

MINUTES OF THE
SELMA CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 26, 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, March 26, 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, March 26, 2019, with the following Council Members present during roll call: Council President Corey D. Bowie, and Council Members, 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. Councilwoman Susan M. Youngblood was absent during roll call, but arrived at 5:04 p.m. Councilman Samuel Randolph was absent during roll call, but arrived at 5:51 p.m. Councilman Carl Bowline was absent from tonight's Council Meeting.

*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 Councilman Johnson, and seconded by Councilman Leashore, 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 Four (4) 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 Moving Forward with the Publishing of a Public Hearing, for the St. James Hotel.
- (2) To Approve Resolution #R125-18/19, Recognizing "March" as "Women's History Month".
- (3) To Approve Resolution #R124-18/19, Awarding the Softball/Baseball Complex Concession Bid to Rev. Gary Crum for the 2019 Season, in the Amount of \$17,500.99.
- (4) To Approve J's Wrecker Service Rotation Request.

President Bowie stated to Council that he has received the "paperwork" on J's Wrecker Service, where Police Chief Collier has signed and approved, and that he would be providing a copy to each Council Member via their mailboxes. President Bowie stated that, after checking, he has the copies on hand, and presented a copy to each Council Member. President Bowie further stated that he will also follow-up with a Memorandum to "B911", informing them that "J's Wrecker Service" will be a part of the "rotation" for Wrecker Services in our City. President Bowie stated, at this point and time, the "Chair" would entertain a "motion" to adopt and approve all Four (4) Items for Consent Agenda. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Johnson, and seconded by Councilwoman Youngblood, to approve and adopt all Four (4) Items on Consent Agenda. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed by a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After approval of the agenda, Council President Bowie stated to the Council that they should have before them the March 12, 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 March 12, 2019. A motion was made by Councilman Johnson, and seconded by Councilwoman Thomas, to approve and adopt the March 12, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed by a majority vote of the Council Members present. There were seven affirmative votes and one abstention. Councilman Leashore abstained from voting. During roll call, Councilman Leashore stated, "I abstain; I was not here at the Council Meeting."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilwoman Jackson stated that she wanted to again "remind" Everyone of our "3rd Annual Night of Hope", which will be held on Wednesday, April 3rd, beginning at 6:00 p.m., at Bloch Park, and that Dr. Christine Nelson from Great Britain, will be there again, as our "Speaker". Councilwoman Jackson stated hopefully Everyone can come, and that she hopes to see all of them out on Wednesday, April 3rd.

Councilman Johnson "announced" that on Thursday, April 11th, he will be having a Ward 8 Meeting at the Selma Avenue Sports Bar & Grill, beginning at 6:00 p.m., and that Everyone is invited. Councilman Johnson stated that "Refreshments" will be served

Councilwoman Youngblood "announced" that on Saturday, April 13th, that there will be another Ward 2 Clean-Up, for all Neighborhoods in Ward 2.

Councilwoman Thomas stated that there will be a Clean-Up in Ward 7, the last Saturday in April, April 27th. Councilwoman Thomas further stated that she would like to "invite" the Council Members to the Dallas County Commission Meeting on Monday, April 7th, that they will be having Guests at that meeting to talk about "Beautification", whereby the City and the County join together in this effort. Councilwoman Thomas stated that she attended a Convention on today, with "Keep Alabama Beautiful", with approximately 50 other Cities, and that there are a lot of things that she would like to share with her City, in our being a part of this Program, along with our Citizens. Councilwoman Thomas stated that she would like to share more with the Council Members about this, and will be bringing some ideas in the near future about this Project. Councilwoman Thomas stated that one of the Churches in her Ward, West Trinity Baptist Church, will be having a "Gathering" in her Ward, and that they are inviting the Council Members and Mayor, to this Event; that they are trying to unify our Community. Councilwoman Thomas stated that there will be food, and games for the Children, and that they would like for all of our city Officials to attend. Councilwoman Thomas further stated that this Event is being sponsored by West Trinity Baptist Church, and that it is scheduled for this Saturday, March 30th, beginning at 11:00 a.m., and that they are inviting the Mayor and Council to attend.

Councilwoman Benjamin stated that she wanted to "remind" Everyone that the "One Hot Summer Series" Schedule is almost complete; that the "Jazz on the Grass" Event is always scheduled the "3rd Saturday" in June, which is June 15th, and that it will be at the Phoenix Park, beginning at 12:00 noon. Councilwoman Benjamin further stated that the "Street Festival" will not stop, that it will be a "continuous" Event. Councilwoman Benjamin stated that she wanted to also "remind" Everyone that this area is still in the "Entertainment District". Councilwoman Benjamin stated that the "Pre-Kick-Off" to "One Hot Summer Series" will be the "10 O' Clock Praise", which is always "coordinated" by Councilman Randolph; that it is the 1st Friday, in June (June 7th), and that Everyone is invited. Councilwoman Benjamin asked Everyone to not forget to put their T-Shirt Orders in; as this is the "Fundraiser" for the "Jazz on the Grass" Event.

Councilman Leashore "announced" that a Ward 6 Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 9th, at Plant St. Baptist Church, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Councilman Leashore "invited" Everyone to come out, and stated that he wants the Church to be "packed with Citizens, because the City has many problems".

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

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS/COUNCIL REMARKS

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

President Bowie stated that the Finance Committee met on last Monday, at 5:00 p.m., here in the Council Chamber. President Bowie further stated that Police Chief Collier is here, and asked that he come forward, and address the Council. Chief Collier addressed the Council, and stated that he had an opportunity to speak with the President of the Council and the Council members during the Finance Committee Meeting, and that again, he is coming before the Council to asking for the opportunity to divert \$41,000.00 of maintenance money in order to purchase Six (6) new Patrol Cars. Chief Collier stated that his "quote" is from Stivers, but that he met with Long Lewis on today, and should have a quote by the end of the day, by 6:00 p.m., and that is quote is going to be somewhere in the price range. Chief stated to President Bowie that if Long Lewis comes in within 5% of the offer made by Stivers, then we would choose them, to keep the business "local". President Bowie asked about the fleet maintenance vehicles for surplus, and whether he had a chance to get with our Clerk, Mrs. Ivy Harrison? Chief Collier answered and apologized, and stated that he should have this list by the next Work Session; that it looked like we will have at least 14 cars for surplus, and a possible 8 that can be repaired. Chief Collier stated that he will have the list that will include the Vin Numbers at the next Work Session. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilman Johnson, to purchase Six (6) Patrol Vehicles for the Police Department. Councilwoman Jackson stated to President Bowie that she presented Three (3) Options during the Work Session last night, and that the last being the one that resonates with the Council she thinks. Councilwoman Jackson stated that she informed them that she found funds in the Budget and spoke with Chief about it on today; that roughly \$160,000.00 is in one line item (Fixed Assets), and \$56,000.00 in an Interest Expense Line Item account. Councilwoman Jackson stated that she would like to consider purchase vehicles without incurring the 7% Interest Fee; that in previous years, interest was 5.9%, and this will know off \$3,000.00 in interest. Councilwoman Jackson stated that she would like to move in this direction, in getting them the fleet that they desire. Councilwoman Youngblood stated to Councilwoman Jackson, that she is glad that she has come up with an option to get new vehicles, but that she wanted to be sure of where the money is coming from, in the Police Department's budget. Councilwoman Jackson stated that actually in the email she sent to them this information, and did not bring the documentation with her but it is in his Budget and that talked about it on today; it's in the Police Department Budget under Fixed Assets, and she thinks it's approximately \$160,000.00 in that line item. Councilwoman Youngblood asked Chief Collier, if this was his recommendation? Chief Collier answered, and stated, "No Mam." Chief Collier further stated that realistically he doesn't think that it is \$170,000.00 or the \$160,000.00 in the line item; that it was budgeted but does not know that it is "on-hand" cash; that this would not be his recommendation. Councilwoman Youngblood asked Chief Collier, what would be his recommendation? Chief Collier answered, and stated that his recommendation would be to divert \$41,000.00 of the maintenance money towards the purchase of the patrol vehicles. Councilwoman Benjamin stated, "whatever the scenario, it seems we're still going to be in a 'crunch'". Councilwoman Benjamin further stated that the budget amount is \$160,000./00, and the expense line item is \$68,000.00, and asked if there was a person that could address this in terms of whether this is the "Interest Expense Line Item"? Chief Collier answered and stated, "to be completely honest with you, I didn't see the email. I would have to research it. I do not have an answer at this time." Councilwoman Jackson stated to Councilwoman Benjamin that, "I asked the Ladies in Finance, and I was told, that they are unsure of what that is." President Bowie stated, "This is why it's so important to have a City Treasurer, in place." Chief Collier stated that another "Option" would be to go into a Continuous Leasing Program where there is a set time frame to start, to lease the vehicles, and when the lease is up, begin the "leasing process" all over again. Chief Collier further stated that a lot of other Cities and their Police Departments are taking advantage of this Program. Chief Collier stated in a Lease such as this, there will be no penalty for mileage. Councilwoman Benjamin stated by the time they get around to the surplus of these vehicles, that they would be getting new vehicles. Chief Collier stated that part of his recommendation would be that any proceeds from surplus of a vehicle would go into a continuous line item for leasing; "not that the surplus is going to pay for the leasing, but it will help to offset the cost". Chief Collier stated that he also submitted a 3-Step Fleet Program during the Finance Committee Meeting; namely, (1) Surplus of vehicles; (2) Any vehicles sold would go into a line item for surplus vehicles; and (3) Proposed a "Buy-Out"; that they consider a Continuous Leasing Plan for a 3-Year Lease. Councilwoman Jackson stated to Chief Collier that when she presented the Plan to him this morning, she was under the impression that he was excited about it, and that he thought this was a good idea. Councilwoman Jackson further stated that what she is afraid of, with the continuous leasing program, is that "5 years from now, 2 years from now, we may not have that." Councilwoman Jackson stated that she feels that we should go with the plan where we can take off \$31,000.00 in interest, and go ahead and purchase all of the vehicles at this time. Councilwoman Jackson stated to Chief Collier that she is in support of them getting the vehicles, if it's not going to be on a continuous basis because of what she has described already.

Chief Collier stated to Council that, ultimately they are the ones to make the decision on the purchase of the vehicles, but when Councilwoman Youngblood asked him, what his recommendation was, he gave her, his recommendation. Chief Collier further stated that in actuality, they just need the vehicles. Chief Collier stated to Council that he can bring back the information on the "numbers" for a Lease Purchase if this is the desire of the Council. President Bowie and Councilman Leashore asked Chief Collier to again, state his recommendation. Chief Collier stated, "My recommendation is to move forward with the 5-Year Purchase of the Six (6) Vehicles." Councilman Leashore stated, "That's my motion." Following discussion, President Bowie "called" for Roll Call on the "motion" made earlier by Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilman Johnson, for the Purchase of the Six (6) Vehicles for the Police Department in the amount of \$205,000.00 over a 5-Year Period, at \$41,000.00 Per Year. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed by a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

Following the above roll call, President Bowie stated that Fire Chief Stephens is here, to address the Council. President Bowie asked Chief Stephens to come forward, and address the Council. Chief Stephens addressed the Council, and stated, "When I came down here, I came for Two (2) Reasons; (1) To Serve the Citizens, and (2) To take Care of his Guys, and lately I don't think I've been effective in either one of them, and the reason being is that the Fire Department has been neglected. I have been mistreated and my Guys have been mistreated. The things that we ask for, we're not getting. I do my job, and I'm not going to beg anyone to do their job. I put in requests numerous times, and get nothing in return. Things have been approved in the Budget that you all came up with; the money is there. But, when I actually put in the Purchase Orders, they're still pending, and nothing is coming back with the Purchase Order Numbers. I have Purchase Orders here; such as, purchase orders for the Guys' Shoes, that were submitted in October of 2018; 3rd submission for the new truck that we received that's still sitting in the Fire Station, which was submitted on October 22, 2018; that we've not gotten the equipment to go on that truck. The \$40,000.00 that you all put into our Budget to get "Turn-Out" Gear, we haven't gotten anything from the City, but "Thanks" to Cougar Oil, for their assistance. The radio stopped working in our truck, 'Hurricane' was nice enough to actually repair the radio on October 16th. We still have not paid these People their money because we have not done the Purchase Order. Equipment for the truck was dated for February 12th, and is still not in. The Purchase Order for the Guys' Helmets, dated for February 6th, not in. The Fire Investigators can not walk around with weapons not secured; I requested a safe (\$399.00) to store those weapons in, and we still haven't gotten that. We have to go to school for training, and the Guys couldn't go to school for their training, because we didn't get the Purchase Order back which was submitted back on January 7th was not approved. I was going to school for training and only had to pay a portion of it was approved, and when I put a portion on my charge card, I had to 'eat' that bill, because the 'residence' part, was not approved. These Purchase Orders have been submitted a number of times; '2nd request, 3rd request'. These Purchase Orders have been passed on, on numerous occasions, and that's the reason why I am so upset about it. We have 2 Fire Stations that have a drainage problem, and one actually has an overflow of sewage. Why in the world can we not pay \$1,100.00 for 2 Fire Stations that have plumbing problems? I keep a ledger of the money that we have in our Department, and the Fire Department is not wasting. In the Building Maintenance line item, you all approved \$12,000.00 for us, and we still have \$9,000.00 in that budget line item. The Guys don't have what they need to keep the Stations clean properly; you gave us \$15,000.00, and we have not received cleaning supplies for 3 months. This goes on and on and on. I don't want to take up much of your time, but I just want to let you know the reasons why 'Chief Stephens is not the same Chief Stephens, because Chief Stephens is not being treated right'. The Department is not being treated right, and the Citizens are not being treated right." Councilwoman Benjamin asked Chief Stephens about the Purchase Orders, in terms of where they've been? Chief Stephens answered, and stated, "I don't know. There are some that I have brought down myself, and taken them to the Finance Department, who would actually take to the Mayor's Office, and some, I've taken to the Mayor's Office. Once completed, they would place them back in my mailbox, but they have not been placed back in my mailbox. I even went again this afternoon into the Finance Department, to carry Purchase Orders, and had a 'Witness' with me, my Assistant Fire Chief, Chief Graham. Chief Stephens asked the Council, how many times have they voted and approved for the Fire Department to have Internet? We still haven't gotten Internet, and you've approved it, at least on 5 or 6 occasions; my paperwork on this dates back to 2017, when you all approve for us to be 'on line', and we still haven't gotten that. That's why I say that we're being neglected, and we're being mistreated. That leads me to believe that these are not just mistakes; I think some of these issues are personal. These things are not just getting lost out there, 'in the air'". Councilwoman Benjamin stated to Chief Stephens, that this is a great number for them not to have been returned to him with a "Purchase Order Number", and that there seems to be a 'break-down' somewhere. Councilwoman Thomas stated to Chief Stephens that he has been before the Council on numerous times, and that they as a Council have voted for just about everything that he asked them for, even with the Fire Truck. They voted for him to have everything, and that they need to make sure that Chief Stephens; I'm sorry that it came to this point, these are things that you should've had. We said in the Budget that they would not touch the Police and Fire Department; once they vote, it's supposed to go directly to the Mayor's office. We voted for the Police Department to get cars, and it's our responsibility to make sure that he gets what he needs in the Fire Department. I need the President to find out why Chief Stephens has not received anything yet, and that it's not fair. It makes everybody up here look bad, because we voted for everything that he asked for, and President Bowie needs to find out why he hasn't received any of the things that they voted on for the Fire Department. Councilman Johnson stated that he concurs with Councilwoman Thomas, and that both the Fire and Police Departments are important; that he does not want to believe that this is Administration negated their responsibility, and that it is personal; that he truly believes that we have financial problems.

Councilman Johnson also asked President Bowie to look into this situation for the Chief, and find out a way to resolve this. Councilwoman Youngblood stated that she would like to echo what Councilwoman Thomas stated, and that she is very sorry; that it is important that we address the needs of the Fire Department, and can't say exactly where the break-down. Councilwoman Youngblood further requested that they pay special attention to the Fire Department needs, at the next Public Safety Committee Meeting. Councilwoman Youngblood stated to Chief Stephens, that we appreciate the Fire Department, and that we want to show our appreciation in getting the needs of the Fire Department. Councilwoman Youngblood asked President Bowie to follow-up on this. Councilwoman Benjamin stated that not only did Chief Stephens present this to the Council and they voted, but reminded the Council that Chief Graham has also been before the Council, particularly with requests for the Fire Department, that also includes the Internet. Councilwoman Benjamin further stated that some of the Purchase Orders that they have before them have been submitted, "two" and "three" times. Councilwoman Benjamin asked President Bowie, to please check into this matter, and asked to let's get this matter resolved. Councilman Randolph stated to Chief Stephens that his heart goes out to he, and the Fire Department. Councilman Randolph stated, as was stated at our last meeting, let's support both the Fire and Police Departments. Councilman Randolph stated that somebody 'dropped' the ball on the Fire Department. Councilman Leashore stated to Chief Stephens that this saddens his heart, what he is telling the Council, but that he believes in protocol. Councilman Leashore asked Chief Stephens, how often has he met with the Mayor about this, and when was the last time he had a conversation about this with the Mayor, about the Fire Department's needs not being met, because of a 'break-down' in procedures? Chief Stephens answered, and stated, that he has actually had 3 different meetings with the Mayor, and that most of these Purchase Orders were turned in, to his office, first; that he gave some of them to the Mayor, and some of them, he gave to Ms. Simmons. Chief Stephens further stated that he talked to the Mayor about it, but it doesn't seem like there is a big concern for the Fire Department. Chief Stephens stated that he was in the Mayor's office, maybe about a month ago, concerning this. Chief Stephens stated, he feels that, as Mayor of the City, that he shouldn't have to go to the Mayor, 3 or 4 times, about the same thing. Chief Stephens further stated to Council that he doesn't need any additional monies, that they have already given that to his Department; that they have a job to do that deals with the "finances, and they have a job to deal with the "day-to-day". Chief Stephens stated that we have a problem going from the "finance part of it, to the "day-to-day", and that if he has it in his budget, it should be granted, unless he has a problem moving forward on it. Following discussion, President Bowie stated to Council that he will definitely be following up on this matter, on tomorrow, with the Mayor.

RECREATION COMMITTEE - Councilman Michael Johnson, Chairperson

No Report./Made Closing Remarks. (During Closing Remarks, Councilman Johnson "Thanked" Ms. Hiawatha for everything she did for the "City-Wide Clean-Up", and also the Council Members for all of what they did in this effort. A Warm "Round of Applause" was extended to Ms. Hiawatha for her efforts with the "City-Wide Clean-Up"! We "Appreciate and Thank" Ms. Hiawatha, and "Many Thanks" to "All" who "Volunteered" and helped with the City-Wide Clean-Up!!! Councilman Johnson "announced" that he will also be having a Ward Meeting on Thursday, April 11th, at 6:00 p.m., and invited Everyone to come; "Refreshments" will be served.)

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE - Councilman Carl Bowline, Chairperson

Councilman Bowline was absent from tonight's Council Meeting.

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

No Report./Made Closing Remarks. (During Closing Remarks, President Bowie stated that he is still waiting on the "SRO" Funding; that it is supposed to come down at the end of this month, or first of April.)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - Councilwoman Susan Youngblood, Chairperson

No Report./Made Closing Remarks. (During Closing Remarks, Councilwoman Youngblood stated to Council that she would like for the Council to acknowledge the "special" needs of the Fire Department, that were brought to the "attention" of the Council, and address those needs. It was the *Consensus* of the Council to do so.)

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

No Report./Made Closing Remarks. (During Closing Remarks, Councilman Leashore stated that he would like for the Council to have a copy of the Garbage Contract, and that he will be having a meeting in the near future, to address the issue dealing with garbage in our City; that some of the Citizens do not have a Garbage Cart. Councilwoman Thomas stated that she spoke with someone at Liberty Disposal, who stated to her that they have just started receiving letters from the City, informing them of who is to be Exempt from the Garbage Costs. President Bowie asked Councilman Leashore, if he could address the issue as it relates to the Garbage at his Public Works Committee Meeting, and he stated that he would. Councilman Leashore further stated that he would like to invite all of his Colleagues to attend the Committee Meeting, because we've got to find ways of resolving this issue.)

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - Councilwoman Miah Jackson, Chairperson

Councilwoman Jackson was absent from the Council Meeting at this time.

SELMA-DALLAS YOUTH AMBASSADORS - Councilman Johnnie Leashore, Chairperson

No Report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Council President Corey D. Bowie, Chairperson

During his report, President Bowie stated that the Finance Committee met on last Monday, and that he would like to bring forth before the Council, Two (2) Recommendations from the Finance Committee; (1) To approve the RDS Contract; and (2) to *Cease and Desist* the Contract that ended in February, 2019, to the Y.M.C.A., Lodging Tax, in an approximate amount of \$141,000.00; that it be earmarked for the General Fund. During discussion, a motion was made by President Bowie, and seconded by Councilman Randolph, to approve the Two (2) Recommendations brought forth by the Finance Committee, to move forward with the RDS Contract, and to *Cease and Desist* the Y.M.C.A. Contract, Lodging Tax. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed by a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

Please also see Finance Committee Report, made earlier in the Council Meeting.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS COMMITTEE - Councilwoman Jannie Thomas, Chairperson

Made a report. (During Councilwoman Thomas' report, it was the "Consensus" of the Council to get a copy of the "recommendations" for the Contract for Public Buildings, in order to discuss at the Public Buildings' Committee Meeting on next week.)/Made Closing Remarks.

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT - Councilman Samuel Randolph, Chairperson

No Report./Made Closing Remarks. (During Closing Remarks, Councilman Randolph stated that he wants to know why the Council has not been made aware that our new Trash Trucks are down, and in need of repair; that he is aware that at least Two (2) are down, at the present time. Councilwoman Benjamin asked President Bowie to check and find out whether we've gotten everything we've paid for, with the new Trash Trucks.)

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE - Councilwoman Angela Benjamin, Chairperson

No Report./Made Closing Remarks.

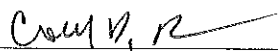
Following the above Committee Reports, President Bowie stated that he is in receipt of a request from Mr. Richard A. Waters, who is requesting permission, as an Eagle Scout Project, to repaint and refurbish the dugouts and bullpens at Bloch Park, at no cost to the City. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Youngblood, and seconded by President Bowie, to grant permission to Richard A. Waters, and his Eagle Scout Troop, to do an Eagle Scout Project, to repaint and refurbish the dugouts and bullpens at Bloch Park, at no cost to the City. There was a unanimous "show of hands" of Council Members present, granting permission to Mr. Richard A. Waters, an Eagle Scout, along with other Members of the Eagle Scout Troop, to move forward with this Project.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING -- April 9, 2019 at 5:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

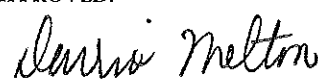
There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilman Johnson, to adjourn, and by unanimous consent of the Council, this meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.


COREY D. BOWIE, Council President

ATTEST:


IVYS S. HARRISON, City Clerk

APPROVED:


DARRIO MELTON, Mayor

MINUTES OF THE
SELMA CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 12, 2019
5:00 P.M.

Call to Order

"Moment of Silence"
on
Behalf of the Tornado Victims and Residents of Lee County, Alabama

Invocation: Sam Garner,
Son of Attorney Jana Russell Garner

Pledge of Allegiance

The Selma City Council met in a regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Tuesday, March 12, 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, March 12, 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, Councilwoman Jannie Thomas, and Councilman Michael Johnson. City Clerk Ivy S. Harrison was also present. Councilwoman Angela Benjamin was absent during roll call, but arrived at 5:05 p.m. Councilwoman Susan M. Youngblood and Councilman Johnnie Leashore were from tonight's Council Meeting.

*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 to Council that he would like to "amend" the Agenda, and "add" a Citizen, Reverend Leodis Strong, to the Agenda, under "Citizen's Request"; that he was mistakenly "omitted" from the Agenda. 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 Johnson, and seconded by Councilman Randolph, to approve the agenda, as amended. 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 Three (3) 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 for Ordinance #O103-18/19, Establishing Penalties for Discharge of Firearms in the City Limits/Police Jurisdiction.
- (2) To Approve the "Walk-to-Calvary", April 18th, 19th, and 21st.
- (3) To Approve Ordinance #O104-18/19, Approving the City of Selma to Deed the Edmundite Missions' Property in the Amount of \$1,200.00 for a Community Project.

President Bowie asked what was the "pleasure" of the Council? President Bowie stated to Council that, as they know, whenever we have an Ordinance that is not on 1st Reading, we have to vote to suspend the rules, and that it has to be a "unanimous" vote to suspend the rules, in order to vote on it, tonight. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Randolph, and seconded by Councilman Bowline, to suspend the rules in order to take action tonight on Ordinance #O104-18/19. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed by a unanimous vote of the Council Members present. Following discussion, a motion was then made by Councilman Bowline, and seconded by Councilman Johnson, to approve and adopt the Three (3) 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 six affirmative votes for all Three (3) Consent Agenda Items; One Abstention for Consent Agenda Item #3. President Bowie abstained from voting on Consent Agenda Item #3. During roll call, President Bowie stated, "Yes, for #1 and #2; I abstain on Item 3."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After approval of the agenda, Council President Bowie stated to the Council that they should have before them the February 26, 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", a motion was made by Councilman Johnson, and seconded by Councilman Bowline, to approve and adopt the February 26, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed by a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilwoman Jackson stated that she wanted to "Thank" Mr. Dale Purdie, of Liberty Disposal, Mr. Darrel Steward, and all of the Citizens and Businesses who helped with the Clean-Up, in Ward 3. Councilwoman Jackson further stated that she had about Forty-Five (45) Volunteers who served, and she wanted to "Thank" them, as well. Councilwoman Jackson stated that she wanted to "remind" Everyone of the "3rd Annual Night of Hope", which will be held on April 3rd, at Bloch Park, and asked that Everyone, please come out and participate.

Councilman Bowline stated that the Alabama River Chili Cook-Off that is scheduled for this Thursday, could be postponed due to the threat of inclement weather and asked that everyone pay attention for "notices" of it being rescheduled.

Councilwoman Benjamin "reminded" Everyone of this coming Saturday's City-Wide Clean-Up in our Wards. Councilwoman Benjamin further stated to Ward 4 Residents that, this time they will start in Ward 4 East, on the corner of Marie Foster Street and First Avenue, and as time permits, will make their way to Ward 4, West. Councilman Randolph asked about whether a place has been determined for where they will be placing the dumpsters in the areas? Councilwoman Benjamin answered, and stated that dumpsters will be placed at the parking area on Marie Foster Street and First Avenue, and the Baseball Park in the vacant lot at Ward 4, East Side. Councilwoman Benjamin stated that everything needs to be "bagged and tied", in order for it to be picked up.

Councilwoman Thomas made an "announcement" for Councilwoman Youngblood that she will be having a Ward 2 Clean-Up, and that she will be meeting on tomorrow at 5:00 p.m., at the Y.M.C.A., to organize the Clean-Up. Councilwoman Thomas also stated that there will be a Ward 7 Meeting on tomorrow at 5:00 p.m., at Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church. Councilwoman Thomas stated that they will also be having a Ward 7 Clean-Up that begins on Boynton Street and continue down to Summerfield Road; that Mrs. Cicely Curtis, Principal at the School of Discovery, has offered some of her Students, who will serve as "Volunteers", and will be helping in this effort.

Councilman Randolph stated that on yesterday, he and his Family buried their Aunt in Prichard who passed away in her sleep. Councilman Randolph stated that his Aunt, at 107, was still driving, and in her "right" mind. Oh What a Blessing! We "Thank" Councilman Randolph for sharing, and we offer our Deepest Sympathy and Condolences to the Family! Councilman Randolph, our Prayers are with you and your Family! President Bowie also stated to Councilman Randolph, that our Prayers are with the Family!

Councilman Johnson stated that he hopes and Prays that Councilman Leashore will "Get Well Soon"; that he is Wishing him a Speedy Recovery during his illness. Our Prayers are with Councilman Leashore, and we Wish him a Speedy Recovery! Councilman Johnson asked his "Volunteers" to please meet him at Noon, at the

Sports Bar and Grill on Selma Avenue, to begin the Clean-Up in Ward 8. Councilman Johnson stated that he is looking forward to seeing all of the "Volunteers and Citizens" to assist him in the Clean Up on Saturday.

CITIZEN'S REQUEST AND CONCERNS

Reverend Leodis Strong, Pastor
Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church

Re: Public Safety and Security; Citizen's Revenue Proposal

(During his Presentation, Rev. Strong passed out, and submitted "Recommendations" to the Council, and asked the Council Members to look over the "Recommendations", and asked that they also refer the same, to "Committees" for their thoughts and consideration.)

MAYOR'S REPORT (PRESENTED DURING WORK SESSION; NO REPORT TONIGHT)

- A. Councilman Johnson stated to President Bowie that Police Chief Collier would like to come, and speak to the Council, under the Mayor's Report on tonight. Councilman Johnson further stated that during the Work Session on last night, he had asked that the Council take action on the vehicles for the Police Department, and that whether it is voted "up or down", he would like for the Council to bring it to the "Floor". President Bowie stated that there will be a Finance Committee Meeting on Monday, and that this "Item" will be one of the Items that will be discussed during the Committee Meeting. Chief Collier addressed the Council, and stated to President Bowie that he apologizes, and that it was not his understanding that they would be putting this Item into Committee, to be discussed during the Finance Committee Meeting, but that he would like to reiterate, that he would not come before the Council, to ask for more money. Chief Collier stated that, with the exception of Mr. Kennard Randolph's generosity, in purchasing a vehicle for the Police Department, that they are in dire need, and that he is simply asking for the opportunity to transfer a portion of the maintenance money. Chief Collier further stated that he counted today, and on their lot, they have a total of Fourteen (14) Vehicles that are ready for surplus, and that they almost can cover the Lease with the surplus of the vehicles. Councilwoman Benjamin "Thanked" Chief Collier for coming back on tonight, and stated that she did get a chance to do some research on this matter. Councilwoman Benjamin asked Chief Collier, if he could put his request in writing, from him as the Department Head, for the Council, that this is a dire need as it relates to the funds that he is requesting to move and transfer, so that they can have this document when they meet on Monday; that he is only asking for this money to be "moved" from one Line Item to the other? Chief Collier answered, and stated, that he could do this for the Council. Chief Collier stated that he is not asking for more money; but, to move money some money from one line item to another. Councilman Johnson stated to President Bowie that, he would like to request that they have a Special Call Meeting, after the Finance Committee Meeting, in order to proceed on this. Chief Collier stated to the Council that Detective McGuire, along with other Officers from the Department, are here, and that he was selected by his "Fellow Officers" to speak on their behalf, and that he would be disappointed if will not be allowed to come before the Council, and speak. Council Members asked if he was present on tonight? Chief Collier answered, and stated that he is here on tonight. Detective McGuire was asked to come forward, to address the Council. Detective McGuire addressed the Council, and stated, "We put our lives on the line, and we sometimes feel that we are not cared about. But, actually, every day we are out trying to solve cases, and do what we have to do, for the City of Selma. We're not asking for any more money, but we need the equipment like 'ASAP'. I can't express enough how we put our lives on the line, every day, and we just want Y'all to hear our cry. We put our lives on the line, I promise you, for the City of Selma. The Police Department needs help." The Council made remarks to the Police Officers, and expressed their apologies for them feeling the way that they do, in terms of the Council not caring, and expressed to them that they do very much care, and that they also "Thank" them for serving our City. Councilwoman Jackson stated that she thinks that we need to, however, "curb" our spending; that we are not going to be able to handle our financial obligations without "raising taxes or filing bankruptcy". Councilwoman Jackson further stated that we only have \$700,000.00 remaining in our General Fund for the month of March, and that she is so nervous that we are not going to be able to make payroll in the months of June, July and August, that she is not willing at this point to make a decision because we have to look at the "long-term"; that this is a 5-Year Lease that we're looking at, and in 5 years, we're going to be at \$2.2 Million Dollars that we're going to be paying for this One (1) Bond every year. Councilwoman Jackson stated that, all she is asking is, that they give them some time, and work with them; that they do want to work with them. Councilwoman Jackson stated that this is why we're having to look at means of raising revenue, and exploring our options. Councilman Johnson stated that the City can't continue operating like it is; that he made a "motion" to raise taxes by one cent some time ago, and the Mayor, at that time, stated that he wanted to look at other options. Councilman Johnson stated that the Mayor looked at doing some "cuts" in the Budget, and even had to do the Layoff. Councilwoman Jackson stated that she is concerned about the needs of the Police Officers, but

that she is concerned about the City's financial situation, and is not sure if the City can afford to make changes to the Budget, at this point. Councilwoman Jackson stated that she does want the Police Officers to know that she is making a commitment, and promises to do everything to ensure that they're going to do, as a Council, whatever they can, to get the Police Officers what they need. Councilwoman Jackson further stated that she would go back to A.D.E.C.A., to see what assistance they can offer. Chief Collier stated to Councilwoman Jackson, that he does not mind going with her, and that he will commit, that they will go together, and talk with A.D.E.C.A. Councilman Johnson stated to Councilwoman Jackson, that he is thankful that she had the opportunity to go to Finance, to see where we are on that, but that we need funding. Councilman Johnson further stated that we need to find Revenue very soon. Councilman Johnson stated to President Bowie that, he is hoping that they can have a Special Call Meeting next week, after the Finance Committee Meeting, in order to proceed on this. Councilman Randolph "Thanked" the Police Officers for all of what they do, and that the Officers have his support. Councilman Randolph further stated that he does not think that the City is "broke", because we do not have a City Treasurer, in place. Councilman Randolph asked Chief Collier, what was the total amount of the Lease? Chief Collier answered and stated that it is about \$40,000.00 a year, for Five (5) years. Councilman Randolph stated to Council that we also need to have "in-house" maintenance for our Vehicles. President Bowie and the Council Members "Thanked" the Police Officers for coming, and addressing the Council on tonight. During discussion, Councilwoman Benjamin and the Council Members *Concurred* that they need to move forward with the surplus of the Fourteen (14) vehicles at the Police Department. Therefore, a motion was made by Councilwoman Benjamin, and seconded by Councilman Bowline, to authorize and approve to surplus the Fourteen (14) Vehicles that are located at the Police Department, so that we can get the funds from the surplus of said Vehicles into the Police Department Fund. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

Chief Collier stated to Council that he was just informed though, by the City Clerk, Mrs. Ivy Harrison, that he will need to bring back to the Council, a surplus list of the Vehicles so that the Council can take action on the said Vehicles; that he will begin to work on getting this List together, and will be back on Monday, at the Finance Committee Meeting, with the List.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS/COUNCIL REMARKS

RECREATION COMMITTEE - Councilman Michael Johnson, Chairperson

No Report./Made Closing Remarks.

Councilwoman Benjamin asked Councilman Johnson to find out why the bathrooms have not been cleaned up during this "off season" at Memorial Stadium. Councilman Johnson stated that there are only Three (3) Employees out there; Two (2) Full Time, and One (1) Part Time, that they have been busy with the fields that have overgrown grass. Councilwoman Benjamin asked, during their "down-time", why did they let the bathrooms get in the condition that they are? Councilwoman Benjamin stated that it is sad that the Schools have to come and clean up the bathrooms in order to play games out there; that they're paying full price, and they have to do what we're supposed to be doing, in terms of keeping the bathrooms and the concession stand areas, clean. Councilwoman Thomas stated that it is shameful that we have Guests playing Tennis out there, and the bathrooms look as they do, and asked, what happened in the past Two (2) years? Councilman Randolph stated that he was told that there are "Non-City Employees" who were at the Recreation Department, "taking up Registration Fees", from the Kids to play Baseball, and that he thinks that, if this is true, that it needs to be addressed. Councilman Johnson stated that he will look into all of this, and bring back a report to the Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE - Councilman Carl Bowline, Chairperson

No Report./Made Closing Remarks. (During Closing Remarks, Councilman Bowline stated that he would just like to say that, in talking about "new Revenue", we need to talk about "Accountability", first; that until we all, as Citizens, come to terms with being "Accountable" to one another, that this is what's going to change our Town; Accountability and Respect for one another.)

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

No Report./Made Closing Remarks. (During Closing Remarks, President Bowie "reminded" Everyone of the Pilgrimage that starts on this Friday, and encouraged Everyone to come out, and participate.)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - Councilwoman Susan Youngblood, Chairperson

Councilwoman Youngblood was absent from tonight's Council Meeting.

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

Councilman Leashore was absent from tonight's Council Meeting.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - Councilwoman Miah Jackson, Chairperson

Councilwoman Jackson was absent from the Council Meeting at this time.

SELMA-DALLAS YOUTH AMBASSADORS - Councilman Johnnie Leashore, Chairperson

Councilman Leashore was absent from tonight's Council Meeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Council President Corey D. Bowie, Chairperson

President Bowie "announced" that the Finance Committee will be meeting on next Monday, at 5:00 p.m., here in the Council Chamber.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS COMMITTEE - Councilwoman Jannie Thomas, Chairperson

No Report. (Councilwoman Thomas "announced" that there will be a Public Buildings Committee Meeting on March 23rd, and also "reminded" Ward 7 Residents, of the Ward Meeting on tomorrow at 5:00 p.m., at Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church.)/Made Closing Remarks.

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT - Councilman Samuel Randolph, Chairperson

No Report./Made Closing Remarks. (During Closing Remarks, Councilman Randolph "Thanked" Everyone for a Nice Council Meeting.)

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE - Councilwoman Angela Benjamin, Chairperson

No Report./Made Closing Remarks. (During Closing Remarks, Councilwoman Benjamin stated that Ward 4 "Volunteers" may start earlier than Twelve o'clock Noon for the Clean-Up, on Saturday, and asked that Everyone be "listening" out for this "Announcement", via Facebook or the Radio.)

BUSINESS ITEMS:

NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING -- March 26, 2019 at 5:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Councilman Bowline, and seconded by Councilman Johnson, to adjourn, and by unanimous consent of the Council, this meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.




COREY D. BOWIE, Council President

ATTEST:



IVY S. HARRISON, City Clerk

APPROVED:



DARRIO MELTON, Mayor