

Downtown Building Comments

Comment 1:

When envisioning the future use of the vacant buildings, I see two needs in Alexander City.

1. Middle and high school students need a place to “hang out” after school. An activity center, indoor basketball court, snack bar, and other activities with available adult mentors and tutors. Many complain about these students causing chaos in front of businesses like JR’s and Carlisle’s. Give them a place to go where they feel welcomed and comfortable. Yes, I know there are churches in the area that provide open gym, etc, but many of our students do not feel welcome or comfortable in such settings. I know first hand that certain groups of students are made to feel very unwelcome by a certain nearby church.

2. A counseling center, with a full staff, for battered and abused women and children would be beneficial. A place with beds for these women and children to stay, very short term. Assistance from the facility to relocate if necessary or desired. Also offer assistance with job placement. Offer pro bono or minimal cost counseling services for these women and children. I am sure there are some grants somewhere that could be applied for to assist with funding a center for these women and children. Perhaps United Way could get involved with this type of project as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Misty Wade
Alexander City Citizen
Benjamin Russell High School Counselor

Comment 2:

My ignorant opinion, for what it’s worth:

1. The old City Hall/converted bank building . . . is hardly what one would call an historical building or an architectural treasure. It probably would be more cost effective to tear it down and build something else on that site, rather than try to bring that building up to code.
2. The old Courthouse is another matter. It is probably historically significant, although certainly not an architectural gem. It might be worth the effort to save it and turn it into
 - a. A boutique hotel/inn
 - b. A craft brewery/pub (although the folks at the Baptist church might not like that)
 - c. Professional office space/retail/restaurant
3. I don’t know if we’re at critical mass of Korean expats, but a Korean restaurant would be awesome – something that would appeal to the Koreans living in the area but also “tolerable” for homegrown Americans (their food can be spicy . . . and have you ever had Kimchee?). I, for one, would patronize the restaurant regularly.

Regards,

George Miranda, Director

Comment 3:

Future of The Old Courthouse/Police Building

Do we really want to lose a part of this place that has made us who we are and who our children will be? Public Architecture says a lot about the people who use that space. It speaks of character, stability and pride. Do we really want or need another park space in a community already surrounded by incredibly beautiful recreational parks?

I am retired now but, it has been my great good fortune during my career as a designer to work with many of this country's prominent architects and urban planners. Most often they seek a way to create a sense of place for communities through notable public architecture. Everyone in Tallapoosa County instantly knows they are in Alexander City as they navigate the roundabout in our "Historic Town Square". Fronted by The First Baptist Church, The Bud Porch Center, The Church Building, The Masonic Building, The Graves Building, The First National Bank Building (A Former City Hall) and The Old Courthouse/Police Building, it is a place that has witnessed all the important events of our collective lives. Hopefully a plan may be developed to save Alexander City's most prominent Art Deco structure.

Thank you, The Mayor and other Members of The City Council for all you are doing for our community,

W. Wayne Fuller

Comment 4:

Mr. Roy Granger, of Equality, Alabama, called and expressed he had received several phone calls from friends who felt a large number of country music artists could easily raise the necessary funds to repair and repurpose the Courthouse. He was emailed the subject RFP and will be picking up a copy of the architects building analysis, as it was too large to send by email. Mr. Granger expressed his appreciation for the City providing this information to him and stated he would forward to those with contacts in the country music industry.

Comment 5:

It seems to me: The former city hall building (corner) has no historic value (lost in combining of buildings in the 70s). In my "perfect world", after the city demo, a developer accustomed to working in historic areas, would build a new building, retail and restaurant on 1st floor, apartments above. This would be done in design appropriate for infill in our historic district. I don't have names of people who do this sort of thing. Would the Historical Commission or Main Street Alabama have suggestions? Larkin said he did not think our downtown is in a federal Empowerment Zone? I assume it would not help to try that angle, but others would know more about that.

The old court house (recently police station) has historic value. I would delay destruction and work hard to find a use that will support the costs of gutting and adapting for a new purpose.

The city government at the time focused almost solely on moving to the new building with little consideration of the effect the abandonment of these buildings would create. The cost of buying, repairing, adapting the new building was high and rising, but considered bearable.

Now these new costs are quickly dismissed as too high and not bearable. I think some people in city government planned on their destruction from the beginning and are now only going through the motions. Short sighted and sad for our community.

Thank you for taking suggestions from citizens.

Comment 6:

I suggest demolish and start over. It will always have problems. Asbestos is too costly. I think the fire house could use some of the land. Start fresh. So much potential. I am not in city limits. But I do support most of my shopping there. I sell real estate and downtown can be great for everyone. Move forward.

Thanks,
Jan Hall

Comment 7:

I would like to see both old buildings torn down and a new Alexander Arts Building constructed in that area and parking. Pouring money into those old buildings is a waste. We need an entertainment area that Acts 2 could hold their productions as well. Big name entertainment acts could also be brought in. This would create interest for all ages and improve the looks of the area. Also the beautiful old post office would make a great welcome center and museum for Alex City. Just my thoughts. Pat Bice