

**MINUTES OF THE SELMA CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2000**

The Selma City Council met in a regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Monday, February 14, 2000 with the following members present: President Carl C. Morgan, Jr. and Council members Glenn Sexton, Jean T. Martin, Nancy G. Sewell, Mark V. West, Benny L. Tucker, Bennie Ruth Crenshaw. Councilman Yusuf Abdus-Salaam was late for the meeting. Councilwoman Rita S. Franklin was absent from the meeting. Others present were Mayor Joe T. Smitherman, City Attorney P. Henry Pitts, City Clerk Jackie Smith and City Treasurer Jimmie S. Abbott. Councilman Benny L. Tucker gave the invocation.

After roll call, President Morgan declared a quorum present and the meeting was opened for the transaction of business as set forth on the agenda.

President Morgan asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on Monday, January 24, 2000. There being no additions or corrections to the minutes, on motion made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilwoman Martin the minutes were approved as recorded.

I. MR. MILAM TURNER - AMERICAN RED CROSS FUND RAISING

Mr. Milam Turner, Fund Raising Chairperson for the American Red Cross addressed the Council by thanking those Councilpersons who have made donations to assist the American Red Cross in their project to raise \$112,000. Mr. Turner stated that the local chapter is expecting a \$60,000 budget deficit this fiscal year and the possibility of being consolidated with the Montgomery Chapter. Mr. Turner stated that the local chapter provides many services to the Selma and Black Belt area and it would be a great loss if the Selma chapter can not stand on its own. President Morgan asked the Council members to consider making a contribution to the American Red Cross from their discretionary funds.

II. MR. SEYMORE COHN

Mr. Seymour Cohn stated that he was present to invite the Mayor and Council members to attend the 100th anniversary of the Jewish Temple in Selma. On February 23, 2000 a ceremony will be held to rededicate the Temple.

III. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. Selma Industrial Development Board. Mayor Smitherman informed the City Council that the Selma Industrial Development Board issue tax-exempt bonds in the name of the City for local industrial entities. The Mayor stated that the people who serve on this board are mostly bankers and serve without any compensation. Board Attorney Ralph Hobbs submitted a list of names for the Council to ratify, affirm and approve.

II. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. Selma Industrial Development Board.

Councilwoman Crenshaw asked if Council members could submit a name for appointment to the Board. Mayor Smitherman stated that the Council could make nominations to the Board but due to the urgency of certain financial matters of International Paper two nominations must be approved immediately and the other two nominations could be made at a later date. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilman Salaam to ratify, affirm, and approve the following appointments:

Scott Patterson – April 24, 1998 through April 24, 2004
George Evans – April 24, 1998 through April 24, 2004

The motion carried with a majority vote of seven affirmative votes and one negative vote. Councilwoman Crenshaw cast the negative vote.

The other Board members and their terms are as follows:

Stephen C. Rogers – April 24, 1996 through April 24, 2002
Richard P. Morthland – April 24, 1996 through April 24, 2002
Catesby ap R. Jones – April 24, 1998 through April 24, 2004
Archie T. Reeves – April 24, 2000 through April 24, 2006
Ed McCurdy – April 24, 2000 through April 24, 2006

Councilman Sexton stated that he would like to proceed with a vote today on the appointment of Archie Reeves and Ed McCurdy to the Selma Industrial Development Board. A motion was made by Councilwoman Martin and seconded by Councilman Tucker to appoint Archie Reeves and Ed McCurdy to the Selma Industrial Development Board. The motion carried with a majority vote of five affirmative votes and three negative votes. Council members West, Salaam, and Crenshaw cast the negative votes.

B. Sales Tax Report. Mayor Smitherman presented the Council with the fifth month sales tax report, which shows the City's sales tax revenue increased \$3,019 or two percent for the month of February. The year-to-date collections have decreased \$103,283 or 2.3%. Mayor Smitherman stated that the City Clerk has been communicating with the State Department of Revenue for an explanation of the decrease.

C. Off-Premises Wine License Applications. Mayor Smitherman presented three off premises wine license applications: 1) Razel Patel, Highway 80 East, 2) Dr. Disco's Wings-N-Things, Marie Foster Blvd., 3) Kevin Lee's Raceway Station, Highland Avenue. The applications were placed on first reading and turned over to the Public Safety Committee for review and recommendations. The Mayor stated that background investigations had been performed on the applicants and there is no criminal reason to deny any of the applications.

Councilman Tucker asked the Council to suspend the rules for immediate action on the application for Dr. Disco's Wings-N-Things. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilman Tucker to suspend the rules for immediate action on the application. On roll call vote, Councilman Salaam objected to the motion and it did not carry for the lack of a unanimous vote.

III. MAYOR'S REPORT

D. All-Lock Building Security. Mayor Smitherman stated that \$50,000 was included in the budget for this fiscal year for security expenses at the All-Lock facility. The Mayor stated that he is requesting Council approval to contract with Mr. and Mrs. Vension Baker to provide twenty-four hour security at the facility for \$27,500 annually. The Bakers will purchase a mobile home that will be placed on the lot and the City will furnish an old patrol car and walkie-talkie. If approved, the contract will be for one year and if a new industry were located for the facility, they would be responsible for the remainder of the one-year contract. Councilwoman Martin made a motion that was seconded by Councilman Sexton authorizing Mayor Smitherman to enter into a contract with Mr. and Mrs. Vension Baker for \$27,500 annually, to provide security services at the All-Lock Building located 4155 Water Avenue. The motion carried with a unanimous vote of the Council.

E. Pay Increase for Public Works and Cemetery Departments. Mayor Smitherman stated that most City departments were placed on a pay plan over the past several years with the exception of the Public Works and Cemetery Departments. The Mayor stated that he has met with both Directors and it is his recommendation to grant a five-percent pay increase for all workers with the exception of the Directors and Supervisors. The cost for the remainder of this fiscal year is approximately \$14,000. A motion was made by Councilman Sexton and seconded by Councilwoman Martin to amend the general fund budget \$14,000 for the pay increases for the two departments. The motion carried with a unanimous vote of the Council.

F. St. James Hotel. Mayor Smitherman asked Council for approval to tile the kitchen area of the St. James Hotel to meet Health Department regulations. The Mayor stated that this was not done in the original restoration due to a cut back in cost during construction. The approximate cost of this project is \$11,000 and will be paid for with monies from the Community Reinvestment Fund. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilwoman Martin to approve the tile kitchen at the St. James Hotel. The motion carried with a majority vote of the Council. There were six affirmative votes, one negative vote, and one abstention. Councilwoman Crenshaw cast the negative vote and Councilman Salaam abstained.

IV. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

A. Ordinance to Increase Council Salaries. Attorney Pitts stated that the Code of Alabama states that any ordinance to change the salary of the Mayor and/or Council must be done six months prior to the election. For this municipal election the ordinance must be adopted and published by February 22, 2000. Attorney Pitts stated that the present salary of the Mayor is \$5,833.33 monthly, Council President is \$1,666.67 monthly, President Pro Tempe is \$750.00 monthly and Council member is \$650.00 monthly.

President Morgan asked the Council to keep in mind that the budgeted revenue of sales tax has decreased, combined with the loss of several industries. President Morgan stated that it is his recommendation that the Council members' salary is increased to \$10,000.00 annually. Councilwoman Crenshaw made a motion to increase Council members salary to \$12,000.00 annually. Councilman West seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, Councilwoman Crenshaw withdrew her motion and Councilman West withdrew his second.

IV. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

A. Ordinance to Increase Council Salaries. A motion was then made by Councilman Salaam and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw to table this matter, for discussion and a vote, at the recessed Council meeting on Thursday, February 17, 2000 at 12 noon. The motion carried with a majority vote of the Council. There were five affirmative votes and two negative vote. Councilman Sexton and President Morgan cast the negative votes. Councilwoman Sewell had left the meeting.

B. Claim Against the City. Attorney Pitts stated that he is happy to report to the Council that a summary judgement was issued for the City of Selma and against Ada Mills who filed a claim against the City in a slip and fall accident.

V. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Meeting of the 2020 Planning Committees. Councilwoman Martin invited the entire Council to attend a meeting of the 2020 planning committees that will be held on Thursday, February 24, 2000 at the Selma Convention Center. Councilwoman Martin stated that this is a very important meeting where the Steering Committee will meet with the consultants.

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

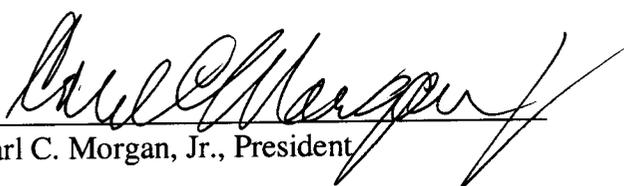
A. School Board Appointments. Councilman West asked the Council to adopt a resolution asking the local Legislators to introduce a bill calling for School Board elections to be at-large. President Morgan stated that he is in the process of scheduling a joint meeting of the Council and the School Board and asked Councilman West to delay this matter until after the meeting.

VI. OTHER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Enterprise Foundation Town Hall Meeting. Councilman Salaam invited the Council to attend the Enterprise Foundation Town Hall meeting scheduled for March 6, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center. Councilman Salaam stated that this would be an opportunity for the Council and citizens to address Enterprise officials about different problems in our city.

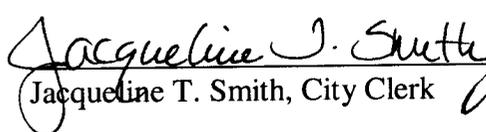
B. Sam Walker – National Voting Rights Museum. Mr. Sam Walker stated that he was present to make his annual request to the Council for a parade permit and to close portions of Water Avenue during the weekend of March 3rd – 5th for the Bridge Crossing Jubilee. The Council gave unanimous consent to Mr. Walker provided he coordinates the events with the Selma Police Department Traffic Division.

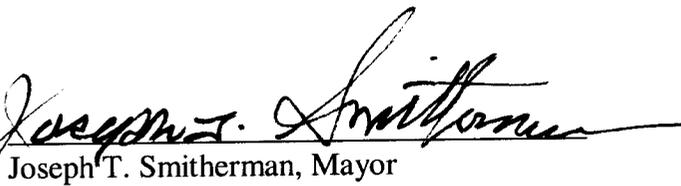
There being no further business to come before the Council, on motion made and duly seconded, the Council voted by unanimous consent to recess at 11:45 a.m. until February 17, 2000 at 12 noon.


Carl C. Morgan, Jr., President

ATTEST:

APPROVED:


Jacqueline T. Smith, City Clerk


Joseph T. Smitherman, Mayor