

**MINUTES OF THE
SELMA CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 27, 2010
5:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

Invocation: Pastor Daniel Martin,
Bethel Church

Pledge of Allegiance

The Selma City Council met in a regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Tuesday, April 27, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present during roll call: Council President Dr. Cecil Williamson and Council Members Councilwoman Susan Keith, Councilwoman Dr. Monica Newton, Councilman Benny L. Tucker, Councilwoman Bennie R. Crenshaw, and Councilman Corey Bowie. Others present were Mayor George Evans, City Clerk Ivy S. Harrison, City Attorney Jimmy Nunn, City Treasurer Cynthia Mitchell, and the Mayor's Executive Assistant, Ms. Brenda Smothers. Councilwoman Angela Benjamin was absent during roll call, but arrived at 5:11 p.m. Councilman Samuel Randolph was absent during roll call, but arrived at 5:19 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Williamson asked for the approval of the agenda items. A motion was made by Councilman Tucker, and seconded by Councilwoman Newton, to approve the agenda items as written. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After approval of the agenda, President Williamson asked for the approval of the minutes of April 27, 2010 regular meeting minutes. A motion was made by Councilwoman Keith, and seconded by Councilwoman Newton, to approve the minutes of April 27, 2010. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

MAYOR'S REPORT

PRESENTATION OF LONGEVITY CERTIFICATES AND PINS

Mayor Evans stated he would like to present Certificates of Service and Longevity Pins in recognition of the following employees: Police Officer Ronald Jones, Selma Police Department, *Five Years of Service* to the City of Selma; Police Officer Thomas Richburg, Selma Police Department, *Five Years of Service* to the City of Selma; Fireman Vernon Shaw, Selma Fire Department, *Five Years of Service* to the City of Selma; Police Officer Kendall Thomas, Selma Police Department, *Five Years of Service* to the City of Selma; and Fireman Daniel Stevenson, Selma Fire Department, *Fifteen Years of Service* to the City of Selma. Mayor Evans stated he would like to thank each of them for their Years of Dedicated Service to the City of Selma, and also presented each of them with a Longevity Pin.

MAYOR'S REPORT

A. **Proclamation Declaring May 8, 2010, as "Michael D. Johnson Day" in the City of Selma, Alabama.** Mayor Evans stated to Council that he has prepared a Proclamation for the Council to approve and adopt, Proclaiming May 8, 2010, as "Michael D. Johnson Day" in the City of Selma, Alabama. Mayor Evans further stated to Council that Mr. Michael D. Johnson played Football and Basketball at Dallas County High School for years. Mayor Evans stated Michael went on to attend Georgia Tech, where he played Football, and now he is with the Cincinnati Bengals. Mayor Evans further stated he has come back home, and gotten involved with Community activities, and is sponsoring a Football Camp at Memorial Stadium on next Saturday, May 8, 2010, beginning at 8:00 a.m., for our local schools and the Community. Mayor Evans stated Michael's Mother, Mrs. Thomasene Johnson, is present at tonight's Council Meeting, and invited her to come up for the Presentation. Mayor Evans read the Proclamation in Honor of "Michael D. Johnson Day" in the City of Selma, Alabama in its entirety, and encouraged all Citizens to support and celebrate "Michael D. Johnson Day", recognizing the contributions that he has made to our Community, and his commitment to the empowerment and education of our Youth. Mayor Evans, on behalf of himself as Mayor, the City Council, and City of Selma presented Mrs. Johnson with the Proclamation, recognizing "Michael D. Johnson Day" in the City of Selma, Alabama, which was received with a "round of applause".

B. **Playland Amusement - Request for Approval for Carnival at the Selma Mall, April 28th - May 9th, in the City of Selma.** Mayor Evans stated Ms. Sue Reed was present at tonight's Council Meeting, to make a request for Council's approval for a carnival; namely, Playland Amusement, here in the City of Selma at the Selma Mall, on April 28th - May 9th. Mayor Evans recommended that the said request be approved. A motion was made by Councilwoman Keith, and seconded by Councilman Randolph, to approve the request for the Playland Amusement Carnival, at the Selma Mall, on April 28th - May 9th. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

C. **Update on Plans for the Memorial Day "Moment of Remembrance".** Mayor Evans stated to Council that he wants to remind them of the "Moment of Remembrance" on Memorial Day, at 3:00 p.m., for the benefit of saying "Thank You" to the Veterans who made sacrifices for us, and to those who made the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives for our Country. Mayor Evans further stated that Ms. Alsobrook, Chairperson, of the Committee, is scheduled to be here at the next Council Meeting, with an update.

D. **Update on Valley Grande Mailing Addresses.** Mayor Evans stated to Council that he had a meeting with Mr. James Howard, Postmaster for the U.S. Postal Service, along with Mrs. Valerie Walters of the U.S. Postal Service, Probate Judge Kim Ballard, and Mr. Tom Lee, Mayor of the Town of Valley Grande. Mayor Evans further stated that they met about the problem, as it relates to "addresses". Mayor Evans stated that one of the main problems is due to Valley Grande and Selma sharing the same zip code of "36703". Mayor Evans further stated that Postmaster Howard indicated that he has been working on getting that changed to a "36704" zip code, which would belong exclusively to Valley Grande. Mayor Evans stated, as it stands now, with Highway 80 through Selma and Highway 22 through Selma, everything on the "left" of Broad Street is 36701, and everything on the "right" of Broad Street is 36703. Mayor Evans further stated that Postmaster Howard indicated that he has tried to get this changed, but has not been given the approval to do so from the United States Postal Service, but that he would still continue to work on getting this done, but at this time, he has not gotten the approval to do so. Mayor Evans stated he will continue to follow-up with the Postal Service, with regard to this matter.

E. **Resolution #R203-09/10 - Resolution Awarding Contract for One (1) Automated Garbage Truck for the Public Works Department to Truck Equipment Sales, Incorporated.** Mayor Evans stated to Council that our trucks are breaking down, seemingly every day. Mayor Evans further stated that this new truck would certainly make a difference in terms of them picking up garbage. Mayor Evans stated to Council that they should have received information as it relates to said Automated Truck some weeks ago, in the form of Resolution #R203-09/10, which was opened for bid and Truck Equipment Sales, Incorporated was the only responsible bidder. Mayor Evans further stated that it is his recommendation to Council that they approve Resolution #R203-09/10, Resolution Awarding Contract for One (1) Automated Garbage Truck for the Public Works Department to Truck Equipment Sales, Incorporated, in the amount of \$179,230.00. Mayor Evans stated if the Council has any questions, Mr. Tommy Smith is present at tonight's Council Meeting to address any questions. A motion was made by Councilwoman Keith, and seconded by Councilman Tucker, to approve Resolution #R203-09/10, Resolution Awarding Contract for One (1) Automated Garbage Truck for the Public Works Department, via the Bond Fund, in the amount of \$179,230.00, to Truck Equipment Sales, Incorporated. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

F. **Bond Construction Project Proposals.** Mayor Evans stated to Council that they should each have a copy of the Bond Construction Project Spreadsheet, outlining the Proposals for the different Bond Projects. Mayor Evans further stated that the Bids will determine what we will accept once they come back. Mayor Evans stated to Council that he is asking for approval of the Companies and Contractors involved with the Bond Projects, so that we can move forward, via the Resolutions that will be presented to them tonight.

G. Resolution #R215-09/10, Authorization to Enter Into Agreement with Krebs Architecture and Engineering, Incorporated. Mayor Evans stated to Council that they should have before them a copy of Resolution #R215-09/10, Authorization to Enter into Agreement with Krebs Architecture and Engineering, Incorporated, for Engineering Services as it relates to the Memorial Stadium and Bloch Park Lighting Project. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Newton, and seconded by Councilwoman Keith, to approve Resolution #R215-09/10, Authorization to Enter into Agreement with Krebs Architecture and Engineering, Incorporated, for Engineering Services as it relates to the Memorial Stadium and Bloch Park Lighting Project, in the amount of \$30,000.00, via the Bond Referendum. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

H. Resolution #R216-09/10, Authorization to Enter Into Agreement with Hogg Engineering Corporation. Mayor Evans stated to Council that they should have before them a copy of Resolution #R216-09/10, Authorization to Enter into Agreement with Hogg Engineering Corporation, for Engineering and Inspection Services as it relates to the Sanitary Sewer Bond Project. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Newton, and seconded by Councilman Tucker, to approve Resolution #R216-09/10, Authorization to Enter into Agreement with Hogg Engineering Corporation, for Engineering and Inspection Services as it relates to the Sanitary Sewer Project, in the amount of \$42,731.00, via the Bond Referendum. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

I. Resolution #R217-09/10, Authorization to Enter into Agreement with McKee & Associates Architecture and Interior Design. Mayor Evans stated to Council that they should have before them a copy of Resolution #R217-09/10, Authorization to Enter into Agreement with McKee & Associates Architecture and Interior Design, for Architectural Services as it relates to the Public Buildings Renovation Bond Projects. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Newton, and seconded by Councilman Tucker, to approve Resolution #R217-09/10, Authorization to Enter into Agreement with McKee & Associates Architecture and Interior Design, for Architectural Services as it relates to the Public Buildings Renovation Bond Projects, to be compensated at 7.1% of Construction Cost, via the Bond Referendum. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

J. Resolution #R218-09/10 - Authorization to Enter into Agreement with Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood, Incorporated. Mayor Evans stated to Council that they should have within their packets Resolution #R218-09/10, Authorization to Enter into Agreement with Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood, Incorporated, for Engineering and Inspection Services as it relates to the Street Rehabilitation/Reconstruction Bond Project. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Keith, and seconded by Councilman Tucker, to approve Resolution #R218-09/10, Authorization to Enter into Agreement with Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood, Incorporated, for Engineering and Inspection Services as it relates to the Street Rehabilitation/Reconstruction Bond Project, via the Bond Fund, in the amount of \$79,400.00, and \$13,000.00 for the preliminary geotechnical investigation. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

K. Update on Summer Youth Employment Program. Mayor Evans stated to Council that they should have within their packets information as it relates to the Summer Youth Employment Program. Mayor Evans further stated we have a total amount of \$48,868.57 in funds for the Summer Youth Employment Program, and that the Selma City Schools did donate \$10,000.00, which will allow us to hire Thirteen (13) Students, which they request to be Selma High School Students. Mayor Evans stated we would like to have the Lottery on Tuesday, May 11th, for the selection. Mayor Evans further stated he would like to thank Dr. Obasohan and the Public School System, Dr. Zanetta Irving, and Ms. Debra Howard, of Selma CareerLinc, for assisting us with making this happen for our Youth.

L. Additional Appropriation of Oil Lease Funds to Pay for Removal and Disposal of Contaminated Material at the All-Lock Facility. Mayor Evans stated to Council that he needs their help as it relates to the mold that was at the All-Lock Facility. Mayor Evans further stated we are approximately \$3,000.00 short, and since we have gotten more Oil Lease Monies, he would like for the Council to consider donating some of their Oil Lease Money to the cost for the mold removal at the All-Lock Facility. Councilman Randolph stated that he would donate \$1,000.00, along with Councilman Tucker donating \$1,000.00, and Councilman Bowie donating an additional \$1,000.00, all from their Oil Lease Monies. Mayor Evans thanked them for assisting him with this effort.

M. Songs of Selma Park. Mayor Evans stated to Council that what they have before them is information as it relates to the Songs of Selma Park, and is not for any action to be taken at tonight's Council Meeting. Mayor Evans further stated it is his belief that we can re-create a park for everybody who we feel should be honored, as opposed to trying to re-name every street. Mayor Evans stated we can create a park, and make it such that those persons, based upon some type of criteria set by the Council, can be "honored" in that particular park as remembrance and recognition of any Citizen in our City. Mayor Evans stated this is his proposal for consideration, and he would like for the Council to give him some feed-back on it for the future. President Williamson stated that he will place this item on the agenda for discussion during the next Work Session.

N. Update on Project Dance. Mayor Evans stated to Council that initially about 3 or 4 months ago he met with a group of young people who live here in Selma, who attend Samford University. Mayor Evans further stated that they came to him and indicated to him that they wanted to bring "Samford University to Selma" as a "Project Dance" on the Bridge, to bring unity to our City. Mayor Evans stated when he heard that he said that that would be a great opportunity for Selma to get some publicity with tourism from Samford University with this Project. Mayor Evans stated the young people are possibly a part of the Freedom Foundation, but that did not bother him if they were. Mayor Evans further stated if Samford wanted to come here, and they went to school there, he did not see anything wrong with that. Mayor Evans stated he told them that he would be happy to be a part of that; they could come in on Friday night, and that on Saturday morning they would go out for breakfast prior to the "Dance". Mayor Evans further stated some individuals came to him, and stated that they did not think that it was appropriate to approve the "Dance" on the Bridge. Mayor Evans stated he listened, and then said to them that this is an opportunity for us to identify with the University, and that he would like to see this happen; that he thinks it was "in good taste and quality". Mayor Evans further stated that on last Tuesday, Samford University's Vice-President contacted him, and stated they wanted him to be made aware that Samford University was not affiliated with the "Project Dance", and that they had no involvement at all, and wanted to make sure that he was aware of that, because someone at the Campus had talked to the young people who live here about that. Mayor Evans further stated that the Vice-President informed him that the young people had been asked to remove the Samford University's Logo from their Website and not to advertise this event as being a "Samford University Project". Mayor Evans stated from that standpoint, he called the young people, to meet with them to share with them about what he had heard, and that he had some concerns about the fact that he felt he had been misled on the fact that this was "Samford University", and that if this was just a local group wanting to do this, then he would have to further re-consider that because, if he approved it for them as a non-profit group doing it, then he would open the door for any other non-profit group doing it, as well. Mayor Evans stated following this, he had another meeting with the young people on Thursday night, and explained to them that he felt that he needed to change the venue for the "Project Dance". Mayor Evans also passed out a letter to the Council that he received from the young people. Mayor Evans stated he is also passing along contact information to them that he received, from the Professor at Samford University, who he had been told was a part of this Project, as well as, a Sponsor, in which he was to call if he had any questions. Mayor Evans stated he wishes he had called then, but that he had not been given any reason to not trust what they had said to him, and he "took their word". Mayor Evans further stated Chief Stokes has had a similar experience that he has had, and asked him to come forward to share what he had experienced with regard to being misled by one of the Youth. Chief Stokes stated he received a phone call from a young lady, who portrayed herself as a Samford University Student, doing a project for Samford University and requested their services for this project, and at that point and time, she explained to him that they had already spoken with Mayor Evans and had his approval, along with the approval from the Police Department, and that she was trying to "tie up" some logistics to complete the Project. Chief Stokes stated that he told her if she had already spoken with Mayor Evans, and the Police Department, and had their approval, then the Fire Department would provide her with what was needed. Chief Stokes further stated less than a day from that, he found out that he had been basically misled, and then he spoke with Mayor Evans on this same issue. Mayor Evans stated that he has now been labeled as a person who did not keep a promise, but that he tried to keep a promise; but, he could not keep what was told to him a promise, with the new information that developed as a result of the information shared from the Vice-President of Samford University. Councilwoman Crenshaw stated that she really does feel bad about Selma, and that Selma needs to get this racist attitude that it has, and start dealing with people like we should. Councilwoman Crenshaw further stated "Mark Duke is gone; you ran him out of town; anybody else that is coming in, we need to give them the benefit of the doubt". Councilwoman Keith stated we really ought to not be closing the Bridge for anything but the Jubilee; that it is nothing against this Group, but she thinks it is a safety issue, an issue of closing off a main thoroughfare, and she does not think that we need to be in the habit of doing that, and that is just something she wants the Council to think about. President Williamson stated that the Council cannot make the decision, and that it is the Mayor's decision. Mayor Evans stated he does not expect everybody to agree with him on this, but that he did the best he could with it. Mayor Evans further stated it was not about "pressure", and he has not run anybody out of town. Mayor Evans stated he said to the young people in a meeting on yesterday evening in his office, that if he had something against them, he never would have agreed to it "from jump street". Mayor Evans stated what he did do was agree to something that he should have done differently; someone misled him into thinking "one thing" and he acted on that, then they came back and said something different. Mayor Evans further stated that he believes that he has an obligation to straighten it out. Mayor Evans stated that they came back and said to him in the meeting, that they did some things wrong; they admitted in that meeting that they made some mistakes in how they handled this, and they apologized. Mayor Evans further stated that what they want to do now is, walk down the sidewalk, walk across the Bridge, and have the Dance in the Park. Mayor Evans stated that that is what they all agreed to on last night, and they were happy about it. Mayor Evans stated that they apologized about the miscommunication. Mayor Evans further stated his intentions were honest, and no one "made" him do anything. Mayor Evans stated he is convinced that he has done the right thing, and that the young people have modified what they want to do for the "Project Dance".

O. Announcements. Mayor Evans stated he would like to announce and advise the Council of the following:

(a) *Exchange Club Barbecue on tomorrow, April 28th, Memorial Stadium.*

(b) *Chamber of Commerce, 'Business After Hours', on Thursday, April 29th, Sturdivant Hall.*

(c) *Crimestoppers' Fish Fry, on Friday, April 30th, Valley Creek Park.*

(d) *American Cancer Society 'Relay for Life', on Friday, April 30th, Memorial Stadium. The 'Relay for Life' Banquet is also going on tonight, at the Carl Morgan Convention Center.*

Mayor Evans stated that he would like to invite all to be a part of these announcements, and upcoming events.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

A. Alcoholic Beverage License - Walgreen Company d/b/a - Walgreens Store 10524 - 1111 Highland Avenue. Attorney Nunn stated to Council that they should have before them an Alcoholic Beverage License Application asking for a Retail Beer and Table Wine License for Off Premises Only, to be located at 1111 Highland Avenue; namely, Walgreens Store 10524. Attorney Nunn stated said Alcoholic Beverage License Application is up for 1st Reading tonight, and asked Council's consideration of the same. A motion was made by Councilman Randolph, and seconded by Councilwoman Keith, to place said Alcoholic Beverage License Application of Walgreens Store 10524, on 1st Reading. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

B. Notice of Public Hearing on Vacation of Oak Street. Attorney Nunn stated to Council that what they have before them is the Legal Notice that has been published in the Selma Times-Journal, as it relates to the Vacation of Oak Street, and that it has to publish Four (4) consecutive weeks in the Newspaper. Attorney Nunn further stated that it has been posted at the Dallas County Courthouse, and we have also placed the same here within City Hall. Attorney Nunn stated we are proceeding to send out certified letters, and we have received about half of them back, to all adjoining and adjacent landowners, along with all of the Utility Companies within the City. Attorney Nunn read said "Notice of Public Hearing on Vacation of Oak Street", in its entirety; said Notice to the Public is as follows:

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Selma, Alabama will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 8, 2010, at 4:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, located at City Hall, 2nd Floor, 222 Broad Street. The City Council will use this Public Hearing to assent to the vacation of that portion of municipal street named Oak Street, more particularly described, Norfolk Southern Railroad Right-a-Way of approximately 100 feet in the direction North and South of the railroad tracks, intersecting Oak Street and thereby creating a dead end at Norfolk Southern Right-a-Way property line on the South side and North side of the tracks on Oak Street.

Attorney Nunn further stated any Citizen alleging to be affected by the proposed Vacation may submit a written objection to Ivy S. Harrison, City Clerk, 222 Broad Street, Selma, Alabama, 36701, or may attend the hearing and have the opportunity to speak "For" or "Against" the Vacationing of the Street.

C. Resolution #R213-09/10, Resolution to Place Lien for Abating Weeds. Attorney Nunn stated to Council that, per Ordinance # O118-06/07, the City Clerk and the Code Enforcement Officer have identified these properties as being a Nuisance, and letters have been sent out, and the property owners were invoiced the cost to remove the subsequent Nuisance, and the said costs were not received, resulting in a Lien on the said properties. A motion was made by Councilman Randolph, and seconded by Councilwoman Keith, to approve said Resolution #R213-09/10, Resolution to Place Lien for Abating Weeds. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

D. Resolution #R214-09/10, Resolution Declaring Public Nuisance and Immediate Abatement. Attorney Nunn stated to Council that they should have within their packets Resolution #R214-09/10, Resolution Declaring Public Nuisance and Immediate Abatement. Attorney Nunn further stated that the Code Enforcement Officer of the City of Selma, have identified properties within the City, classified as a nuisance. Attorney Nunn stated attached is Exhibit A, which describes the properties and parcels. Attorney Nunn, per Ordinance #O118-06/07, asked the Council to declare the said properties a public nuisance, and order the same to be immediately abated by the City of Selma. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Newton, and seconded by Councilman Tucker, to approve Resolution #R214-09/10, Resolution Declaring Public Nuisance and Immediate Abatement. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

E. Update on 2709 N. Broad Street. Attorney Nunn stated to Council that, if they recall, this is a matter dealing with a drainage problem on 2709 N. Broad Street, whereby a claim was filed against the City

of Selma. Attorney Nunn further stated that it is now currently pending, via our Insurance Company, which we did receive a letter as it relates to this matter, wherein they requested some six months ago that we repair the drainage problem. Attorney Nunn stated to Council that we met in an Executive Session, and if Council recalls, we decided to file a Small Claims Action in District Court. Attorney Nunn further stated that he thinks, per the Engineer, it has been determined that the City of Selma needs to repair the drainage issue, and the Insurance Company is ready to move forward in settling and closing this claim, and that they have prepared the written documents, and further stated, once the drainage is repaired, they are prepared to have those documents signed and executed.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

I. NOISE ORDINANCE

Mayor Evans stated the problem with noise still exists, but Chief Riley and his Officers are still working on projects, in an effort to remedy the situation, and curtail the noise problem. President Williamson asked that they continue to do that.

II. LITTER

This item is continued.

III. CITY SUPPORT FOR COUNCIL PROJECTS

This item is continued.

IV. INFRASTRUCTURE

This item is continued.

V. REMEMBERING MS. DOROTHY HEIGHT

Councilwoman Benjamin read a few "Notes" on Ms. Dorothy Height who passed away on last Tuesday, April 20th, in Washington, at the age of 98. Ms. Height was a Civil Rights Leader of the African-American and Women's Rights' Movements who was considered an unsung heroine. Ms. Height led the National Council of Negro Women for decades, and had a career in Civil Rights that spanned nearly 80 years. Following the reading by Councilwoman Benjamin, everyone stood for a "Moment of Silence" in Ms. Dorothy Height's Honor.

VI. ELECTION OF WATER BOARD MEMBER TO REPLACE PRESIDENT DR. ALLEN

President Williamson asked if there were any nominations from the Council for the replacement of President Dr. Allen for the Water Board Member Seat. Councilwoman Crenshaw stated she offered the nomination of Councilman Randolph. Councilman Randolph stated, with no disrespect to his Colleague, they had a meeting about the possibility of the replacement being with Dr. Allen's husband, Mr. Robert Allen. President Williamson asked Mayor Evans if he had had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Allen, as it relates to this, and Mayor Evans stated he did, and he did consent to it. Councilman Randolph withdrew his name from the "Nominations", and Councilwoman Benjamin nominated Mr. Robert Allen, to fill the vacant seat on the Water Board, formerly held by President Dr. Allen. President Williamson asked if there were any other Nominations, and there being none, a motion was made by Councilwoman Keith, and seconded by Councilman Randolph, to close the Nominations. The motion carried with a unanimous ("ayes") vote of the Council. A roll call vote was then taken for Mr. Robert Allen to complete the term of President Dr. Allen, and passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

VII. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT PRO-TEM

President Williamson stated he would "open the floor" for Nominations for the position of Pro Tempore.

Councilwoman Crenshaw stated that she does not have a Nomination at this time, but that she would like to read into the Minutes, the following . . . "Much has been said about the selection of pro-tem for this Council. Research done by Councilman Randolph shows this position has been given to the senior person for the last 50 years. After the 2004 election, I had the opportunity and the votes to be selected as pro-tem; however, I made the motion to nominate Mrs. Jean Martin, who is white, because she was the senior person on the Council at the time. That evening, I knew from the expression on Councilman Williamson's face that he was surprised when we chose to do the right thing.

After the 2008 election, I sensed a feeling from the newly elected administration, "if only we could have gotten rid of her". The people of Ward 7 elected me for a fourth term. I was the senior person on the Council then as I am now. Only three councilpersons contacted me concerning the pro-tem position. Sam

Randolph said, "you are the senior member of the Council, you should be pro-tem, but what I'm hearing, others also want the position". Susan Keith stated she was called by Mrs. Martin (of which I had no knowledge) to ask her to support me for pro-tem; however, she had been asked to nominate Cecil Williamson; and Ms. Angela Benjamin, newly elected, expressed to me she had an interest in becoming pro-tem. As I read this, you can tell I was never a part of this equation.

What I envisioned was a battle between Williamson and Benjamin for the majority vote of the Council, with Keith and Newton holding strong for Williamson. This had nothing to do with me becoming pro-tem.

Only six members were present for the first meeting of the newly elected Council. Dr. Allen was in the hospital, Councilman Randolph who was sworn in that morning had then left for military duty, and because the Council agreed to change the place and time (from morning to evening), I was sworn in at noon and participated in a planned workshop with a group of young people that evening.

My presence or absence from the first meeting had nothing to do with the unanimous vote given to Councilman Williamson. It was my understanding and reported by the Selma Times-Journal editorial that the decision on the pro-tem was made before the first meeting of the Council.

I was never given consideration for the pro-tem position of the Selma City Council by the majority of the Council. If I had been, I would have graciously served to the best of my ability. After serving 12 years on the City Council, I was not given consideration then, nor will I be given consideration when the vote is taken this evening.

The question of how Cecil Williamson got to be president of the Selma City Council will be around for a long time. This question is much bigger than how, but why, and by whom, did this happen. History has a way of repeating itself. During the brief time when the South was under reconstruction, free blacks and freedom advocates enjoyed political rights that they had dreamed about, and in no case did black delegates authorize punishment for whites or try to dominate or deny whites any rights or privileges.

By 1887, when Reconstruction was over, black officeholders had been voted out, and new, all white southern legislatures had begun to pass a series of laws aimed at segregation, or separating blacks in all areas of life. They were called *Jim Crow Laws*. We must be careful as we look at the state of America, and the state of our City. There is a resurgence by the thinking of some for the return of Jim Crow Laws, with the help of African-American politicians who really believe things have changed. I have chosen not to take generations of children down this path of destruction of a city and nation.

This statement, which is to be made a part of the Minutes, is to dispel of all and any erroneous information on my behalf and to relate the facts of the pro-tem selection as I know them." Following that statement of record, a motion was made by Councilman Randolph to nominate Councilwoman Crenshaw to the position of Council Pro Tempore. A motion was made by Councilman Tucker to nominate Councilman Bowie to the position of Council Pro Tempore. There being no further Nominations, a motion was made by Councilwoman Keith, and seconded by Councilman Tucker, to close the Nominations. **The motion carried with a unanimous ("ayes") vote of the Council.** During discussion, Councilman Randolph stated he would like to appeal to his Colleagues as it relates to Councilwoman Crenshaw being Pro Tempore. Councilman Randolph further stated whatever they decide tonight he can deal with it, but they should be fair and give Councilwoman Crenshaw her "due", which is Council Pro Tempore. Councilwoman Benjamin stated if it happens today that the "traditional thing" does not work tonight, Dr. Williamson and Councilwoman Crenshaw being the "Senior" people, if it does not work out where Dr. Williamson and Councilwoman Crenshaw, can work together as Council President and Council Pro Tempore, then she feels that new people who come on, will not have to be under that "tradition". Councilwoman Crenshaw stated as far as President Williamson and she are concerned, she and he are very honest with each other, and that she thinks it takes a lot of years to really understand the whole "make-up" of a Council, and that it does take wisdom and knowledge, and she thinks that tradition should continue, based upon that. Councilwoman Crenshaw stated that they seem to be changing a lot of things in the "game" but she does not think that they need to change "them all". Councilman Tucker stated that this is not a game, and that it is business. Councilman Tucker further stated Council Members were sent up there to make changes; the old way will not work at this time, that it is a "new day". Councilwoman Newton stated that she would like to call the question. President Williamson asked the Council who was all in favor to call the question. **The motion carried with a unanimous ("ayes") vote of the Council.** A roll call vote was taken to poll the Council Members on the vote for Council Pro Tempore: During roll call, President Williamson stated he would "pass", and as he stated previously, he would be the "Fifth" Vote of anybody who gets Four Votes; Councilwoman Keith nominated Councilman Corey Bowie; Councilwoman Newton nominated Councilman Corey Bowie; Councilwoman Benjamin nominated Councilwoman Crenshaw; Councilman Randolph nominated Councilwoman Crenshaw, Councilman Tucker nominated Councilman Bowie, Councilwoman Crenshaw abstained from voting, and Councilman Bowie abstained from voting. There were Three Affirmative Votes for Councilman Bowie and Two Affirmative Votes for Councilwoman Crenshaw. President

Williamson stated that since there was not a majority vote of Five for either Council Member, for the position of Council Pro Tempore, this item will be placed on the Agenda for the next Council Meeting.

VIII. POLLING OF COUNCIL MEMEBERS REGARD ELECTION OR APPOINTMENT IN WARD 1

President Williamson stated that he would like to Poll the Council Members for an Election or Appointment, as it relates to the vacancy in Ward 1. A roll call vote was taken to poll the Council Members for an Appointment or an Election for Ward 1: During roll call, President Williamson - Election; Councilwoman Keith - Election; Councilwoman Newton - Election; Councilwoman Benjamin - Appointment; Councilman Randolph - Appointment; Councilman Tucker - Election; Councilwoman Crenshaw - Appointment; and Councilman Bowie - Election. President Williamson stated this item will be placed on the Work Session Agenda for discussion.

IX. SPEED BREAKERS ON L. L. ANDERSON AVENUE

Councilman Tucker stated due to the closing of Griffin Avenue and Plant Street, the Citizens on L. L. Anderson Avenue want to lift the speed breakers on L. L. Anderson Avenue. President Williamson and the Council asked Attorney Nunn to research this matter, as it relates to the removal of Speed Breakers. Mayor Evans was asked to come forward and address the Council with his understanding of how this is to be done. President Williamson asked Attorney Nunn to place this matter in written form, and bring back a written report to the Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

RECREATION COMMITTEE - Councilwoman Monica Newton, Chairman

No report.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE - Councilman Corey Bowie, Chairman

No report.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE - Councilman Samuel Randolph, Chairman

Councilman Randolph made a report, and stated that the Public Safety Committee met today to discuss the Dallas County Jail Contract with the City. Councilman Randolph further stated that the Committee's recommendation is that we ask the County to give the City, Thirty-Two (32) sturdy additional beds, and that the Contract stays the same for Nine (9) years. A roll call vote was taken on the Committee's Recommendation and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - Councilwoman Bennie R. Crenshaw, Chairman

No report.

PUBLIC WORKS/GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE - Councilwoman Susan Keith, Chairperson

No report.

DISCRETIONARY COMMITTEE - President Geraldine Allen, Chairperson

President Williamson stated we have \$3,000.00 additional funds for the Mayor as it relates to the Mold Removal Project at the All-Lock Facility (Public Works Department Building), and he thanked them for doing so.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - Councilwoman Angela Benjamin, Chairperson

No report.

SELMA-DALLAS YOUTH AMBASSADORS - Councilman Corey Bowie, Chairperson

No report.

CLOSING REMARKS BY EACH COUNCIL MEMBER AND MAYOR.

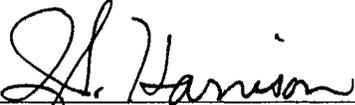
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Councilwoman Keith, and seconded by Councilwoman Benjamin, to adjourn, and by unanimous consent of the Council, this meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.



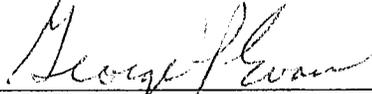
DR. CECIL WILLIAMSON, *Council President*

ATTEST:



IVY S. HARRISON, *City Clerk*

APPROVED:



GEORGE PATRICK EVANS, *Mayor*