

Silverhill Town Council to meet with Committee Monday to discuss progress of Little Hall

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By John Underwood independent@gulfcoastnewspapers.com

SILVERHILL, Alabama — The Silverhill Town Council will meet with the Little Hall Committee on Monday at 6 p.m. after concerns were expressed at Monday night's Town Council meeting regarding the progress of rebuilding the structure.

"My concern is that we have an insurance inspection coming up in February," said Town Council member Jared Lyles, "and if we don't make some progress to make it ready for the inspection, we're going to find ourselves without insurance on the building and we can't let that happen."

In order to pass inspection, the building has to be brought up to code, which means closing in the back of the building, bringing the wiring up to code, and repairing roof damage, among other things.

In April, just over a year after it was damaged when a tornado ripped through the area, the Little Bohemian Hall was moved and set on its new foundation, approximately 200 feet from where the more than 90-year-old structure sat for the better part of three decades.

The journey to save Little Hall began in March of 2011, when the building sustained extensive damage during a tornado. Two months later the Silverhill Town Council voted to proceed with plans to demolish the structure and build a new Community Center, which will be located in the southwest corner of the park.

Following the vote, several concerned residents came forward asking to save the structure, and another three months of discussions later, in August of last year, plans proceeded to save the Little Hall and move it to a new location.

Another six months of discussions followed, trying to decide what to do with the structure, where it could be moved and how to move it. Then, on Feb. 13, a proposal was presented to the Council at a specially called meeting to move the structure closer to the corner of Third Avenue and Fourth Street near the town's water tower.

After receiving no objection from the Havel family, who donated the land for the park and approved the usage of the land when the structure was moved in the 1970s, and confirming with the town's insurance company that, as long as they give the building a new address, it can stay at the park, the Town Council voted at its regular meeting March 5 to move the structure to its new home at the corner of Third Avenue and Fourth Street, mere feet from where the structure has been for more than 30 years.

Three weeks later, after receiving approval from the town's Planning Commission and following the proper procedures to facilitate the move, employees with the Town of Silverhill and Fauver's Movers out of Semmes worked together to right, turn and move the structure from facing east toward Second Street to facing north toward Fourth Avenue.

Records submitted by the Little Hall Committee to the Town Council show that the Committee currently has assets totaling \$16,670.59. Members of the Committee who were present at Monday's meeting said they are currently looking for a contractor to do some of the repairs.

"We have this money in the bank," Lyles said. "It seems to me that it's more than enough to make the necessary repairs using city workers. The Committee has done a lot of work on this project and it seems a shame to me that it could all be for nothing."

Mayor Tim Wilson said the Council needs to meet with members of the Committee to decide what repairs needed to be done and how it could be accomplished, "the sooner the better," he said.