

City of Columbiana
City Council Work Session

January 17, 2012

MINUTES

The members of the Columbiana City Council conducted a council work session with Mayor Lowe presiding. The meeting was held at Columbiana City Hall in the Council Chambers immediately following the Regular Council meeting.

The following members were present:

Frieda Abrams, Stancil Handley, Jim Strickland, Tom Seale, and Ouida Mayfield.

The following members were absent: None.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The Mayor turned over the discussion of activation of the sirens to Police Chief Lamar Vick who in turn introduced Jim Stefkovich, Meteorologist from the National Weather Service in Calera.

- Mr. Stefkovich explained the polygon system, used since 2007, and how warnings are issued. He stated that sirens were intended as outdoor warning devices with the activation determined by local officials.
- He recommended that residents not rely on an outdoor siren entirely but utilize NOAA radios.
- Shelby County Emergency Management's polygon system is not working in the same way and if the City utilized the County for activation, then it would be activated any time a warning was issued in the County, regardless of location.
- It is at the City's discretion to transfer to a polygon system (NWS) or at a future date to go with Shelby County EMA's system.
- It was recommended that the City move to a polygon system but with the activation responsibility still being with the City itself.
- Johnny Howard, Jr. discussed the 8 sirens the City has, which are tone alerts, and indicated that our sirens are not currently compatible with the County should the City choose that route. It would necessitate some changes in equipment (approximately \$3,500).
- Public comment was heard from several individuals and a Public Safety Committee Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 26th at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Conference Room for further discussion of a recommendation to return to the Council.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.