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### **City to Remediate Area Containing Non-Native Material**

Saraland, AL – During a special meeting of the Saraland City Council held at 6 p.m., Monday, September 23, 2024, Mayor Howard Rubenstein shared that the City was recently made aware by the general contractor for the Sportsplex that they had uncovered non-native soil in the northernmost edge of the Sportsplex property.

“Our primary and overriding concern is the health and safety of our residents and future users of the Sportsplex,” Mayor Rubenstein said. “The Sportsplex property encompasses multiple parcels, the lion’s share of which the City obtained in 2022. However, one of the smaller parcels was purchased by the City back in 2007, and the soil in question was located on this parcel.”

After consulting with the City’s civil engineer and geotechnical engineer, Rubenstein explained that an environmental consulting and engineering firm, PPM Consultants, Inc., was enlisted to coordinate and oversee preliminary testing of the area where the soil was found as well as adjacent areas.

On Thursday, September 5, PPM shared their initial findings which indicated the existence of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the area of the non-native soil. At that time, the City notified contractors on site to stop work immediately in the area where the soil was located, and the City engaged PPM to assist the city in coordinating all remediation efforts with the appropriate regulatory authorities. PPM continued to analyze the soils and a soil sample report was provided to the City on September 12th. The report confirmed the existence of PCBs. The non-native material was encountered several feet below original grade.

“The City is correcting a problem that appears to have been created more than 40 years ago, decades before we acquired the property in 2007,” Rubenstein continued. “PPM is coordinating the remediation efforts with the EPA, and the City will work closely with all necessary regulatory agencies to ensure an effective remedy is developed and implemented in accordance with current rules and regulations and good engineering practices.”

“There is a silver lining in this finding. We are committed to doing everything necessary to remedy this situation, ensuring this property is cleaned up, protective of public health and the environment, and its future use for our community and visitors,” Rubenstein said.

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