

MINUTES OF THE SELMA CITY COUNCIL
MAY 22, 2006
5:00 P.M.

The Selma City Council met in a regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Monday, May 22, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present during roll call: Council President George Evans and Council members Cecil Williamson, Reid Cain, Jean T. Martin, Geraldine Allen, Johnnie M. Leashore, Bennie R. Crenshaw and Jannie M. Venter. Others present were Mayor James Perkins, Jr., City Clerk Lois Williams, City Attorney Jimmy Nunn, City Treasurer Cynthia Mitchell, and the Mayor's Executive Assistant Sherri James. Reverend Kenny Hatcher gave the invocation. Councilman Randolph was absent from the meeting due to National Guard duty.

Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

After review of the agenda items, the following amendments were made:

Additions: None
Deletions: Item(s):
V. Speed Breakers

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Cain Crenshaw and seconded by Councilwoman Martin to approve the agenda as amended. **The motion carried with a unanimous vote (show of hands) of the Council members present.**

CITIZENS' REQUESTS

Ms. Johnnie Mae Foster
Re: Request for Speed Breakers

Ms. Alnita Whitt
Re: Selma City School System

Ms. Patricia Morris
Re: Shiloh Baptist Church Carnival in Selma

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

After the citizens' requests discussions, President Evans asked for a motion to approve the minutes of May 8, 2006 regular meeting. A motion was made by Councilwoman Martin and seconded by Councilwoman Venter to approve the minutes of May 8, 2006. **The motion carried with a unanimous vote (show of hands) of the Council members present.**

I. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. Employer Assisted Housing Benefit Plan. Mayor Perkins stated the Council has been given a copy of the Employer Assisted Housing Benefit Plan that has been prepared by the Department of Planning & Development. Mayor Perkins stated Mrs. Griffeth has been working with a lot of technical gurus on how to get this plan done and there is now a documented plan. Mayor Perkins stated a serious look needs to be taken on this issue, maybe for the next fiscal year, and asked the Council to study the details carefully to discuss in a special session during the budget hearings process. Mayor Perkins stated he wants to express his appreciation to Mrs. Griffeth, who has worked really hard on this issue, the Planning & Development Office and all of the people who have provided technical assistance to the City of Selma in the process of developing this plan.

B. Resolution - #R166-05/06 - Public Works Bulldozer. Mayor Perkins stated there is a piece of equipment, a bulldozer, that is currently not operating, which has been determined to cost about \$4,400.00 to repair. Mayor Perkins stated multiple departments use this equipment and have been asked to pool funds from their accounts to an account in Public Works as follows: to amend the budget by increasing the line item 1.6200.145.0 for \$3,700.00 to repair the Public Works bulldozer and reduce line items 1.6012.129.0 (\$1,000.00), 1.6017.120.0 (\$1,000.00), 1.6600.154.0 (\$1,000.00) and 1.6400.153.0 (700.00). Mayor Perkins asked Council favorable consideration and further stated that this does not increase the budget, but simply a transfer of funds across departments, which requires Council approval. Mayor Perkins stated there is already \$700.00 in this Public Works account. A motion was made by Councilman Cain and seconded by Councilman Leashore to approve the said resolution. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present.**

I. MAYOR'S REPORT

C. Resolution - #R167-05/06 - Youthbuild. Mayor Perkins stated this resolution acknowledges the City of Selma desire to submit a grant application to HUD for the Youthbuild grant, which shows young people how to build new homes for people in need, and new lives or themselves. Mayor Perkins stated the Office of Planning and Development further request permission to use \$5,000.00 of the appropriated funds for the vacant position of Grant Coordinator (1.6006.103.0) to pay a consultant to assist in preparation of the Youthbuild grant. Mayor Perkins asked the Council favorable consideration. Councilman Williamson asked whom the \$5,000.00 would be paid to. Mayor Perkins stated R. J. Stidam. A motion was made by Councilman Leashore and seconded by Councilwoman Martin to approve the said resolution. Councilman Cain asked what is the amount of money sought through this grant. Mayor Perkins stated \$250,000.00. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

D. 4th of July Holiday. Mayor Perkins stated he would like to raise an issue concerning the 4th of July holiday, which is coming up on a Tuesday. Mayor Perkins stated there has been some inquiry as to whether Monday would be a holiday and he would like to get the Council opinion and thoughts about this issue. Mayor Perkins stated we do have a standard holiday schedule prescribed in the budget, which include the 4th of July only. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Leashore and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw to allow the city employees to observe Monday, July 3, 2006 as a paid holiday as well as the 4th of July. A roll call vote was taken and the motions passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

E. Press Release - Environmental Protection Agency. Mayor Perkins stated there was a press release that was done by the Environmental Protection Agency announcing the award of the \$200,000.00 Brownsfield grant to the City of Selma. During discussion, Mayor Perkins stated he wanted to acknowledge this and to thank the Council for the vote of confidence provided when initially for the support of the consultants that provided the technical assistance to continue the environmental assessments.

F. Questions from Public Safety Committee. Mayor Perkins stated he noticed the inquiry on the Public Safety questions. Mayor Perkins stated he quite frankly forgot about the questions and stated he will ask Chief Martin to start working on those and we will see what happens.

G. 2005 Oil Lease Money. President Evans asked Mayor Perkins if the Oil Lease money has been received yet. Mayor Perkins stated yes. Mayor Perkins stated he usually comes before the Council with a proposal and he has asked the Public Works department to help with prescribing a proposal. Mayor Perkins stated he did not want to come before the Council without making some kind of recommendation. During discussion, Councilman Williamson stated before Mayor Perkins has the Public Works department make any plans, he feels the Council should tell him whether the Council will lump the money together or spend it individually, because there is no need to do all that work if he majority of the Council wants to divide it nine ways. Councilman Williamson asked how much money was received. Mayor Perkins stated \$120,000.00. Councilman Williamson stated last year the Council gave the money and some wards got something, tennis courts, etc., but this year he would like to see it divided among the Council members and if the Council decides otherwise that would be fine. Mayor Perkins stated his recommendation would be to keep the money together and move forward with the skating rink and sidewalks.

II. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

A. Resolution - #R165-05/06 Assenting to Vacation Of An Alley. Attorney Nunn stated he comes before the Council at this time asking for a public hearing as it relates to assenting to vacation of an alley to hear from citizens of the community. President Evans asked if there were any citizens present to express their concerns for or against this vacation of an alley. There was no response from citizens. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Leashore and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw to approve the said resolution. The motion carried with a unanimous vote (show of hands) of the Council members present.

B. Ordinance #O114-05/06 - Curfew Provisions. President Evans stated this particular ordinance given to the Council by Attorney Nunn was discussed in the work session, which the Council did not have a chance to review the copy that was presented previously, but decided that it would be turned over to the Public Safety Committee to get back to the Council

II. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

with an idea of a plan. President Evans stated it could be placed on first reading with no decision to take any action until the Council hears from the committee. Councilwoman Crenshaw stated she feels it should be prepared and brought back to the Council to review and then place on first reading. Councilwoman Allen concurred. Attorney Nunn stated to the Council that there were three corrections made on section four of the ordinance. President Evans stated the Council would take these corrections under consideration during review and the committee would be coming back later to give an update and report on this matter.

C. Ordinance - #O105-05/06 - Basketball Goals. Attorney Nunn stated this ordinance was placed on first reading at the last Council meeting. Councilwoman Crenshaw stated this has been placed on first reading; however, she has not had a chance to review this ordinance. President Evans stated there are some issue he would like to review further as well so this item would be discuss a work session to address at the next Council meeting.

D. Alcoholic Beverage License - Mr. Matthew Molette (Club 49). Attorney Nunn stated if the Council recalls a request presented to the Council for an alcoholic beverage license application. Attorney Nunn stated this matter was placed on first reading about a month ago and it was addressed to Council at the last meeting for passage and there was a question of whether the sign had been placed at the location. Attorney Nunn stated the Council should have received documents in their mailboxes relating to the same and it is up for discussion by the Council tonight. During discussion, President Evans read a letter to the Council containing information from residents opposing the approval of the same and stated there was lengthy discussion during a work session regarding this matter. A motion was made by Councilwoman Venter and seconded by Councilman Cain to deny the approval the said alcoholic beverage license. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

Councilwoman Martin departed from the Chambers briefly and returned at 6:13 p.m.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

III. STATEMENT FROM COUNCIL MEMBER

Councilman Leashore stated he has a prepared statement he would like to read to his colleagues. Councilman Leashore asked if this statement would be a matter for the records.

("I realize that every time I argue with my colleagues on the city council about their injustices and veiled attacks, some people can understand the injustice done by them and some people cannot. There are some people who will never see wrong done by some of my colleagues. I understand that and that is okay.

The very reason I wanted to serve on the city council is because there were so many wrong things being said and done by people and so few people willing to stand or say what was wrong.

I must admit it is hard standing for and saying what is right sometimes, because in many instances the masses do not know the behind the scenes details of what is being said and done. Quite frankly, I must commend Mrs. Crenshaw for carrying this burden for so many years virtually alone.

There is this saying, "If a wise man is arguing with an unwise man, how can you tell which is wise and which is unwise?" I believe the answer to the question is the wise man will stop arguing. Therefore, I am going to stop allowing myself to be provoked into public arguments with my colleagues. Until it just becomes unbearable again, I will acknowledge my position either for or against the issue on the floor and then I will vote my conviction.

As for my colleagues who insist on putting our wrong information and unnecessarily attacking the staff's work product and mayor's decision, I say, shame on you and know that your efforts will never be successful. Remember that my silence on the council bench does not mean that I will not be working to deal with your injustices behind the scenes. I just intend to talk less and fight harder.")

BUSINESS ITEMS:

IV. CRIME TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

President Evans stated this item has already been dealt with and he does not feel there is anything further to discuss on this matter. Councilwoman Martin stated she has been asked to make an announcement to the Council that on Thursday evening, May 25, 2006, at 6:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church, there will be a Neighborhood Watch Program meeting. She stated as many Council members as possible are asked to please attend.

V. RECOGNITION OF SERVICE – LIEUTENANT ROBERT GREEN

Councilman Cain stated the Public Safety Committee met and they wish to recommend that a plaque for Lieutenant Robert Wayne Green stating that the Selma City Council expresses its appreciation and thanks for to him for twenty-four years of dedicated and committed service to the Selma Police Department and the City of Selma. During a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Cain and seconded by Councilwoman Martin that a plaque be given to Lt. Green with the language stated above. The motion carried with a majority vote (show of hands) of the Council members present. There were seven ayes and one nay. Councilman Leashore cast a nay vote stating this is not in conforming to the Council original agreement pertaining to a letter to Lt Green.

VI. WARD EIGHT NOISE CONCERNS

Following discussion of this matter, President Evans stated he would like to meet with Chief Martin and Mayor Perkins regarding this matter.

VII. RENAMING STREETS COMMITTEE REPORT

A motion was made by Councilwoman Martin and seconded by Councilman Cain to rescind the prior vote approving the renaming of Lapsley Street and Summerfield Road in order to allow the new process to be used for this change and all future considerations of changing or renaming of streets. Councilwoman Crenshaw stated the reason she is fighting for this issue is because there were two petitions and those two petitions, she feels at that time, did not contain the information needed in terms of everyone on the street being involved. Councilwoman Crenshaw stated at this time, it has been chosen with the new process in place to give everyone the right to give an opinion of what they would like. Following discussion, the motion carried with a majority vote (show of hands) of the Council members present. There were seven ayes and one nay. Councilman Leashore cast a nay vote.

Councilwoman Allen stated the committee also recommends the addition of the following two steps to the new process:

1. All facilities located within the area of the particular street(s) being considered for a name change will be given notification of: (a) this possible change during the early discussion of such change and (b) the final decision made by the City Council in regards to this request. (i.e. Churches, businesses, etc.)
2. Any individual or group requesting a possible street change must make a request to the City Clerk's Office to begin the process as addressed in our last Council meeting.

A motion was then made by Councilwoman Martin and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw to receive these reports and recommendations from the committee. The motion carried with a unanimous vote (show of hands) of the Council members present.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

RECREATION COMMITTEE - COUNCILMAN SAMUEL RANDOLPH, CHAIRPERSON

There is no report for the Recreation Committee.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE - COUNCILWOMAN DR. GERALDINE ALLEN, CHAIRPERSON

Councilwoman Allen stated she would like to announce that there are three vacancies on the Selma City School Board. Councilwoman Allen stated the vacancies are: Mrs. Nancy Bennett, Dr. Samuel Lett and Mrs. Carrie Wilson. Councilwoman Allen stated an ad would be published in the newspaper to announce the three vacancies and a copy of the process used in the past would be placed in the Council mailboxes. Councilwoman Allen asked that if the Council has recommendations or concerns that they would place them in writing.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE - COUNCILMAN REID CAIN, CHAIRPERSON

Councilman Cain stated the Public Safety met on May 17, 2006 and discussed the issue of the Crime Task Force. Councilman Cain stated there remains the issue of main concern with the questions requested in March, which continue to have no response. Councilman Cain stated he now requests this information as of May instead of March.

The questions are as follows:

1. What is the current number of uniformed certified police officers in patrol?
2. What is the current number of uniformed certified police officers in traffic?
3. What is the total number of uniformed certified police officers that have retired or found other employment since November 2004?
4. What is the total number of active uniformed certified police officers that have at least two years of experience with the Selma Police Department (do not include officers that turned in resignations or are in the process of retiring within 90 days)?
5. What happened with the bicycle patrol?
6. What happened to the crime bus?
7. What are the reasons we are not obtaining Weed & Seed grants?

Councilman Cain stated he has asked these questions privately at first, and now he is asking for them publicly.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - COUNCILWOMAN JEAN MARTIN, CHAIRPERSON

There is no report for the Community Development Committee.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE - COUNCILMAN LEASHORE, CHAIRPERSON

There is no report for the Public Works Committee.

DISCRETIONARY FUNDS COMMITTEE - COUNCILWOMAN CRENSHAW, CHAIRPERSON

There is no report for the Discretionary Funds Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Councilman Cain and seconded by Councilman Leashore to adjourn, and by unanimous consent the Council adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.



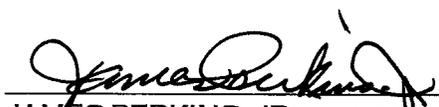
GEORGE P. EVANS, PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

APPROVED:



LOIS WILLIAMS, CITY CLERK



JAMES PERKINS, JR., MAYOR