

# LWV of East Alabama — Observer Corps Report

**Agency: Opelika Planning Commission**

**Date: April 24, 2018**

**Location: 700 Fox Trail, Opelika, AL (334.705.5156)**

**Website:** <https://www.opelika-al.gov/367/planning-commission>

**Type of meeting:** Regular

**Staff present (Approx. Number):** Five (5)

**Media coverage?** Yes

**Number in Audience:** 13–20

**Facility (accessible, clean, A/V works):** All OK, No Deficiencies

FEATURE EVALUATED	YES	NO	COMMENTS
Did meeting start on time?	X		
Were all members present?	X		All nine (9) present
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		12 Items were on the Agenda. Public hearing was held and open to the public for comment prior to any vote taken.
Was there the appearance that some action items were discussed in closed rather than open session?		X	Typically, the Planning Commission holds work session a week prior to each meeting. Meeting is open to the public.
Was background information available to public?		X	City does not display contents of Agenda on its website.

**Were any issues on the agenda relevant to any LWV state or local positions or programs?**

Gateway Corridor design criteria.

**Do you recommend local League action on any of these issues? Yes**

In the late 1990s and early 2000, the City Planning staff, Commission, and Council placed a great deal of effort in preserving the integrity of the U.S. 280 ("GATEWAY") Corridor by putting in place certain design guidelines with regards to site development, including architectural controls on building and signage design and landscaping; e.g., witness TigerTown. If the approval of the Express Car Wash (Agenda Item # C.9) is an indication of what's acceptable, the perception given by its approval suggests that those guidelines are on their way to being relaxed. (Compare this agenda item to the detailed design related discussion held on Agenda Item C.10 – RNR Tire Express to be situated on Pepperell Parkway.)

Observer: BOU

Date Submitted: April 25, 2018

*Report should be emailed to [lwveastal@gmail.com](mailto:lwveastal@gmail.com) along with the URL of the meeting's agenda and supporting documents. Thank you!*