

MINUTES OF THE
SELMA CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 11, 2018
5:00 P.M.

Call to Order

Invocation: Councilwoman Miah T. Jackson,
Ward 3

Pledge of Allegiance

The Selma City Council met in a regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Tuesday, December 11, 2018, at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The Selma City Council met in a regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Tuesday, December 11, 2018, with the following Council Members present during roll call: Council President Corey D. Bowie, and Council Members, Councilwoman Susan M. Youngblood, Councilwoman Miah Tolbert-Jackson, Councilwoman Angela Benjamin, Councilman Johnnie Leashore, Councilwoman Jannie Thomas, and Councilman Michael Johnson. City Clerk Ivy S. Harrison was also present. Councilman Carl Bowline was absent during roll call, but arrived at 5:14 p.m. Councilman Samuel Randolph was absent during roll call, but arrived at 5:33 p.m.

*The "Character Trait" for this Month is "Compassion":
Investing Whatever is Necessary to Heal the Hurts of Others.*

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council President Bowie stated at this time, the "Chair" will entertain a motion to approve the Agenda, and asked for a "motion" from the "floor". A motion was made by Councilwoman Youngblood, and seconded by Councilman Johnson, to approve the agenda, as written. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council President Bowie stated to Council that they should have before them, Consent Agenda Items, that he emailed to them on yesterday. President Bowie further stated that he would like to "add" for consideration, an additional "Item"; to Approve Resolution #R118-18/19, T-Mobile's Request to Modify Equipment. President Bowie further stated to Council that they can remove an Item, or Items, from the Consent Agenda, at any point and time if they would like to, for more discussion of said Item and/or Items, and to vote on separately. President Bowie stated to Council that they have before them a Total of Four (4) Items, for consideration.

President Bowie named the List of Items placed on Consent Agenda, as follows:

- (1) To Approve Resolution #R116-18/19 - Authorizing the City of Selma to Receive a Delta Regional Authority Grant in the Amount of \$86,080.00 to Go Towards Rehabilitating Draining in the Laforet Subdivision in Ward 2.
- (2) To Approve Resolution #R117-18/19 - Authorizing the City of Selma to Enter Into an Agreement with Hogg Stone Associates and Engineering, Incorporated, for Professional Engineering Design

- and Construction for the LaForet Subdivision Rehabilitating Drainage Project in the Amount of \$12,476.00.
- (3) To Approve a Retail Beer, Off Premises License, and a Quarterly Comprehensive Review of AJ's One Stop.
 - (4) To Approve Resolution #R118-18/19 - To Approve For a Special Use Permit to Modify an Existing Facility by T-Mobile for 2614 Citizens Parkway.

Council President Bowie asked for a "motion" from the "floor" to approve the Four (4) Items on Consent Agenda. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Youngblood, and seconded by Councilman Bowline, to "add" Consent Agenda Item #4 above, and to also approve and adopt all Four (4) Items on Consent Agenda. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed by a majority vote of the Council Members present. There were five affirmative votes for all Consent Agenda Items. There were two nay votes for Consent Agenda Item #3. Councilwoman Jackson and Councilwoman Benjamin cast a nay vote for Consent Agenda Item #3. During roll call, Councilwoman Jackson stated, "All, but #3. As you are aware, I do not vote for Alcoholic Beverage Licenses." During roll call, Councilwoman Benjamin stated, "No to #3, Yes, for the remaining Items."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After approval of the agenda, Council President Bowie stated to the Council that they should have before them Two (2) Sets of Minutes; the November 19, 2018 Special Call Meeting Minutes, and the November 27, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes, and hopefully Everyone has had an opportunity to peruse the Minutes. President Bowie asked if there were any "corrections"? Councilman Leashore answered, and stated that during the discussion on the "motion" he made as it relates to foregoing One (1) Year of the Council's Salary, he had stated a number of reasons "why", and that he had also discussed that every summer we have 500 of our Children assembled at the Children, and anticipating a job. Councilman Leashore further stated that we don't dismiss all "500" of those Children just because we don't have jobs to offer, and that he would like that "discussion" to be made a part of the record in the "November 27, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes". With that "correction", President Bowie asked the "pleasure" of the Council, in terms of whether they want to vote on both sets of Minutes simultaneously, or separately? A motion was made by Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilwoman Youngblood, to approve the said sets of Minutes. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council Members present. There were six affirmative votes for both sets of Minutes, and one abstention, for the November 27th Council Meeting Minutes. President Bowie abstained from voting on the November 27, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes. During roll call, President Bowie stated, "Yes, for November 19th; I abstain on the November 27th Minutes, because I wasn't here."

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

President Bowie stated, at this point and time, we are going to have a "Special Presentation" and asked that Mrs. Carolyn Bates, Former Dallas County School Board Member, come forward, to be presented with a "Token of Appreciation". President Bowie also asked Councilman Johnson and Councilman Leashore to please come down, to be a part of the Presentation. On behalf of the Selma City Council, President Bowie, Councilman Johnson, and Councilman Leashore presented Mrs. Carolyn Bates, Former County School Board Member, with a Plaque, as a "Token of Appreciation", in "Honor" of her Commitment and Dedication to Many Years of Service to the Children of the City of Selma, and Dallas County. "Warm Remarks and Thanks" were expressed to Mrs. Bates by President Bowie and the Council Members. Mrs. Bates "Thanked" the Council and Citizens of Selma and Dallas County for this "Honor and Recognition". A "Round of Applause" was extended to Mrs. Carolyn Bates! We "Congratulate" and "Offer" Best Wishes to Mrs. Carolyn Bates in "Recognition" of this "Honor"!

INTRODUCTION

President Bowie asked Mrs. Juanda Maxwell, to come forward, to "Introduce" to us, the "New" CEO of the Y.M.C.A. Mrs. Maxwell stated to Council, that they probably saw recently in the Newspaper, that they have an "addition" to their "name" which is now, Selma-Dallas County Grist-Brown Memorial Y.M.C.A. Walker-Johnson Family Center. Mrs. Maxwell "Introduced" Mr. Leonard Speed, the "New CEO" of the Grist-Brown Memorial Y.M.C.A. of Selma-Dallas County, who comes to us from Graystone, in Birmingham, as the Former Executive Director. Mr. Speed addressed the Council, and "Thanked" them for allowing him the opportunity to come before the Council, to speak on tonight. Mr. Speed stated that he is "humble" for being here, and that he looks forward to working with the Children; helping the Youth to achieve Math and Reading Skills, and to provide many opportunities to our Children. The Council and Citizens "Welcomed" Mr. Speed, into our Community, and "Thanked" him for coming to our City!

MAYOR'S REPORT (NO REPORT DURING TONIGHT'S COUNCIL MEETING.)

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT (NO REPORT DURING TONIGHT'S COUNCIL MEETING.)

BUSINESS ITEMS:

I. 10TH ANNUAL END OF YEAR STATE OF THE WARD ADDRESS AND CITIZEN RECOGNITIONS' EVENT

Councilwoman Benjamin "Announced" that the "10th Annual End-of-Year State of the Ward Address for Ward 4, and Citizen Recognitions' Event" will be held on Monday, December 17, 2018, at the Performing Arts Center, beginning at 4:00 p.m. Councilwoman Benjamin "Invited" Everyone to attend, and asked that, we "please" come.

II. WARD 4 DITCH PROJECT, PHASE II

This Item is *Continued* until the next Work Session, per Councilwoman Benjamin.

III. WARD 4 SIGN & CAMERA PROJECT

This Item is *Continued* until the next Work Session, per Councilwoman Benjamin.

IV. UPDATE ON WORK ORDER REQUESTS

Councilwoman Benjamin asked President Bowie, if he had any "updates" on the Work Order Requests, and he stated that he did not. Councilwoman Benjamin stated that she thinks that they need to start "contracting" these Projects out, via Oil Lease Funds.

V. WARD 4 10TH ANNUAL NURSING HOME HOLIDAY

Councilwoman Benjamin "Announced" that the "Ward 4 10th Annual Nursing Home Holiday" is scheduled for Christmas Eve, December 24, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. Everyone is "Invited"!

VI. 9TH ANNUAL ADOPT-A-HOSPITAL FLOOR

Councilwoman Benjamin "Announced" that the "9th Annual Adopt-A-Hospital Floor" is scheduled for Sunday, December 23, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. Councilwoman Benjamin asked the Council Members to, please let her know if any of the Council Members are participating; that a "couple" of Council Members have already told her that they would be participating.

VII. PREVIOUSLY-SHARED NOTES FROM MEETING WITH MAYOR

Councilwoman Benjamin stated that she sent each of the Council Members a Text Message because sometimes they don't get the email, with all of the "notes" that she went over with the Mayor, which includes the "suggestions and recommendations" that came out of the Meeting with the Mayor. President Bowie stated that this Item will be put into the Finance Committee, for a Meeting just for this Item.

VIII. EMPLOYEE LAYOFF

Councilwoman Benjamin stated to Council that she was doing a "follow-up" concerning the Unemployment; that she did talk to a couple of Employees and they are awaiting a card in the mail. President Bowie stated to Council that, at the end of "December", it probably would help them to find out how much money has the City saved with the Employees being laid off? Councilwoman Benjamin also asked President Bowie, if they could find out the comparison of the cost of the Employees being "laid off", versus having them still working, what that cost would be for Unemployment? Councilwoman Benjamin suggested to Council, that they do a comparison and see what those "numbers" look like, as well. During discussion, a motion was made by President Bowie, and seconded by Councilwoman Benjamin, to request a cost comparison and savings, to see how much we are saving from the Employee Lay Off. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

IX. PRIVATE CITIZEN MEETING - HOSTED BY COUNCILWOMAN ANGELA BENJAMIN

Councilwoman Benjamin stated to Council that, during the Work Session, she "announced" that there will be a "Private Citizen Meeting" concerning a lot of things, and that as soon as a "location" of the meeting has been determined, that she will be "texting" the "location and time" of the "Private Citizen Meeting".

X. DUE PROCESS

Councilman Randolph stated that the Police Officers that have been laid off, or put on Administrative Leave because of the allegations against the Police Chief, which have been turned over to the Attorney General's Office, have not been found guilty, but they're not getting paid. Councilman Randolph further stated that he thinks that it is a violation of their "Due Process". Councilman Randolph stated that they have not had a Personnel Board Hearing, and City Government is set up whereby any Employee that is laid off, or terminated, has a right to a Personnel Hearing. Councilman Randolph further stated that the Mayor is controlling the Personnel Board, and will not allow them to have a Personnel Board Meeting, and that this is unfair to the Police Officers. Councilwoman Benjamin asked President Bowie, if he could find out who's getting paid and not working, from the Police Chief, on down to the Captain's position; that she wants to know who is working, and also being paid, when the position has been defunded. Councilwoman Jackson stated to Council that, just as a "Reminder", they were advised by Legal Counsel, not to address certain matters, and that she would just like to "caution" Everyone about this. Councilwoman Benjamin stated that she would just like to mention that, when they speak on "performance", that they don't have to be in a "private setting" to do that; that there are some things that they should not "speak" on but, that in this case, they're speaking on "performance". Councilman Leashore stated that "Immunity" doesn't exist when there is a "Lawsuit". Councilman Leashore further stated that he would like to "caution" his Colleagues, to be very careful in what they are saying. Councilman Randolph asked the Council Members, if they were saying that, these charges that have been brought on the Police Officers, that they are supposed to "sit back and not say anything about it"? Councilman Randolph stated that he does not understand, and that he does not think that it's right. Councilwoman Jackson stated to Council, if the "Attorney" took time to advise them, that they should take his advice. Councilman Bowline asked, did they ever hear back from the Attorney, regarding the other situation that they were talking about? President Bowie answered, and stated, "Yes", and that he will be following up with him on what was said.

XI. POLICIES RECENTLY PASSED BY COUNCIL

Councilman Randolph stated that the Council requested information as a "Body", and that they are still not getting information that has been requested. Councilman Randolph asked, "Are they going to sit back and be quiet on that, too"? President Bowie answered, and "Reminded" Councilman Randolph about the conversation that they he had with him on this morning.

XII. TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Councilman Randolph stated that he has "great" concerns about Councilwoman Benjamin being reimbursed for her travel expenses, especially her hotel expenses. Councilman Randolph asked Councilwoman Benjamin, if she had received her reimbursement? Councilwoman Benjamin answered, and stated, "No", and that when this matter was brought up during the last Council Meeting, Councilman Leashore advised that she go down and speak with the Finance Department. Councilwoman Benjamin further stated that she did go to the Finance Department, and that she spoke with Mrs. Oliver, and sent the information via email. Councilwoman Benjamin stated, as of today, she has not received her reimbursement for travel. Councilwoman Benjamin further stated that she would like her reimbursement. Councilman Randolph stated that this is not right. Councilwoman Benjamin asked President Bowie, if he would include her request for reimbursement for travel expenses, in his writing to the Mayor, also.

XIII. SEWAGE PROBLEMS

Councilwoman Thomas stated that Mr. Ray Hogg has started on today, in Ward 7, working on the sewage problems in her Ward.

XIV. PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS

Councilwoman Thomas stated that she is still concerned about the "Public Safety" "issue" in her Ward, and that they have been trying to meet with the Chief of Police. Councilwoman Thomas further stated that when the meetings are scheduled to meet with him, he is never in, but that she is going to continue to work on this "issue".

XV. PUBLIC BUILDING CONCERNS

Councilwoman Thomas stated that there are some things that were put in place regarding all of the Public Buildings. Councilwoman Thomas stated that locks were changed, and doors were put up, and that there are procedures in place, whereby any changes on the doors, etc. are supposed to come before the Council for approval, but it never happened. Councilwoman Thomas further stated that it was never brought to the Council that the doors and locks would be changed, nor codes put on doors, that would lock Everybody out. Councilwoman Thomas stated that she did her research, and nothing has come before the Council, as it relates to this, and that all of these things have been done, "in disrespect; that we all have a place as far as duties are concerned", and it seems as if they are not getting the "respect", as "Leaders". Councilwoman Thomas stated that they have to "wait and wait", on someone to allow them to come in a door, and that she thinks that this is not fair to our Citizens to have to go through this, if they want to go in and talk to someone. Councilwoman Thomas stated to President Bowie, that she has mentioned this matter to him before, that they need to do some changes as it relates to this matter; with the locks on the doors because it doesn't look good, or feel good, that they have to stand outside and "wait and wait" until someone comes to the door, to handle some of the issues within their Wards. Councilwoman Thomas further stated that they have some serious issues that are going on in their Wards, and if there is no one to address the issue, they can't get it done. Councilwoman Thomas stated that this is not fair to the Citizens to have to go through this.

XVI. POT HOLES IN WARD 7

Councilwoman Thomas stated to President Bowie that there is a huge pot hole in her Ward, and that she would like for him to do a drive-through to see it; that it is on 10th Avenue, off of Summerfield Road.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS/COUNCIL REMARKS

RECREATION COMMITTEE - Councilman Michael Johnson, Chairperson

Made a report./Closing Remarks.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE - Councilman Carl Bowline, Chairperson

No Report./Closing Remarks.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE - Council President Corey D. Bowie, Chairperson

Made a report./Closing Remarks.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - Councilwoman Susan Youngblood, Chairperson

Made a report. (During her Report, Councilwoman Youngblood stated to President Bowie that Mr. Henry Thompson of the Planning & Development Office, needs something in "writing", as it relates to getting the Van painted and ready for the "Journey" Program, and that she has "drafted" a Resolution for him to sign.)/Closing Remarks.

PUBLIC WORKS/GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE - Councilman Johnnie Leashore, Chairperson

No Report./Closing Remarks.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - Councilwoman Miah Jackson, Chairperson

Made a report./Closing Remarks.

SELMA-DALLAS YOUTH AMBASSADORS - Councilman Johnnie Leashore, Chairperson

No Report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Council President Corey D. Bowie, Chairperson

Made a report. (During his Report, President Bowie stated that they will be having a Finance Committee Meeting to discuss Councilwoman Benjamin's Recommendations, and other "Matters", and also informed the Council that "RDS" will be coming before the Council, at some point in the near future.)

Made a report./Closing Remarks.

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT - Councilman Samuel Randolph, Chairperson

No Report./Closing Remarks. (During his Closing Remarks, Councilman Randolph stated that he wanted to "Thank" Everyone who came today to assist with the "Christmas Give-a-Way"; that he "partnered" with the "Guys and Girls Club" who helped to make this effort a great success! Councilman Randolph stated that they fed over 250 Dinners!)

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE - Councilwoman Angela Benjamin, Chairperson

No Report./Closing Remarks.

NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING - JANUARY 8, 2019 - 5:00 P.M.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE, AND HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Councilwoman Benjamin, and seconded by Councilman Leashore, to adjourn, and by unanimous consent of the Council, this meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.



COREY D. BOWIE, *Council President*

ATTEST:



IVY B. HARRISON, *City Clerk*

APPROVED:



DARRIO MELTON, *Mayor*