

MINUTES OF THE SELMA CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2001

The Selma City Council met in a regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Monday, June 25, 2001 at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present: President George P. Evans and Council members Glenn Sexton, Rita S. Franklin, Jean T. Martin, Nancy G. Sewell, Samuel Randolph, Benny L. Tucker, Bennie Ruth Crenshaw, and James Durry. Others present were Mayor James Perkins, Jr., City Attorney Jimmy Nunn, City Clerk Jackie Smith, and the Mayor's Administrative Assistant Sherri James. The Reverend Gary L. Crum gave the invocation.

After roll call, President Evans declared a quorum present and the meeting was opened for the transaction of business as set forth on the agenda. President Evans asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda prepared for this meeting. Councilwoman Franklin asked that the agenda be amended to include discussion of invoices from the Selma Waterworks and Sewer Board. Councilwoman Sewell asked that the agenda be amended to include a R.I.F. update. There being no other amendments to the agenda, on motion made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilwoman Franklin, the agenda was approved with the stated amendments.

President Evans asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the June 11, 2001 Council meeting. There being no additions or corrections to the minutes, on motion made by Councilwoman Martin and seconded by Councilman Sexton, the minutes were approved as recorded.

I. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. Firefighter I Training Awards. Mayor Perkins stated Chief Allen and Assistant Chief Walker were present to introduce four new Firefighters, two of whom are recipients of awards from the State Fire College. The four new Firefighters are FF Brock, FF Franklin, FF Davis and FF Horton. Chief Allen announced that Firefighter Brock was awarded the Academic Award and Firefighter Franklin was awarded the Leadership Award during recent graduation ceremonies at the Alabama Fire College. Mayor Perkins stated this is quite an accomplishment that two of our trainees received awards out of twenty-seven trainees, statewide. Mayor Perkins and the Council wished the new Firefighters the best in their careers.

B. Habitat - Selma. Mayor Perkins presented the Council with a letter from Mr. Ed Heuker, Director of Habitat-Selma containing a very interesting proposal relating to condemned houses. The letter outlined five basic steps in the condemnation process: (1) City code enforcement decides which houses are to be condemned, (2) Council concurs and letters are sent to property owners, (3) Habitat-Selma is advised and provided a list of the property owners addresses, (4) Habitat contacts the property owner to request a tax-deductible donation of the property, and (5) Habitat would acquire deed to the property and tear down the structure. A Habitat home would then be constructed on the lot.

Mayor Perkins stated he is in agreement with the process and it could be integrated into our present procedures to make this option available to property owners. Mayor Perkins also stated the information on the property owners that Habitat would be provided is public information that would eventually be published in the local newspaper, therefore, the City would not be guilty of a privacy violation. Mayor Perkins asked the Council for a vote of confidence on this matter. Councilwoman Martin made a motion that was seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw, giving a vote of confidence to integrate the Habitat-Selma proposal into the City's present procedures. The motion carried with a majority vote of the Council. There were eight affirmative votes. Councilman Randolph was not in attendance.

Councilman Randolph entered the Council meeting.

C. PYRO Productions, Inc. Fireworks Contract. Mayor Perkins informed the Council that previous sponsors of the annual July 4th Fireworks show held a Bloch Park is unable to continue the event due to insurance requirements. Mr. Mike Reynolds, one of the previous sponsors, has been very supportive in assisting the City with continuing the event. Due to the urgency of the matter, Mayor Perkins requested a telephone poll of Council support and proceeded with signing the contract. Mayor Perkins stated Mrs. Driggers, Community Development Director, has identified funds in the Community Reinvestment Program that can be used to pay the cost of the contract in the amount of \$7,500.00. Councilwoman Sewell made a motion to ratify, affirm and approve the execution of the contract with PYRO Productions in the amount of \$7,500 for the annual July 4th Fireworks show to be paid for with funds from the Community Reinvestment Program. Councilwoman Crenshaw seconded the motion. On roll call vote the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

D. Sales Tax Report. Mayor Perkins asked Mr. Bob Sanders, Finance Director, to present the sales tax report. Mr. Sanders distributed copies of the ninth month sales tax report, which shows the City of Selma collected \$25,786 more in sales tax during the month of June 2001 than it did during June 2000. Total collections for June 2001 were \$982,980 and represent a 2.7 percent increase over the same period last year. Sales tax collections year-to-date show a decrease of \$45,270 or 2.70 percent. Rental tax collections for the month of June were \$20,623 and year-to-date rental tax collections are \$178,591. Councilwomen Crenshaw and Sewell encouraged citizens to shop Selma. The Councilwomen also suggested the Council develop a campaign to promote Selma.

E. Mayor's Open Door Event. Mayor Perkins announced the Mayor's Open Door Event would be held at City Hall on Wednesday, June 27th from noon until 5 o'clock. Mayor Perkins encouraged the Council to be available to meet and greet the citizens. Mayor Perkins stated this event is held to allow citizens to become more familiar with city offices and city government.

F. Economic Development Outlook. Councilman Tucker asked Mayor Perkins to make a statement of reassurance to the citizens as it relates to the City's position on economic development. Mayor Perkins stated the Economic Development Authority and this administration is working very hard to bring new businesses to our area. Mayor Perkins asked the citizens to be patient and be optimistic. Councilwoman Crenshaw challenged the media to provide positive public relations for our city and asked that a Council committee be formed to monitor economic development. The Economic Development Committee members are Council members Crenshaw, Martin, Sewell and Franklin.

II. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

A. Attorney General Opinion – Payment of Legal Fees. Attorney Nunn informed the Council that he talked with Attorney Carol Jean Smith of the Attorney General Office about the request for an opinion on the payment of legal fees for Assistant Chief Robert Green. Attorney Smith stated the opinion is out of the Committee and Mr. Richard Allen must review the opinion prior to it being signed by Attorney General Bill Pryor. Attorney Smith indicated the City should receive the opinion later this week.

B. Claim of Mr. Charles Dennis. Attorney Nunn stated he is in receipt of a claim filed by Mr. Charles Dennis alleging the Public Works Department caused damage to his driveway. The claim states Public Works was filling in a ditch near his house when a piece of heavy equipment damaged his concrete driveway. Attorney Nunn stated Mr. Tommy Smith has been asked to investigate this claim and a report of his findings will be made available at the next Council meeting.

C. Claim of Mrs. Shelia Jean Vickers. Attorney Nunn stated he is in receipt of a claim filed by Mrs. Shelia Jean Vickers alleging she stepped into a hole fell and broke her wrist. The claim states that on February 15, 2001, Mrs. Vickers stepped into a hole in the parking lot of the Down Towner Restaurant and she fell and broke her wrist. Mrs. Vickers is claiming \$24,190 in injuries. Attorney Nunn stated Mr. Tommy Smith has been asked to investigate this claim and a report of his findings will be made available to the Council.

II. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

D. Ordinance – Appointment of Assistant Chief of Fire Department. Attorney Nunn presented an ordinance prepared for the appointment of Assistant Chief of Fire Department. Councilwoman Franklin asked that the ordinance be placed on first reading.

E. Ordinance – Mayor Appointment of Department Heads and Other Officers. Attorney Nunn presented an ordinance prepared for the appointment of department heads and other officers. Mayor Perkins asked that the ordinance be placed on first reading.

F. Ordinance To Preserve & Protect Selma's History. Attorney Nunn presented an ordinance prepared to preserve and protect Selma's history. Councilwoman Franklin asked that the ordinance be placed on first reading.

G. Claim of Yeargan Construction. Councilwoman Sewell asked Attorney Nunn of the status of a sewer claim filed by Yeargan Construction. Attorney Nunn stated he has little knowledge of the claim and would ask that Mr. Tommy Smith investigate the claim and report his findings to the Council at a future date.

H. Ordinance – Wireless Communication Tower. President Evans asked Attorney Nunn the status of the ordinance governing wireless communication towers. President Evans reminded Attorney Nunn of the moratorium that expires later this month and asked him to prepare a rough draft for review and discussion at the July 9th work session. Attorney Nunn stated he would develop a rough draft from the sample ordinance he has received from Demopolis and Florence.

III. MR. GEORGE GRAYSON

Mr. George Grayson informed the Council that on June 18th he met with Mayor Perkins and they discussed two matters of importance; the lack of public restroom facilities at certain locations and city employees uniform patches bearing the confederate symbol.

IV. RESOLUTION – THE LATE MR. GEORGE BURTON

President Evans stated at the request of Councilman Tucker, a resolution from the Mayor and Council was prepared on behalf of the late Mr. George Burton and presented to his family at funeral services held on June 15, 2001. President Evans stated Mr. Burton was a life long resident of Selma and an outstanding citizen that will be greatly missed.

V. SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF RC&D CONFERENCE

Councilwoman Martin stated she is in receipt of a conference registration form from Mr. Carl C. Morgan, Jr., liaison for municipal government, requesting Council approve his attendance of the Southeastern Association of RC&D Conference. Councilwoman Martin stated the conference registration is \$200 and other travel related expenditures should also be approved. A motion was made by Councilwoman Martin and seconded by Councilman Durry to approve payment of the conference registration fee and other additional expenses as required for Carl C. Morgan, Jr. to attend the RC&D Conference. On roll call vote the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

VI. WIMG REPORT

Councilwoman Franklin informed the Council that she is the incoming President of the National League of Cities Women in Municipal Government. The annual WIMG Conference will be held in Phoenix, Arizona from July 24th through July 27th. Councilwoman Franklin asked the Council to approve travel expenditures for City Clerk Jackie Smith to attend this conference so she can assist in the planning process for next year's conference that will be held in Selma. Mayor Perkins stated he was not previously made aware of this request. Councilwoman Crenshaw suggested Councilwoman Franklin meet with Mayor Perkins inform him of the process. President Evans stated approval of these expenditures could be granted at the next Council meeting.

VII. SELMA WATERWORKS AND SEWER BOARD INVOICES

Councilman Sexton stated the Selma WaterWorks and Sewer Board met this morning and discussed the outstanding invoices owed by the City of Selma. Councilman Sexton informed the Council that if the City does not pay the WaterWorks some \$27,000 in invoices for the BWD facility, the WaterWorks will write ADEM a certified letter notifying them that the Selma WaterWorks is no longer responsible for testing the contaminated wells at the facility. Mayor Perkins stated he does have a problem paying the invoices without discussion with the WaterWorks Board because one invoice was found to be inaccurate and the City was overcharged \$1,000 in materials. President Evans agreed that the proper authority should meet with the Mayor and Council to resolve this issue. A lengthy discussion followed.

Councilman Tucker made a motion that the Council approves payment of the Selma WaterWorks invoices. Councilman Sexton seconded the motion. On roll call vote the motion to approve payment of the invoices was defeated. There were six negative votes and three affirmative votes. Council members Tucker, Sexton and Franklin cast the affirmative votes.

Councilwoman Franklin stated she is also in receipt of invoices from the Selma WaterWorks and Sewer Board in the amount of \$4,737.94 the City owes for the WaterWorks installing fire hydrants behind Bloch Park for firefighter training. Councilwoman Franklin stated the City requested these services from the WaterWorks in an effort to prevent rust in the water in the West Selma area where the training takes place. A motion was made by Councilwoman Franklin to ratify, affirm and approve payment of invoices from the Selma WaterWorks in the amount of \$4,737.94. Councilwoman Martin seconded the motion and on roll call vote, the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were eight affirmative votes and one negative vote. Councilman Randolph cast the negative vote.

VIII. R.I.F. UPDATE

Councilwoman Sewell provided a brief update on the R.I.F. summer distribution project. Councilwoman Sewell stated kick-off is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. in the morning at the Public Library. Each Council member has been provided with his or her ward distribution schedule and Councilwoman Sewell encouraged citywide participation in this project.

IX. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBIC WORKS AND GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

There was no report from the Public Works and General Services Committee. Councilman Sexton asked to be excused from the meeting.

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilman Durry stated baseball and softball playoff games are scheduled to start this week. Councilman Durry thanked the many volunteers. Councilman Durry also encouraged the parents and fans to show more respect towards the officials and coaches.

IX. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

A. National Organizers Alliance Conference. Councilwoman Crenshaw informed the Council that she has been invited to attend the National Organizers Alliance Conference in California from June 27th through July 2nd. Councilwoman Crenshaw stated her transportation and lodging expenses were being paid for by the Conference and requested the Council approve per diem and registration fees totaling \$700. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell to approve the \$700 in expenditures for Councilwoman Crenshaw to attend the Conference. Councilwoman Franklin seconded the motion and on roll call vote the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were eight affirmative votes. Councilman Sexton was absent from the meeting.

B. Insurance Coverage for Police Department Employees. Councilwoman Crenshaw stated it has been brought to her attention that several employees working in the Police Department for several years have no health insurance coverage. Mayor Perkins stated these employees were contract employees who were brought over on the payroll on a temporary status. The Mayor stated he would meet with the Personnel Director to see if it is possible to upgrade the employment status of these employees and bring a report back to the next Council meeting.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Ordinance – Heavy Loaded Trucks. Councilwoman Franklin informed the Council that Lt. Evans of the Traffic Division and Attorney Nunn are working on the draft of an ordinance prohibiting heavy loaded trucks traveling on city streets.

B. Retirement of Assistant Chief of Police Department. Councilwoman Franklin informed the Council that Assistant Chief of Police Ken Smith would be retiring from the Selma Police Department. A reception to honor Assistant Chief Smith will be held at the Public Safety Building on June 29th at 12 noon.

C. Grant for Bulletproof Vests. Councilwoman Franklin informed the Council that the Selma Police Department has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$18,478.02 to purchase bulletproof vests for Police Officers. Councilwoman Franklin stated the grant requires a 50% match by the City of Selma. Councilwoman Franklin made a motion to amend the general fund budget \$9,239.01 to match the grant for the purchase of bulletproof vests. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Martin and on roll call vote, the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were eight affirmative votes. Councilman Sexton was absent from the meeting. Mayor Perkins made a point of observation to the Council by stating the Chief of Police has not notified the Finance Director nor the Mayor of the grant award. The Mayor stated he totally disapprove and disagree with this process.

D. Assistant Chief of Police Vacancy. Councilwoman Franklin stated the Assistant Chief of Police vacancy would be addressed at the July 9th Council work session.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilwoman Martin stated the concrete benches downtown are being repainted to conform to the historical colors of downtown Selma.

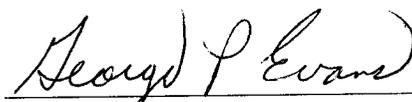
X. LEADERSHIP SELMA-DALLAS COUNTY

Mrs. Fran Pearce stated she was present before Council to ask for financial support for the Leadership Selma-Dallas County Program. The proposed budget for the Leadership Selma-Dallas County Program includes \$21,000 in estimated income and \$23,500 in estimated expenses. Mrs. Pearce requested a \$5,000 appropriation from the City of Selma. Several Council members expressed their sincere appreciation for the results of the program. Mayor Perkins stated the City could engage a contract with Leadership Selma-Dallas to be appropriated in the 2001-2002 budget.

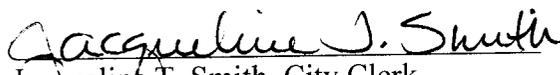
XI. MRS. BARBARA BROWN

Mrs. Barbara Brown stated she was present before Council to discuss crime issues. Mrs. Brown stated she has been in contact with several outside agencies that are willing to come to Selma to assist the Selma Police Department in solving murders that remains unsolved after several years. Mrs. Brown asked the Council to approve this request for outside assistance. President Evans asked Mrs. Brown to provide a list of the agencies and the cost of expenditures for this assistance and this matter will be further addressed.

There being no further business to come before the Council, on motion made and duly seconded, the Council voted by unanimous consent to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.


George P. Evans, President

ATTEST:


Jacqueline J. Smith, City Clerk

APPROVED:


James Perkins, Jr., Mayor