

MINUTES OF THE SELMA CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2003

The Selma City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Monday, January 27, 2003 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 Councilman James Durry. Others present were Mayor James Perkins, Jr., City Attorney Jimmy Nunn, Interim City Clerk/Treasurer Sequita R. Oliver, and the Mayor's Administrative Assistant Sherri James. Reverend Randall R. Tanner 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 Sewell asked that Youth-In-Government day and Selma Promise be added to the agenda. There being no other additions to the agenda, on motion made by Councilwoman Franklin and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw, the agenda was approved as amended.

President Evans asked if there were any addition or correction to the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on Monday, December 9, 2002. There being no additions or corrections to the minutes a motion was made by Councilwoman Franklin and seconded by Councilwoman Martin to adopt the minutes as recorded. The motion carried with a unanimous vote of the Council.

President Evans asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on Monday, January 13, 2003. There being no additions or corrections to the minutes, a motion was made by Councilwoman Martin and seconded by Councilman Durry to adopt the minutes as recorded. The motion carried with a unanimous vote of the Council.

I. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. Garbage Collection Process 1994-2001. Mayor Perkins came before the Council to briefly address the Garbage Collection Process. Mayor Perkins stated Franklin Collection Agency had mailed out collection letter and that the City Clerk's office had received numerous calls concerning the letters. He also stated he had prepared a statement to be release to the public concerning the collection process. The letter stated that if citizens have a dispute with the information in the letter from Franklin collection Agency, they might call the City Clerk's office and states their dispute. Mayor Perkins stated the matter would be researched and if it is determined that the citizens are correct, their names would be deleted from the list. Mayor Perkins also stated the City Clerk's office would post in the local newspapers the question most frequently asked. Mayor Perkins then stated that he and his staff had been discussing and attempting to find a plan for dealing with this very bad situation for over two years. He also stated that the situation was so bad, even the best-laid plans will have flaws. Mayor Perkins wants the citizen to be reminded that the records are from 1994 through 2001, which reflects the uncollected garbage bills that was transferred from the Water Board to the City.

B. Ordinance Warrants. Mayor Perkins presented Mr. W. Stanly Gregory from Bradley, Avant, Rose & White, and Attorneys at Law to Council. Mr. Gregory presented Council with the ordinance, which gave evidence of the successful sale of \$3,915,000

I. MAYOR'S REPORT

principal amount of general obligation warrants. Mr. Gregory stated to Council the reasons for the warrants and how the proceeds would be spent. The Warrants were issued to significantly reduce the interest cost presently being paid by the City in respect to certain warrants issued in 1993 and 1994 that are presently outstanding. Mr. Gregory stated that parts of the proceeds from this issue would be used to refund and defuse legally the lien of the outstanding warrants until the call date; this will result in the warrants being deemed paid. The new warrant issue of 2003 will also include proceeds to be used for Capital Improvement and the Lighting Project. Mr. Gregory states that the investment bankers were able to achieve a very favorable interest rate of 3.6%. He also stated with this new issue, the debt service would not increase from the existing warrant. He gave Council details of all documents enclosed in the ordinance. The warrant closing date is February 12, 2003, which is fixed according to Mr. Gregory. He then asked Council to adopt the ordinance at that time; however, in order to do so, City Council would have to suspend the rule. The vote must be a unanimous vote to suspend the rule. President Evans asked for a motion to suspend the rule. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw to suspend the rule in order to adopt the ordinance. A roll call vote was taken and Councilman Sexton cast the negative vote; the motion did not carry. A motion was made to place the ordinance on first reading by Councilwoman Crenshaw and seconded by Councilwoman Sewell. The motion carried with a unanimous vote of Council. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw for a called meeting, Thursday 5:00 p.m. for the express purpose on voting on the ordinance, job vacancies, School board vacancy, and the rules and procedures. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of Council.

C. Resolution -Tyus Construction Company. Mayor Perkins presented Council with a resolution which states the City of Selma invited and accepted bids during the month of January 6, 2003 through January 21, 2003 on a bid proposal of nine (9) condemned houses. The City Clerk is hereby ordered to forward a signed copy of said resolution to Tyus Construction Company, Inc. notifying the sme of the City of Selma's acceptance and approval of the bid and is hereby awarded the contract of the nine (9) condemned houses in the amount of Seven thousand, seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$7,750). A motion was made by Councilwoman Crenshaw and seconded by Councilwoman Sewell to adopt the resolution is presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with unanimous vote of Council.

D. Financial Information. Mayor Perkins presented to Council a copy of all the financial information that had been requested. Mayor Perkins stated if Council had any questions in regards to the information to let him know. Councilwoman Franklin stated she had some questions concerning checks that were written from the month of November. She asked the Mayor to provide some clarity on the list of checks and she shared her concerns about the numbers of void checks. Mayor Perkins also presented to Council a list of their Discretionary Fund balances. These balances reflect the 38% in which the Council yielded in order to balance the Budget. Mayor Perkins stated for information purposes, the allocation to the School Board is from the Property Tax and Cigarette Tax.

E. Retail Lounge Liquor License. Mayor Perkins presented to Council a Retail Liquor License application on behalf of Ms. Jeannie D. Gullet Blevins for "Cheers" located at 1105 Broad Street. Mayor Perkins stated Police Chief, Robert Green,

I. MAYOR'S REPORT

Presented the application to him with a recommendation for approval; however, his recommendation does come with reservations. Mayor Perkins asked Council to approve the application base on the recommendation from Chief Green. A motion was made by Councilwoman Crenshaw and seconded by Councilwoman Sewell to approve for this application. The motion carried with unanimous vote of Council.

F. CH2M Hill. Mayor Perkins presented Council with invoices from CH2M Hill, and requested approval for payment. Mayor Perkins stated that the Council had already approved the contract and the work had begun. A motion was made by Councilwoman Franklin and seconded by Councilman Durry to approve the invoice for payment. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried with a majority vote of Council. Councilwoman Martin abstained from voting.

G. City Clerk, Finance Director, City Treasurer Position. Mayor Perkins presented Valeria Jones, Personnel Director, to Council. Ms. Jones informed Council that ninety-two (92) applicants had applied for the three (3) positions, which are vacancies.

H. Historic Ordinance 027-02/03. Mayor Perkins presented the Ordinance to City Council for adoption. A motion was made by Councilwoman Martin and seconded by Councilwoman Sewell to pass the Ordinance as presented. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried with unanimous vote of Council.

II. ATTORNEY'S REPORTS

A. Phoenix Building. Attorney Nunn stated that the real estate closing on the purchase of the Phoenix Building would be soon.

B. Graystone Motel Claim. Attorney Nunn stated Mr. Patel who is alleging damage caused by the sewage that backed up into the rooms at his motel on January 10th, 11th and 12th, 2003 has filed a claim on behalf of Graystone Motel. Mr. Patel is alleging damages in the amount of Three Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$3,650). Attorney Nunn stated he negotiated with Mr. Patel on the depreciation of the carpet and he is in agreement in accepting Two Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$2,650) for the settlement of the claim. For that reason, Attorney Nunn recommended that the City of Selma approved payment of this claim. A motion was made by Councilwoman Franklin and seconded by Councilman Durry to accept Attorney Nunn recommendation to pay the claim. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried with unanimous vote of Council.

C. Water Sewer Board Appointment Salaries. Attorney Nunn stated he had previously presented an ordinance as it relates to the appointment and salaries of the Water Board. Attorney Nunn stated he is requesting Council approve a resolution to seek clarification as it relates to the appointment and salaries from the Attorney General Office. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilwoman Martin to seek clarification on this issue as it relates to the appointment and salaries. The motion carried with a majority vote of Council. There was one abstention.

II. ATTORNEY'S REPORTS

D. Selma City School Board Appointment and Terms. Attorney Nunn stated, after some research, the Council would need to appoint four (4) new members to the School Board. After some discussion from Council members, Attorney Nunn stated he would provide more detail at the next Council meeting.

E. Unsightly Billboards. Attorney Nunn stated he would provide more information concerning unsightly billboards, at the next Council meeting.

III. RULES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE UPDATE

Councilwoman Sewell stated she and the committee had not had an opportunity to meet; however, they plan to meet on Thursday, January 30, 2003 at 4:00 p.m.

IV. HOMELESS SHELTER

President Evans stated that the Council has engaged in some discussion about trying to join in with some other organization and the City in obtaining a Homeless Shelter. He also stated that it was too late in the year; however, he hopes to address this matter so that by next November the Council could join with someone to establish a Homeless Shelter in our city.

IV. SELMA PROMISE

Councilwoman Sewell and Councilwoman Martin announced the status of the Selma Promise web site activation. They invited everyone to attend the program on Wednesday, January 29, 2003 at 9:30 a.m. in the Selma Convention Center. Councilwoman Sewell stated that Selma is indeed a "City of Promise", and, that the Promise is founded on (5) basic principles. Councilwoman Martin stated that the Mayor, Council members, schools, and colleges had all been invited.

VI. YOUTH – IN- GOVERNMENT DAY

Councilwoman Sewell stated that Wednesday, January 30, 2003 would be observed as "Youth-In-Government" Day. Selma's brightest, young people will be assigned to each department through the city to observe the internal working of city government. The Youth-In-Government members will begin at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast and end at 3:00 p.m. Councilwoman Sewell is asking all department heads and elected officials for their full cooperation. She also reminded everyone that these students are our future leaders.

VII. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recreation Committee Report

Councilman Durry stated that the Recreation Department is getting ready to begin softball and baseball season. He is asking all those with interested to please volunteer for positions as coaches. He also stated that the ball field had received the new lights.

Administrative Committee Report

Councilwoman Crenshaw stated that the next committee meeting would be Thursday, January 30, 2003. All members are encouraged to attend.

Public Safety Committee Report

There was no report from the Public Safety Committee.

Community Development Committee Report

Councilwoman Martin reported that and Mayor Perkins were co-chairs of the Leadership Alabama Retreat, January 23-25, 2003. The theme was Diversity – the Many Faces of Selma. More than 50 prominent Alabama citizens of the Leadership Alabama Class of 2002-2003 attended. Other City Council Alumni members are Councilwoman Nancy Sewell and Councilwoman Rita S. Franklin.

Public Works and General Service Committee Report

There was no report from the Public Works and General Services Committee.

Discretionary Fund Committee Report

Councilwoman Sewell presented seven requests from individuals for discretionary Funds. She asked that Council members aid these individuals at will.

Ms. Tina Price

Ms. Tina Price came before Council asking members to attend a planning meeting on March 7th at 5:00 p.m. for Friends of Montgomery Trail Association.

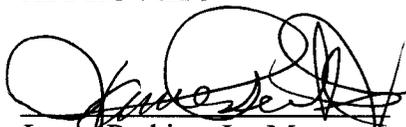
There being no other business to come before the Council, on motion made and duly seconded, the Council voted by unanimous consent to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.


George P. Evans, President

ATTEST:


Sequita R. Oliver, Interim City Clerk

APPROVED:


James Perkins, Jr., Mayor