

Montevallo Historic Preservation Commission
Special Called Meeting
January 29, 2019
Minutes

Members present: W. Glosson, H. G. McGaughy, M. Nix, and S. Vallides, M. Walker and K. Dukes

Special Guests: Mayor Cost, J. Peterson, H. Lehman, N. Wilstach, J. Seaman, S. Godwin, S. Sears Esq. and B. Pierson.

Meeting site: City Council Chamber

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

This special meeting has been called at the request of Mayor Cost to discuss the dismissal of J. Seaman as Chairperson of the MHPC and the Mayor's vision for The Commission going forward.

S. Vallides, Vice Chairperson, recognized MHPC members who were in attendance and welcomed members of the public who were in the audience. The Vice Chair turned the meeting over to Mayor Cost for her comments

Mayor Cost thanked everyone for agreeing to meet with her and commented on recent developments that will affect the MHPC including her reasons for dismissing J. Seaman from her volunteer positions with various appointed Board positions including the MHPC. The mayor also discussed upcoming community projects for review including the EJI project. The Mayor submitted talking points that are copied below:

Thank you all for agreeing to meet with me tonight. I know it's inconvenient timing, but this is important. It's no secret that we have been experiencing differences between the leadership of the historic commission and other entities in the recent past. These differences have impeded our ability to move forward and make important decisions. Make no mistake, I appreciate and respect differences of opinion but

when a leader is working in direct conflict with the city, it becomes a tremendous roadblock to progress and can't be tolerated. As the appointing authority of the city, it is my responsibility to ensure that we are making progress and that we are working as a team. I've tried a number of different strategies of accomplishing this over the years but those were ultimately unsuccessful. So, unfortunately, the only option that remained was to institute a change in leadership.

I want to ensure you all that I support the remaining members of the historic commission. I have confidence in your ability to work as a team and to work with the city. This is why I recommended your appointment to the commission. Given an upcoming expected increase in developments and projects that will need the support of the historic commission, it is important at this juncture that each of you are willing to serve in this manner moving forward. If you are not, I will regrettably accept your resignation or ask you to step down.

Regarding business items that need to be addressed in the immediate future, as you know, you will need to appoint a new chair. Additionally, there are three positions that need to be filled on the commission. The council ultimately makes those appointments and will happily take your recommendations. Additionally, the annual CLG report is long overdue. We need your support to complete this. We've realized that members are required to attend annual trainings. While a few of you have participated in this, the city needs to be more diligent in providing you with those opportunities. We need your support with Main Street Board activities as well. And finally, a very important project is underway by a citizen group in town to place a historic marker memorializing victims of lynchings in Montevallo. I know this group is eager to talk with you about this and will need your support moving forward. One of your members, Mr. Kenny Dukes has been intimately involved in this project from its inception.

Again, I thank you for your willingness to serve and am looking forward to a brighter and stronger relationship with each of you individually and the historic commission collectively.

K. Dukes arrived after Mayor Cost's comments and apologized for his tardiness. Mr. Dukes had a question as to what caused the "rift" between Seaman and Cost. He said that he "kind of assume we are talking about the EJI situation?" B. Glosson explained that there is a disagreement about the maintenance and repair of the

Mahler Home. K. Dukes expressed his desire for the City and Commission to work together in harmony.

Mayor Cost and H. Lehman requested that an officer of The Commission sign off on the yearly CLG report. S. Vallides agreed to sign the report after she had time to review it and make any needed corrections. Ms. Vallides told H. Lehman that she would return the report to him around lunch hour the following day.

B. Glosson mentioned Bill Lee as a possible addition to the MHPC.

B. Glosson made a motion to adjourn the meeting; K. Dukes seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.