

MINUTES OF THE  
SELMA CITY COUNCIL  
MAY 14, 2019  
5:00 P.M.

Call to Order

Invocation: Councilwoman Miah Jackson,  
Ward 3

Pledge of Allegiance

The Selma City Council met in a regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, 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, May 14, 2019, with the following Council Members present during roll call: Council President Corey D. Bowie, and Council Members, Councilman Carl Bowline, Councilwoman Miah Tolbert-Jackson, Councilman Samuel Randolph, Councilman Johnnie Leashore, Councilwoman Jannie Thomas, and Councilman Michael Johnson. City Clerk Ivy S. Harrison was also present, and the City Treasurer, Ronita Wade. Councilwoman Susan M. Youngblood was absent during roll call, but arrived at 5:04 p.m. Councilwoman Angela Benjamin was absent during roll call, but arrived at 5:05 p.m.

*The "Character Trait" for this Month is "Justice":  
Taking Personal Responsibility to Uphold What is Pure, Right, and True.*

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 Councilman Bowline, 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, a Total of Eight (8) Items, for consideration. 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 named the List of Items placed on Consent Agenda, as follows:

- (1) To Approve Resolution #R129-18/19, Declaring 26 Unneeded Pieces of Property as Surplus Within the Selma Police Department.
- (2) To Approve Resolution #R130-18/19 for the 2019 "Back-to-School" Sales Tax Holiday, Beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, July 19, 2019, and Ending at 12:00 Midnight, on Sunday, July 21, 2019.
- (3) To Approve Resolution #R131-18/19, Declaring the Month of May, 2019, as Mental Health Awareness Month.

- (4) To Approve the SRO Agreement Between the City of Selma and the Selma City School System. (The Selma City School System will pay for Two (2) SRO Officers and the City of Selma will pay for One (1) SRO Officer already "Earmarked" in the Police Department Budget, and the other SRO Officer will be paid via Grant Funding.)
- (5) To Approve a Fee Waiver for the Convention Center for the 2020 Dallas County Job Task Force Job Fair, Scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2020.
- (6) To Approve Resolution #R133/18/19, The Barrett Road (Old Orrville Road) Drainage System Project Through the State Revolving Loan Program with Oil Lease Funding as an Additional Means to Fund the Project.
- (7) To Approve Resolution #R132-18/19, Seeking an Attorney General's Opinion About Oil Lease Funds Being Used for Overgrown Lots.
- (8) To Approve Kustom Kreations, a "Loading and Unloading" Parking Space.

President Bowie stated, at this point and time, the "Chair" would entertain a "motion" to adopt and approve all Eight (8) Items for Consent Agenda. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilwoman Youngblood, to approve and adopt all Eight (8) Items on Consent Agenda. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed by a unanimous vote of the Council.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After approval of the agenda, Council President Bowie stated to the Council that they should have before them the April 23, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes, and hopefully Everyone has had an opportunity to peruse the Minutes. President Bowie asked if there were any "corrections"? With there being no "corrections", President Bowie stated that the "Chair" would entertain a motion to adopt the Minutes of April 23, 2019. A motion was made by Councilwoman Youngblood, and seconded by Councilman Bowline, to approve and adopt the April 23, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed by a unanimous vote of the Council.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Bowie asked Police Chief Collier to come forward, and address the Council. President Bowie stated that he would like to "Recognize" and "Thank" Chief Spencer Collier, along with the Selma Police Department, who did a terrific job at handling the situation at Selma High School last week. This "Recognition" received a "Round of Applause". Chief Collier "Thanked" President Bowie and the Council for this "Recognition".

Councilman Bowline stated that he would like to "Thank" the Council for moving forward on the Drainage Project in Ward 1.

Councilman Johnson "Announced" to Everyone that the American Legion Post 324 and Mr. Benson Webb, Commander, will be hosting a Clean-Up Service Project on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, Memorial Day Weekend, at the Lorenzo Harrison Memorial Gardens, beginning at 8:00 a.m., until. Councilman Johnson stated that they are "inviting" the Public, Family Members and Citizens, and would like Everyone's support in this effort. Councilman Johnson further stated that they are also planning to place a "Flag" on all Veterans buried at Lorenzo Harrison Memorial Gardens, to "Honor" them. Councilman Johnson asked Everyone to come out and be a part, and if there are any questions, asked that Mr. Benson Webb be contacted at 334/324-4407, or Mr. Dennis Fluker, at 334/208-2913. Councilman Johnson stated that he wanted to also "Thank" Rev. Strong and the Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church for an "Awesome" Mother's Day Dinner, that they "Hosted", on this past "Mother's Day"!

Councilwoman Benjamin "Thanked" Councilman Johnson for this "Announcement", and stated that she is glad to hear that the entire Cemetery is going to be cut and cleaned. Councilwoman Benjamin stated that she, along with her Dad and Family Members, did a lot of cleaning in the Cemetery on this past weekend, as well. Councilwoman Benjamin stated that she wanted to "remind" Everyone of the "Jazz on the Grass" Event, which is always scheduled the "3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday" in June; June 15<sup>th</sup> (Father's Day), at Phoenix Park, beginning at Twelve O' Clock Noon! Councilwoman Benjamin stated that Ward 4 will be having a "Special Ward Meeting" coming up, for Magnolia 1, Magnolia 2, and Magnolia Senior Village, to discuss issues. Councilwoman Benjamin further stated that there were "Two Ribbon Cuttings" of Two Young People on last week, and that they showed "Two Teenagers", what the Community looks like when Young People sets their minds on opening up businesses, and sharing their "Visions" with Selma. Councilwoman Benjamin stated that it was a great representation of what Selma looked like, and so many People were there to represent this "Ribbon Cutting"! Councilwoman Benjamin stated that her Son, Kamau, was so amazed, and hadn't stopped talking about it yet; that he stated, "Mama, I had 7 of the 9 Council Members at my Ribbon Cutting!" Councilwoman Benjamin "Thanked" all of the Council Members and Citizens, for coming out and being a part of this great "Celebration", and supporting these "Young People". Councilman Leashore stated that he would like to ask the Council, to consider allowing, "Mr. Kamau", to do the Council's Group Photo, the next time that they could get together and do one. The Council Concurred with Councilman Leashore.

Councilwoman Thomas stated to Chief Collier that Tabernacle Baptist Church will be having a "Community Day" in the near future, and that they are also requesting that the Street be blocked off. Chief Collier asked Councilwoman Thomas to make sure he gets the information on it, as soon as the date is set, and she stated that she would make sure that it is forwarded to him. Councilwoman Thomas stated that she would like to apologize to the Citizens in her Ward; that the "First Week" in the Month of May, they usually have a "Community Day", at Selma University. Councilwoman Thomas stated that they will be having it, but at a later date. Councilwoman Thomas stated that she also wanted to apologize to Citizens in her Ward; that they were supposed to have a Ward Meeting during the week that she was out of town. Councilwoman Thomas stated that she will be rescheduling the Ward Meeting for a later date.

Councilman Randolph stated that he just wanted to "remind" the Citizens of our "10 O' Clock Praise" Party which is part of the "One Hot Summer Series". Councilman Randolph stated that it is the "First Friday", in June, June 7<sup>th</sup>, starting at "10 O' Clock", in front of On Time Fashions. Councilman Randolph stated that this Event will be, "Having a Party for Jesus", and he's inviting Everybody to come out and be a part of this "Great Event!

Councilwoman Youngblood stated to Council that she would like to ask Rev. Leodis Strong, Pastor, of Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church, to come forward, as it relates to "Re-Tracing the Journey" Project. Councilwoman Youngblood stated that she would like to bring an "update" to the Council, as it relates to this, and stated that she thinks that we have found a "Home" for the "Re-Tracing the Journey" Project. Councilwoman Youngblood further stated that the City will be working in conjunction with Brown Chapel. Councilwoman Youngblood stated that they will be starting at Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church, and then going to the Interpretive Center, with a "Tour Guide" provided by the "Foot Soldiers" that work there. Councilwoman Youngblood stated that we will be "partnering" with Brown Chapel, and that she also has a "Proposal" to ask for some funding assistance. Councilwoman Youngblood further stated that there was a meeting with Rev. Strong last week, and that it was a great meeting; that she thinks that it is going to be a great "Partnership". Rev. Strong addressed the Council, and stated that he would like to "Thank" Mrs. Youngblood as she "spearheads" this, on behalf of a "Joint" effort for Everyone. Rev. Strong further stated that what Councilwoman Youngblood is doing, allows them to "tap" into a "rich reservoir" of resources that he thinks will not only be a Blessing for Brown Chapel, but for the whole City of Selma. Rev. Strong "Thanked" Councilwoman Youngblood, and the Council, for what they are doing! Councilwoman Youngblood and the Council "Thanked" Rev. Strong!

President Bowie stated that he would like to ask the Blackmon Family to come forward, and that he would like to, on behalf of the City of Selma, present a Resolution, naming both Daughters as "Ambassadors for the City of Selma". President Bowie read said Resolution in its entirety. President Bowie and the Council made remarks, and "Congratulated" Mr. and Mrs. Blackmon, and their Lovely Daughters, "Little Miss Haley and Little Miss Sarah", on behalf of this "Recognition"! Comments and remarks were also made by Mr. David Blackmon, and "Little Miss Haley"! "Little Miss Sarah" will be participating in the "Little Miss Alabama Pageant" in July, 2019, in Orlando, Florida! This "Recognition" was received with a "Round of Applause"! We appreciate "Little Miss Sarah" and "Little Miss Haley", and extend our "Best Wishes" to them!

#### CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

Richard Allen Watters  
M.O.R.E. (Motivating Others & Revitalizing the Environment)  
Re: Clean-Up Day, Saturday

Mr. Watters, SGA President, Morgan Academy, addressed the Council, and stated that there will be a "Clean-Up Day" at Old Live Cemetery on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 8:00 a.m., until 10:00 a.m. Mr. Watters stated that this "Clean-Up" Campaign will be led by "Morgan Academy SGA, Morgan Academy Football Team, and Councilwoman Miah Jackson, Ward 3". Mr. Watters further stated that he would like to "encourage" Everyone to come out, and show their support, for our Community! During his Presentation, Mr. Watters also stated that the "Clean-Up" Committee is in need of the following supplies: Rakes, Trash Bags, Weed Eaters, Push Lawn Mowers, Hedge Clippers, and Leaf Blowers. Mr. Watters stated that any assistance with the supplies to make Saturday run more smoothly, would be greatly appreciated! Mr. Watters reminded Everyone that Morgan Academy's SGA would continue to work with Selma throughout the 2020 School Year, to help make Selma a better place, and further stated, "The Youth in Selma is energetic, and ready to make a change for the better, in the community that we all Love. Let us work on troubles of today, but let us rejoice in the beauty of tomorrow." President Bowie and the Council "Thanked" Mr. Watters, and the SGA of Morgan Academy, for taking the "Initiative", to work on this Project! Councilwoman Jackson also "Thanked" the Committee for allowing her to be a part of this Project!

MAYOR'S REPORT: NO REPORT DURING TONIGHT'S COUNCIL MEETING.

#### FINANCE REPORT

President Bowie and the Council "Welcomed" Ms. Ronita Wade back which was received with a "Round of Applause". Ms. Wade addressed the Council, and "Thanked" the Council and Citizens for the Warm Welcome! Ms. Wade stated that she is glad to be back, and that we have Three (3) Reports to cover, from February, 2019

- April, 2019, but that she will try to "run" through the Reports as briefly as she can, but if Council has questions, to please feel free to "stop" her; as she goes along with the "reporting". Ms. Wade stated that she will start with the Sales Tax Report for February, 2019; Sales Tax for February, 2019, was \$706,502.47, and in comparison to FY 2018, it's down by \$71,000.00; Lodging Tax was \$23,900.59 for February, 2019, up by \$1,623.85; Tobacco Tax was \$221,033.97, up by \$10,404.00; Lodging Surcharge Tax was \$5,520.35; up by \$770.00; Sales Tax (½ Cent) was \$88,312.80, down by \$8,926.00; and, Simplified Seller Use Tax was \$27,723.00, up by \$11,273.23, 2018. Ms. Wade stated that the February, 2019, Total Revenue Received, was \$8,819,130.23, Y-T-D, \$12,308,659.01; Total Expenditures for the General Fund, for February 28, 2019, \$8,769,183.02. Ms. Wade reported for March, 2019, as follows: Sales Tax for March, 2019, was \$800,193.90, up by \$44,381.98 from the prior year; Lodging Tax was \$25,040.49, up by \$421.77 from the previous year; Tobacco Tax for March, 2019, was \$22,571.82, down by \$3,458.80; Lodging Surcharge Tax was \$11,538.41, down by \$181.63; Sales Tax (½ Cent) was \$100,024.23, up by \$5,547.73 from the previous year; Simplified Seller Use Tax was \$37,309.38, up by \$25,962.72 from the previous year. Councilman Randolph asked Ms. Wade what is the Simplified Seller Use Tax? Ms. Wade answered, and stated that, it represents "Online Purchases". Ms. Wade stated that the Total Revenue for the General Fund, is \$13,683,811.41 Y-T-D, Total Expenditures, \$11,275,713.27. Ms. Wade further stated that the Total Revenue for March, 2019, was \$10,014,727.18; Total Expenditures for March, 2019, was \$7,214,522.00. Councilman Leashore asked for a status of bills being paid? Ms. Wade answered, and stated that, per the Accounting Manager, she was told that as of January, 2019, all of the bills were paid, and there are no outstanding bills, other than what is currently due for the month. Ms. Wade further stated that, according to the Accounting Manager, all bills were paid, and current, as of January, 2019. Ms. Wade stated that the only bills that are due are the ones that are due for the current month; that we are not more than 30 - 60 days past due on our accounts. Councilwoman Youngblood stated that she has a bill that has not been paid. Ms. Wade asked Councilwoman Youngblood to please forward the invoice that she is referring to, and that she will check into it for her. Councilwoman Benjamin asked Ms. Wade, if we have been taking in more than we have spent, according to the "numbers" she just reported on? Ms. Wade answered, and stated, according to the reports that she has received, that is correct. Councilwoman Jackson asked Ms. Wade, if it is consistent that we take in more money around this time of year? Ms. Wade answered, and stated, "No"; that in some areas, maybe, but overall, the income is down from where we were in the last couple of years. Ms. Wade further stated that she would have to do an analysis, and take an evaluation, and further, that she intends to look into Payroll; that she would research it further, in order to give the Council a better understanding. Ms. Wade stated that she intends to look into our Payroll, being that it is the largest part of the Budget, and our spending, to see what areas are "overspent", and to see if we're spending a lot in "overtime". Councilwoman Jackson stated that she has received an email concerning the grass not being cut in the City, and complaining about the City Workers being laid off. Ms. Wade further stated that she has been researching Payroll, and that there are some salaries that were not in the Budget, but continue to be on the Budget for those "high-paying" salaries, and that 2 or 3 of those could easily transition about 2 or 3 Public Works' Employees back to work. Councilwoman Jackson stated to Ms. Wade that, it appears that she was able to have access to the accounts, in order to give the Council a report. Ms. Wade *Concurred*, and stated that, as of this morning, she was able to access the Payroll. Ms. Wade "Thanked" Mayor Melton for allowing her to have access into the Payroll Account. Ms. Wade stated that she has pulled up the account, and has observed some discrepancies, and that she will be working with the Personnel Department, to find out what they are. Ms. Wade further stated that typically there is a "check and balance system" between the Personnel Department and the Finance Department, that was developed as far back as when the former Personnel Director, Mr. Jim Herring, was here. Ms. Wade stated, from her understanding, in her absence, her Staff indicated that they are no longer receiving that information; that it is no longer coming to the Department. Ms. Wade stated that it is kind of hard to go back and find out what changes have occurred, without her taking the actual Budget, and doing a "manual check and balance"; that this is going to take a while to complete. Councilwoman Benjamin stated to Ms. Wade, that all of the things we've gone through, and we still kept our Employees; that we also went through a Recession, "Nationwide", without a lay-off. Councilwoman Benjamin further stated that it has never happened in the "History of Administration". Ms. Wade *Concurred* with Councilwoman Benjamin, and stated that we did have a Recession which happened around the Country. Ms. Wade further stated that her recommendation would be, before a lay-off, at least an attempt to do a "furlough". Ms. Wade stated that we've always had a cash flow issue; not necessarily, that we could not pay our bills. Ms. Wade further stated that it may have been a delay in paying our bills, but not that we couldn't pay our bills. Ms. Wade stated with her not being here, it is hard to determine what caused this to happen, but that the Recession happened around the Country, and that they started out with a "furlough". Ms. Wade stated that the City of Selma did a great job during that timeframe, of maintaining an "A Credit Rating", and managing to keep their Employees in place; that now we're going "down" in our "Credit Rating", and having a "lay-off". Ms. Wade stated that this affects our "Credit Rating"; "so, when we talk about building municipal complexes, and making purchases, you have to consider our 'Credit Rating', and keep these things in mind as we go along. We just have to make wise choices when it comes down to finances." Councilwoman Benjamin *Concurred*, and stated, "Absolutely. Cities around us were going 'bankrupt' during the Recession, and 'Little Selma' stayed 'afloat'". Councilwoman Benjamin asked Ms. Wade if, in the Payroll, there are positions that are still being paid, that the Council has Defunded? Ms. Wade answered, and stated, "Yes". Councilwoman Benjamin stated to President Bowie, that they, as a Counsel, need to find out what they need to do, "next", about "Defunded Positions" in the Budget, that are still being paid. Councilwoman Benjamin asked President Bowie, if their Lawyer was here on tonight? President Bowie answered, and stated, "No." Councilwoman Benjamin asked Ms. Wade if she should find anymore "Positions", or anything else, that the Counsel has removed from the Budget, as she moves through her

process, to please provide the Counsel a list, as she goes along. Councilman Leashore asked Ms. Wade to identify out of our General Fund, and bring to our next Council Meeting, annual payments that we have in terms of financial obligations, debts and the payment schedule list. Ms. Wade stated to Counsel that she will be bringing those documents, and also the Bond Payments and Capital Equipment Payments, because those are just as important, as well.

Following the above discussion, President Bowie stated that, at this point and time, we need to go into Executive Session for about 20 Minutes, to discuss Legal Matters. A motion was made by Councilwoman Benjamin, and seconded by Councilman Leashore, to "Recess" into Executive Session for about 20 Minutes, to discuss Legal Matters, at 6:07 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed by a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

Following Executive Session, a motion was made by Councilman Johnson, and seconded by Councilwoman Benjamin, to "Reconvene" back into the Council Meeting at 6:56 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

#### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS/COUNCIL REMARKS

##### RECREATION COMMITTEE - Councilman Michael Johnson, Chairperson

No Report./Made Closing Remarks.

##### ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE - Councilman Carl Bowline, Chairperson

Councilman Bowline was absent from the Council Meeting at this time.

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

Made a report. (During his report, President Bowie stated that there will be a Public Safety Committee Meeting on tomorrow at 5:00 p.m., within the Council Chambers, and that there will be a meeting with the Club Owners, beginning at 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers.)

##### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - Councilwoman Susan Youngblood, Chairperson

No Report.

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

No Report./Made Closing Remarks.

##### CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - Councilwoman Miah Jackson, Chairperson

No Report.

##### SELMA-DALLAS YOUTH AMBASSADORS - Councilman Johnnie Leashore, Chairperson

No Report.

##### FINANCE COMMITTEE - Council President Corey D. Bowie, Chairperson

Made a report./Closing Remarks. (During his report, President Bowie stated that he will be "calling" a meeting soon. President Bowie further stated that he would like to bring forth a "recommendation" that Ms. Wade and Ms. Lewis, give an "update" at our next Council Meeting. During discussion, a motion was made by President Bowie, and seconded by Councilwoman Youngblood, to request a report, and "update" from Ms. Ronita Wade, City Treasurer, and Ms. Kim Lewis, Tax Collector, at our next Council Meeting. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

##### PUBLIC BUILDINGS COMMITTEE - Councilwoman Jannie Thomas, Chairperson

Made a report. (During her report, Councilwoman Thomas stated that they are about 70 - 80% of completion with the Dallas Academy Building. Councilwoman Thomas further stated that she would like to ask the Council to move forward, and authorize Attorney Woodie Jones to do a Contract regarding the Smitherman Building; that so far they have, \$10,000.00 from the Friends of Vaughan Smitherman Building, \$13,000.00 of the Oil Lease Funds, and \$13,786.00, as Insurance Reimbursement. Councilwoman Thomas further stated that there is a traffic light that has been "coming on, and going out", on the corner of Church Street and First Avenue; that the light has been there since 1950, and the Public Works Department has been going by there to repair it, but it is beyond repair now, and needs to be replaced. Councilwoman Thomas stated that we have

to have a traffic light there, and that she talked with Ms. Wade and Mr. Hendrieth, about it; that to replace the box would be \$7,413.00. During discussion, Ms. Wade suggested that they do a Budget Amendment Transfer, in the Public Works Department.

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT - Councilman Samuel Randolph, Chairperson

No Report./Made Closing Remarks. (During his Closing Remarks, Councilman Randolph stated to President Bowie that he has no report at this time, but would like a report on the "New" Trash Trucks. Councilman Randolph further stated that he was told that we have Five (5) "New" Trucks but we don't have "Drivers". President Bowie stated that he will check into this on tomorrow.)

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE - Councilwoman Angela Benjamin, Chairperson

No Report./Made Closing Remarks. (During her Closing Remarks, Councilwoman Benjamin stated that she would like to say to the Council, "Thanks" for all of the support on last week!)

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING -- May 28, 2019 at 5:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Councilwoman Benjamin, and seconded by Councilman Johnson, to adjourn, and by unanimous consent of the Council, this meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

  
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COREY D. BOWIE, *Council President*

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
IVY S. HARRISON, *City Clerk*

APPROVED:

  
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DARRIO MELTON, *Mayor*

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED  
SELMA CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 7, 2019  
5:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

*PRESIDENT BOWIE STATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE MS. RONITA WADE,  
CITY TREASURER, AND WELCOME HER BACK WITH US!*

Invocation: Councilwoman Miah Jackson,  
Ward 3

**ROLL CALL**

The Selma City Council met in a Special Called Session on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at 5:00 p.m., with the following Council Members present during roll call: Council President Corey Bowie and Council Members, Councilman Carl Bowline, Councilwoman Susan Youngblood, Councilwoman Miah Tolbert Jackson, Councilman Samuel Randolph, Councilman Johnnie Leashore, Councilwoman Jannie Thomas, and Councilman Michael Johnson. Others present were City Clerk Ivy S. Harrison, and the City Treasurer, Ronita Wade. Councilwoman Angela Benjamin was absent during roll call, but arrived at 5:12 p.m.

President Bowie stated that the purpose of this Special Called Council Meeting is to discuss the following Business Items:

- (1) SRO/Public Safety Updates;
- (2) Fire Department Transition;
- (3) Oil Lease Funding;
- (4) Update on Lawsuits; and
- (5) Other Business Items.

A motion was made by Councilman Johnson, and seconded by Councilman Bowline, to approve the Agenda for the Special Called Meeting. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed by a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

**I. SRO/PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES.**

President Bowie asked Police Chief Spencer Collier to come forward, and address the Council. Chief Collier addressed the Council, and stated to the Council that the Council voted, and approved to move forward, on the purchase of the Police Cars, and that he also wanted to inform them that Stivers has come back, and "honored" the "quote" of \$40,999.56; roughly, \$41,000.00. Chief Collier further stated that Chevrolet has "announced" a new continuous Leasing Program, for future possibilities. Chief Collier stated that he spoke with Mr. Turner, and that he would like to have an opportunity in the future, to sit down and talk about this Program, with the Mayor, and the Council, to explain this "new" Program. Chief Collier further stated to President Bowie, and the Council, that just prior to school being dismissed this afternoon, they received a call, about a "possible" active shooter; the "threat" of, at Selma High School, through Social Media. Chief Collier stated that they notified the School Board, and that the School System did a very good job of "locking the school system down". Chief Collier further stated that they got assistance from the Dallas County Sheriff's Department, and secured the School, including all entrances into the School. Chief Collier stated that the "Suspect" was not a Student at the School. Chief Collier further stated that the School Superintendent and the School System followed their "protocol", and did a very good job of "locking down the School". Chief Collier stated that they were able to get the "Suspect" as he was pulling into the School;

that he did not have a weapon on him, but he is in custody. Chief Collier stated that today's "events" show the demonstrated need for more "SRO's" in the Selma City School System; that they did have "One" there on today. Chief Collier stated that with today's "events" he had to utilize "100%" of our "Manpower". Chief Collier further stated that he thinks that today's "events" demonstrate the significant need to move forward with the "SRO MOU", brought forth by the School System. Chief Collier stated, as "Police Chief", he fully supports the "MOU". Chief Collier further stated that he will have the Resolution for the Surplus Vehicles for review, at next Monday's Work Session. At this point and time, President Bowie stated to Council that Dr. Avis Williams, Superintendent of the Selma City Schools, is here this evening, and asked if the Council had any questions for her at this time? President Bowie asked Dr. Williams to come forward, and address the Council, as it relates to the "SRO MOU". Dr. Williams addressed the Council, to answer questions that the Council may have had. Dr. Williams stated to Council that if they have specific questions, that they can meet, to discuss the Budget, but that they are a very "high needs" District". Dr. Williams further stated, for example, "We have to spread the funds that we get even from the State. School of Discovery doesn't earn an Assistant Principal, but needs an Assistant Principal; so, we have to fund that position through local funds, wherever they can come from. The same thing has to occur for Guidance Counselors, and other Support Staff at our other Schools. We are a very high needs' District. Maybe this warrants more discussion, but I have a Board Meeting about to start, and I can't do it now, but if that's a discussion that we need to have, I will definitely be 'open' to having that discussion." The Council *Concurred* that they support the "SRO", but that they need more information on the City's Financial Statements. Before leaving Dr. Williams asked the Council to, "Keep in mind that the School System, she believes, is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest Employer in the City of Selma, and I can appreciate the 'giving', but we 'give' a lot, too, in terms of the Economic Development and Support that our Employees provide, whether they live here or not. So, I look at us as "Partners" for a lot of reasons, and that's one of them. Thank You, and we'll talk soon." The Council *Thanked* Dr. Williams for coming, and speaking to the Council. Chief Collier stated to President Bowie that he forgot to mention, that initially the "MOU" called for "2½ Additional Officers", but that he has already assigned One Full Time "SRO", so the additional cost to the City would be for "One and One-Half SRO" funding; that he wanted to share this with the Council. Chief Collier further stated that this money is not going to the School System; that it will only be hiring Full-Time APOST Certified Officers assigned to the School System, and will be Police Officers available for "Special Events", when necessary. Chief Collier stated that he just wanted to clarify this. Councilwoman Jackson stated to Chief Collier that they're wanting to make sure that the Citizens are safe; that they're going to find a solution that's best, and that it's going to work out. Chief Collier stated to the Council that he appreciates them for their consideration.

## II. FIRE DEPARTMENT TRANSITION

President Bowie stated to Council that, as they know, the Fire Chief resigned about two weeks ago, and the "Fire Chief Appointment" comes up under the Council. President Bowie further stated that he would like for the Council to move forward, and accept the Resignation of the Fire Chief, in order to move forward. Councilman Randolph stated to Council that there have been Employees who have been talking about having to work in a hostile environment, and that he has been talking to the Council about this for several months. Councilman Randolph further stated, "It starts at the top, and it's not right to have all of these hostile environments. It doesn't make any sense, what's going on in our City. We, as a Council, have got to do a better job of trying to stop this 'mess'. We sit here and be quiet about it; it just doesn't make any sense. I have a problem with a 'Secretary' giving days off in the Police Department, and in the Fire Department; that's not in their 'lane'. We sit here on this Council, and let this go on. It's not fair to our Citizens. We're up here and allowing this 'stuff' to go on in our City. We will continue to have these Lawsuits. We need to do something about this violence in the 'Work Places' in our City; when you hear, 'People gone postal', you're going to see that kind of 'stuff' around here. The Mayor has already destroyed 68 Families; their Unemployment is about to 'run' out. It's not fair, what's going on in our City." President Bowie stated that he had also advocated for some training, but that this comes under the "Executive Branch of Government". President Bowie further stated, "It may be a good idea to bring Ms. Jones (Val) back who is a Certified HR Person, to help resolve some of these issues, on a Part-Time Basis, as a Consultant." President Bowie stated that he is hopeful that Ms. Jones would consider this. Councilwoman Youngblood stated to President Bowie that she just had a question, and asked, "Are there standards or credentials specific to the HR Director's position?" President Bowie answered, and stated, "Yes; they need to be familiar with Labor Laws, and Guidelines, and having 'Certifications', as well. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Bowline, and seconded by Councilman Johnson, to accept the Resignation of Fire Chief, Toney Stephens. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed by a unanimous vote of the Council. Following said roll call, Councilman Randolph asked President Bowie, since the "Fire Chief" falls up under the Council, can they "appoint" an "Interim Fire Chief"? President Bowie answered, and stated, "Yes", and that this matter will be addressed during the Public Safety Committee Meeting on next Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m.

Further, President Bowie stated that he feels that, upon accepting the Resignation of Fire Chief Stephens, that they need to "open" the position up for Interviews. President Bowie further stated that he would like to establish a "Committee" of "Advisors", from "outside" Individuals to give "input", to assist in the recruitment, interviewing and hiring process. Councilman Leashore stated that he thinks that they need to take a look at the "Job Description", and that he thinks this Council has the "wherewithal" to do their own "screening" in this process, to make at their own "selection". Councilwoman Benjamin asked President



Bowie, if the Committee would be serving as "Advisory" *only*, to the Council? President Bowie answered, and stated, "Yes". Councilwoman Benjamin asked, "Will a HR 'Person' also be part of this process?" President Bowie answered, and stated, "Yes; a qualified HR Person." Councilman Bowline asked President Bowie, "Will the Committee be sharing that information, in a Consulting 'mode', so that we can ask 'questions', ahead of time?" President Bowie answered, and stated, "Yes; one of the 'Advisors' has many years of experience as a 'Chief', and would also know what to look for, in the 'quality leader' for the Fire Department." During discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Bowline, and seconded by Councilman Johnson, to start the Interview Process, and bring someone in from the "outside" as an Advisory Board, in Search for a New Fire Chief. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed by a unanimous vote of the Council.

### III. OIL LEASE FUNDING

President Bowie stated to Council that they should have before them, information as it relates to Oil Lease Funding, and that we received \$188,297.39. President Bowie further stated that it has been customary that the Oil Lease Funds have been divided up, between the Council Members and Mayor, and would take a "vote" of the Council to do so. President Bowie asked, what was the "pleasure" of the Council? The Council *Concurred*, and chose to divide the Oil Lease Funds, by Ten (10), and each Council Member and Mayor would receive \$18,829.73, each. President Bowie stated to the Council that they are also looking at whether or not Oil Lease Funds can be used to take care of Grass Cutting in the Wards, throughout the City. Councilwoman Thomas stated that we are supposed to get a "call" on tomorrow, and President Bowie *Concurred*, and stated that a call will be made to find out from the AG's Office, whether or not, the Oil Lease Funds can be used for Grass Cutting in the Wards. Councilwoman Youngblood stated that this issue with the grass needing to be cut, could be along the "lines" of being a "Public Safety" issue, also. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Bowline, and seconded by Councilwoman Benjamin, to divide the Oil Lease Funds in the amount of \$188,297.39 between the Council Members and the Mayor, with each receiving \$18,829.73. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed by a unanimous vote of the Council.

### IV. UPDATE ON LAWSUITS

President Bowie "passed" out information to the Council as it relates to Lawsuits. President Bowie stated to the Council that he will be placing copies of the "pending" Lawsuits in each Council Member's mailbox. President Bowie further stated that he talked with the Attorney handling the E.E.O.C. Claim, and on Tuesday night, we will be going into Executive Session as it relates to the E.E.O.C. Claim, to further discuss the same.

### V. OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS

Councilwoman Youngblood stated to President Bowie that she would be having to leave soon, to attend another meeting, but wanted to "announce" that Mr. David Blackmon's Daughter, "Little Sarah", will be representing the State of Alabama in St. Augustine, Florida, and that Mr. Kamau will be "Celebrating" a "Ribbon Cutting", "Announcing" his "New" Business, for which she will allow his "Mom", Councilwoman Benjamin, to give us more details on. We are Proud of "Little Sarah" and "Kamau" on these "Accomplishments"! Councilwoman Thomas also "Announced" that she, along with Councilman Johnson, share a "Granddaughter", and that she will be "Graduating" from both Wallace Community College, "Dual Enrollment", this Friday, and also from Selma High School, later this month. Councilwoman Benjamin stated that her Son, "Kamau" is a "Senior" at Selma High School, and that on Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, there will be a "Ribbon Cutting" at his "Studio" located at 2918 Citizens Parkway", at 5:00 p.m., for "Highway 80 Productions"; that a "Reception" will follow at "The Gathering Place". Councilwoman Benjamin stated that she hopes that Everyone can come, and be a part of this "Ribbon Cutting Ceremony", on behalf of her son, "Kamau". Councilman Bowline stated that he wanted to "Congratulate" the "Morgan Boys' Baseball Team" who are going to play Baseball on tomorrow morning, at 10:00 a.m., at the Montgomery Biscuits Stadium, in competition for a "State Championship"! We "Congratulate" and "Applaud" Everyone on their "Achievements", and "Wish" Them All the Best!

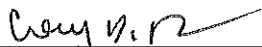
President Bowie stated that Clark Elementary School will be having a "Spring Fling" for their Students on Friday, May 10, 2019, and are requesting to borrow Twelve (12) Round Tables from the George Patrick Evans' Building. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Johnson, and seconded by Councilwoman Benjamin, to grant the request of Clark Elementary School, to borrow Twelve (12) Round Tables from the George Patrick Evans' Building. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed by a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

Councilman Leashore stated to President Bowie and the Council, that he would like to ask Ms. Ronita Wade, City Treasurer, to bring back a report to the Council, on the status of the General Fund Account, at our next Council Meeting. Ms. Wade stated that she will need additional access to her computer, in order to get the information on the Payroll Account. Ms. Wade stated that, prior to leaving, she did have the access to the Payroll Account, but that one of her "Staff Persons", is now in the HR Department, and that Payroll is no longer a "Module" for her access, and was told by the IT Director, that those "restrictions" are in place, and that the "access" was taken away. Ms. Wade further stated that she can request this, but that she would need

the support of the Council in trying to get it back, to be able to look at the accounts and details, in order to have a better understanding of what's going on. Councilman Leashore asked Ms. Wade, to wait and see if her requests would be honored, and to give the Council an "update" at our next Council Meeting, as to whether or not she is able to get "access". Ms. Wade stated that she put in the request on today. Ms. Wade further stated to the Council that they approved in the Budget, to move forward with doing a list of "Fixed Assets"; that she has received several calls on this, and asked if they were ready to move forward on it? Councilman Leashore stated that once Ms. Wade informs the Council that they have the funds, then he would like to request that they move forward on this. Councilman Leashore further stated once they get a report of the General Fund, and if the money is there, let's move forward on this. Council President Bowie asked Ms. Wade to let the Council know by tomorrow, if her requests are "honored", and also inform the Council of the status of the funds available for this Item. Councilwoman Benjamin stated, if the Judge said that it should be available when she arrived at 8:30 a.m., then it should have been available. Councilwoman Jackson read the last statement of the Judge's Order; that it said; "Defendant Mayor is preliminarily enjoined to restore Plaintiff to the full performance of her duties as Treasurer of the City of Selma." Councilwoman Jackson further stated that she was to be "restored to the full performance of her duties as Treasurer for the City of Selma". Councilwoman Jackson stated that she would like to request a report from our Treasurer, a list of every Item spent, outside of Payroll, Utilities, Insurance, and just "day-to-day" Operations, since October, 2018. Councilwoman Jackson further stated that she would also like for her to look into the purchase of a Trash Compactor; that they didn't vote on it. Councilwoman Jackson stated that they have not received any Financial Documents since February 28, 2019, and stated that she would like to get a report for March; that they have April now, but that it would really help them out if they could get March, 2019 Financial Documents, to review. Councilwoman Jackson stated to Ms. Wade that, anything that she finds that is being purchased, and not been budgeted for, that the Council needs that information. Councilwoman Jackson further stated to Ms. Wade, that she would like for her to tell the Council, if they're operating from a Budget; that it's been stated that because their Budget was not balanced, that it could not go into the Computer, and that we didn't have an Operating Budget. Councilwoman Jackson stated, "he then came back, and stated that he's going off of the Budget that we gave him." Councilwoman Jackson asked Ms. Wade to inform the Council, as to whether or not we are operating off of the Budget that the Council passed, and what are we spending. Councilwoman Jackson also asked that she look into the Police Department, since we're asking for more Officers. Councilwoman Jackson further stated that she would also like for her to look into the IT Department; that we've spent almost \$100,000.00 more already this year, based on the last report, than we spent the "whole" of last year. President Bowie asked Ms. Wade to look into, whether we're paying any Lawsuits from the General Fund. Councilman Bowline asked Ms. Wade to find out what falls in the "emergency" category; such as, pot holes, etc. Councilwoman Thomas stated that it is also said that our Tax Collector is supposed to come and give the Council an "Account" and/or Report of all of the Licenses that Businesses have come and gotten; that there should be an update on this amount, and that this is something "new".

#### ADJOURNMENT

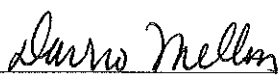
There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Councilman Bowline, and seconded by Councilwoman Benjamin, to adjourn, and by unanimous consent of the Council, this meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

  
COREY D. BOWIE, *Council President*

ATTEST:

  
IVY S. HARRISON, *City Clerk*

APPROVED:

  
DARRIO MELTON, *Mayor*