

LWV of East Alabama — Observer Corps Report

Agency: AUBURN CITY COUNCIL **Date:** January 8, 2019

Location: 141 North Ross Street, Auburn

Website: <https://www.auburnalabama.org/city-council>; see also, https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=auburn+city+council+meeting+january+8%2C+2019

Staff present (Approx. Number): Five (5) or more

Number in Audience: 50 plus

FEATURE EVALUATED	YES	NO	COMMENTS
Did meeting start on time?	X		
Were all members present?		X	One council member with excused absence
Were members attentive?	X		
Did the members appear to have done their “homework”?	X		
Were members courteous to each other and the public?	X		
Was the agenda online at least 24 hrs. before?	X		
Did agenda items clearly describe what was to be discussed?	X		
Was there adequate opportunity for public input?	X		
Was there the appearance that some action items were discussed in closed rather than open session?		X	New council seems much more interested in transparency than previous.
Was background information available to public?	X		.See below for select omission.

Were any topics on the agenda of interest or relevant to any LWVEA members or its friends?

(Reference: Planning Commission Case # PL-2018-00584). See Planning Staff Report dated November 29, 2018). Two primary concerns:

- a. **GENTRIFICATION:** Northwest Auburn residents opposed to residential development other than single family (e.g., cottage, academic, etc.) at Judd Avenue. Of primary concern is the gentrification of the only African-American neighborhood in Auburn.

- b. **ENVIRONMENTAL:** According to long-time residents, the City of Auburn used the site as a waste disposal site in the 1970’s. Subsequently, the site was, again, used as a waste disposal site of some magnitude the period 2002 – 2005. (see, for example, <https://webgis.auburnalabama.org/COAMap/> and attachments (2 pp.)). The extent and type of contamination, if any, are unknown from reports submitted by the City’s Planning, Engineering, or Water Resource Management staff to the Planning Commission or Council.

RECOMMENDATION: Anyone with knowledge and documentation of the existence and extent of the use of the site as a waste (e.g., construction materials and debris, putrescible waste, etc.) disposal site should report same to the City staff and recommend inclusion of their findings in City’s report.

Observer: BOU

Date Submitted: January 11, 2019

Report should be emailed to lwveastal@gmail.com along with the URL of the meeting’s agenda and supporting documents. Thank you!