate at least that many people. He also stated he thought using Police Officers (at their expense) to block portions of Gilliam Springs Road to make it a one-way may be necessary. He understands that there are three houses on that road and Haynes Road that may be affected.

Council Member Mike Allen stated that he believes that the proposed plans he has heard may be too manpower intensive for APD. Mayor Joslin reported that he is concerned with short time for trying to get this done because all construction money for this fiscal year has already been spent so getting something done by September is problematic from a financial standpoint even if there was a plan in place (which there is not).

Mr. Mullins stated that on behalf of the Arab City School Board and District, they apologize if notice to the City of what they were doing was late, they are new to this.

Mayor Joslin commented while we would like to look for a grant to help cover this cost, the time frame the School Board is talking about probably makes that improbable and didn't know what the School Board planned on doing regarding the access.

Mr. Mullins stated based on the prior working relationship over the years, they hoped that the City would help with building and paying for the roads and access into the property. They had planned on deeding the proposed road entry area to the City if need be as well.

Council Member Johnny Hart responded that he understood the School Board's exclusive authority to build on the school property and that he loved working together with them over the years. He hopes that we can communicate better in the future so the City is able to plan for the next needed course of action.

The Mayor recommended possibly using the area the Board has as option to purchase for additional ingress/egress. Mr. Mullins agreed that might be feasible.

Mr. Mullins also stated that Skipper is aware of the areas that the Board has options to purchase. He believes the District would have monies available for purchasing the same especially if the City covers the costs of the roadway improvements and changes.

The Mayor recommended he and Mr. Mullins get with Skipper to ensure they are aware of all information and see if they can put same possibilities together. He said it sounds like both City and School District may have to work this in phases which may take some time.

Mr. Mullins indicated he thought that they could work with the APD on a temporary plan if needed. Arab City Police Chief Ed Ralston stated if we had to make something work, they thought they could develop some plan and would hopefully have the manpower to cover it. Mr. Mullins said we believe this will have a positive financial impact on City.

The Mayor then opens the floor for public comment on the specific issues of the special meeting. Ms. Melissa Cook stated that she believed the Department of Transportation had concerns for backup on Highway 231 and she believes that needed to be addressed. Mr. Clark Sparks questioned if our traffic lights have override ability and that might be a possibility to assist as well.

Since no one else sought recognition, Council Member Allen moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Hart seconded and all voted yes.

MAYOR BOB JOSLIN

TONY WILLIS, CITY CLERK