

MINUTES OF THE  
SELMA CITY COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 18, 2019  
4:30 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, November 18, 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, November 18, 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 Samuel Randolph, and Councilwoman Jannie Thomas. Others present were City Clerk Ivy S. Harrison and Ms. Ronita Wade, City Treasurer. Councilman Johnnie Leashore was absent during roll call, but arrived at 4:55 p.m. Councilman Michael Johnson was absent during roll call, but arrived at 4:56 p.m. Councilwoman Susan M. Youngblood was absent during roll call, but arrived at 5:03 p.m. Councilman Carl Bowline was absent during roll call, but arrived at 5:25 p.m.

*The "Character Trait" for this Month is "Wisdom":  
Seeing and Responding to Life Situations from a Perspective that Transcends My Current Circumstances.*

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council President Bowie stated at this time, the "Chair" will entertain a motion to approve the Agenda, and asked for a "motion" from the "floor". A motion was made by Councilwoman Thomas, and seconded by Councilman Randolph, 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After approval of the agenda, Council President Bowie stated to the Council that they should have before them, several sets of Minutes; September 10, 2019, September 24, 2019, September 30, 2019, and October 8, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes, and October 7, 2019 Special Called Meeting Minutes. President Bowie stated that it is his hope that Everyone has had an opportunity to peruse the Minutes. President Bowie asked the Council, if they wanted to approve all sets of Minutes, or if they wanted to "carry" them over until Monday's Council Meeting? It was the *Consensus* of the Council Members, to "carry" the Minutes over until the next Council Meeting. President Bowie asked the Council Members to please peruse the Minutes, in order to take action at Monday's Council Meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- A. Resolution #R102-19/20 - Rebuild Alabama Act Grant Application. President Bowie stated to Council that they should have before them Resolution #R102-19/20, Rebuild Alabama Act Grant Application. President Bowie further stated that Resolution #R102-19/20 is only to apply for the "Grant". During discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Randolph, and seconded by Councilwoman Jackson, to approve Resolution #R102-19/20, Rebuild Alabama Grant Application. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

CONTRACTS FOR APPROVAL:

President Bowie stated to Council that we are in receipt of a Contract from Alabama Power Company, that must be executed if the City plans to place Holiday Lights on Alabama Power Company's poles. During

discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Thomas, and seconded by Councilman Randolph, to move forward and approve the Contract with Alabama Power Company, and the City of Selma, for the attachment of Holiday Decorations on Alabama Power Company's Poles. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council Members present. There were four affirmative votes and one abstention. Councilwoman Jackson abstained from voting. During roll call, Councilwoman Jackson stated, "I abstain. I just need more information; so, I abstain."

President Bowie stated to Council that during our last Council Meeting, Ms. Ronita Wade, City Treasurer, brought before us, the Contract between the City of Selma, and Dallas County Commission, regarding the Transportation Enhancement Project, located along Highway 80 East, from the Edmund Pettus Bridge to Craig Field (Pine Glen Estates). President Bowie further stated that this Agreement is paid in half by the City, and the County, each for a total sum of \$15,000.00. President Bowie stated that the Contract is for the Renewal Period, October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020, and asked Council's consideration of the same. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Randolph, and seconded by Councilwoman Thomas, to approve the Transportation Enhancement Project Contract/Agreement, in the amount of \$15,000.00, to be shared equally by the City of Selma, and the Dallas County Commission, via the Community Development Line Item. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

President Bowie stated to Council that they have before them a Legal Bill, in the amount of \$2,334.00, for the Office of Copeland, Franco, Screws & Gill, which is before the Council for approval. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Randolph, and seconded by Councilwoman Jackson, to approve the Legal Bill for the Office of Copeland, Franco, Screws & Gill, in the amount of \$2,334.50. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

President Bowie stated that he is in receipt of a Memorandum from our Tax Collector, Ms. Kim Lewis. President Bowie further stated to Council that he wanted them to keep in mind, Ordinance #O108-17/18, and Alabama Code, 11-43-5, that they have the right to appoint the Tax Collector. President Bowie stated that we need to hold all of our Appointed Employees to the same standard; that it is very important that they attend the Council Meeting, just as Ms. Wade does, our City Clerk, Mrs. Harrison, Chief Green, and the Fire Chief. Councilwoman Thomas stated, as an Elected Official, she is going to help the Elders in her Ward, and continue to bring them to City Hall, to assist them when they are in need of assistance with Garbage Exemptions, the Back Door Service for Garbage, and so forth. Councilwoman Benjamin read Ms. Kim Lewis', Tax Collector, Memorandum in its entirety. Following the reading of Ms. Lewis' Memorandum, President Bowie stated that the Council is not considered the "HR Director". Councilwoman Thomas stated that Ms. Zenobia Robinson's Trash Can, a Former Resident of Ward 7, had been removed, and she called the Office to see why her Trash Can had been removed. Councilwoman Thomas stated that Ms. Robinson was exempt from paying garbage fees, but somehow her exempt paperwork had been misplaced in the Tax & License Office. Councilwoman Thomas stated that Ms. Robinson was very upset and had called to speak with Ms. Lewis about the cart being removed. Councilwoman Thomas stated that she was trying to explain to Ms. Lewis that Ms. Robinson was the type of person that would handle her business, and that Ms. Lewis did not like it that Ms. Robinson was up there trying to find out. Councilwoman Thomas stated that she had stepped out of the Tax Office, and that Ms. Lewis was walking behind her, and that she thought she was trying to get a confrontation between the two of them. Councilwoman Thomas stated, as an Elected Official, she is not going to argue with anyone; that she also told Ms. Lewis that she did not think she wanted to come in her face like that, as an Elected Official. Councilwoman Thomas stated she felt that Ms. Lewis did not like what she stated to her. Councilwoman Thomas further stated that she felt that the Residents should have received a letter so that they could have a better understanding of why their trash cans were being taken. Councilwoman Benjamin stated to President Bowie, and the Council, that none of the Council Members work "for" each other; that they work "with" each other. Councilwoman Benjamin stated, "For clarity, we work together. We don't have authority over Elected Officials." Councilwoman Youngblood stated to President Bowie, that she would like to request to get a Monthly Report of Business Licenses that have been paid, and a Monthly Report of Business License that have not been paid. Councilwoman Youngblood stated that she has offered her help to the Tax Office, due to Business Licenses not being received by the "Businesses" last year, but that Ms. Kim Lewis told her that she did not need her help. Councilwoman Jackson stated that she would like to know what the procedure is, regarding "Non-Payment of Property Taxes", and what they're doing to remedy this. Councilwoman Jackson further stated that the purpose of the Tax Collector is to bring in revenue. Councilwoman Jackson stated that she would love to speak with Ms. Lewis, as a "Body", to get information as to how they can "service" her. Councilwoman Thomas stated to President Bowie that a lot of Residents and Citizens are concerned, and that they need to know whether or not there will be a "cut-back" on the number of Residents to be exempt from garbage payment service, and will they continue to get the "back-door" service. Councilwoman Thomas asked President Bowie to check into this, and bring back a report to the Council, because the Citizens would like to know.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilwoman Thomas stated that she would like to say to the Citizens, and the City of Selma, that they are working on getting the trash out off of the Streets, in each Ward. Councilwoman Thomas further stated that they have a lot of calls, and Citizens are very upset that they can't get through to their Council Member.

Councilwoman Thomas further stated that she would like to request that each Council member give their phone number as a "Contact" on tonight. President Bowie stated that they will rectify the problem on tonight. Councilwoman Thomas "announced" to the Constituents of Ward 7, that they will be planning their "Year-End" Event for sometime in December. Councilwoman Thomas stated that the meeting will be on a "Saturday", and that she will let them know the date. Councilwoman Thomas "reminded" Everyone that if they have Elementary Schools within their Wards, that she would like to know if they are interested in having one of the Schools in their areas to be part of the Poster Contest; "Keep Alabama Beautiful". Councilwoman Thomas stated that she would like for the Schools in their areas, that have "5<sup>th</sup> Graders", to be a part of the Contest.

Councilwoman Jackson stated that the "New York Times Bestselling Author of Everybody Always", Mr. Bob Goff, will be here on December 12<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m., at the Selma High Auditorium. Councilwoman Jackson stated to Council, that the cost to attend is \$10.00 for the Event, and asked that they let her know if they are interested in attending, and need a ticket for the Event. Councilwoman Jackson further stated, "We know we need Love and Hope"! Councilwoman Jackson stated that this Event, "A Night with Bob Goff", is being presented by "Integrity Worldwide"!

Councilwoman Benjamin stated to Council that they are again being "invited" to Ward 4's "Annual End of the Year, 'State of the Ward'" Address and Acknowledgements, on December 16<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

### CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

Mr. Curtis Wimberly  
Re: City Worker's Concern

(Mr. Wimberly addressed the Council, and stated that he is a "Former Employee", and that he heard about a position that was filled within the Recreation Department, for an "Assistant Recreation Director". Mr. Wimberly stated that the position was not posted for an "Assistant Recreation Director". Mr. Wimberly stated that he is "over-qualified" for this position, with all of the experience that he has to offer. Mr. Wimberly stated that he left a job of 25 years to pursue a job he was certified in; that he was hired in July, 2018, and was laid off in November, 2018. Mr. Wimberly stated that he was of the understanding that the only jobs filled would be Public Safety. Mr. Wimberly further stated that it was very disturbing that as a laid-off employee he was not given the opportunity. Mr. Wimberly stated that he has worked with the City Recreation Department since he was 16 years old, and that he has worked in every aspect of City Recreation. "I have done the T-Ball; I've worked on the playground; ran Dinkins Pool; so, I have knowledge of everything that goes on in City Recreation, not to mention that I have degrees in areas surrounding City Recreation. It's just a serious concern of mine." Mr. Wimberly stated that there are at least 11 People that worked in the Recreation Department that should've been notified of the job vacancy. Mr. Wimberly stated, "If this is so, you all are in violation of the Labor Laws. This needs to be addressed, and is unfair practice." Mr. Wimberly stated that the position was posted on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, if he is not mistaken, and closed on November 24<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Randolph stated that our problem is that we don't have a Personnel Director, and that can hurt us; that we need a qualified Personnel Director in that Department. Councilwoman Jackson "Thanked" Mr. Wimberly for bringing this matter to the Council's attention, and stated, "I was not aware of this. We have placed a freeze on hiring with the exception of Public Safety." Councilwoman Benjamin stated that the Council appropriates the funding, but the Council is not "Human Resources".

### FINANCE REPORT

President Bowie asked Ms. Ronita Wade, City Treasurer, to come forward, and address the Council with a Finance Report. Ms. Wade addressed the Council, and stated to Council that, because we're on this "Subject" of Recreation Department, these defunded positions are all relative. Ms. Wade further stated that she wanted to "update" the Council, in that we had a misappropriation of funds that occurred in her office as a result of these same issues. Ms. Wade stated to President Bowie that she did receive his Memo on Thursday; an email was sent to her Staff, and a letter was delivered to one of her Accountants who processes payroll, requesting to make the necessary changes in which the Council voted to approve. Ms. Wade further stated that she then forwarded to the Mayor's Office, and the Mayor's Office indicated that they did not have the information, on that same day, which was the "Wednesday". Ms. Wade stated that on Thursday Morning, President Bowie provided the information to the Finance Department and the Mayor's Office. Ms. Wade stated, despite all of that information being provided, her Staff, actually on her own "recognizance" decided that she would pay the Recreation Department "Salaries", what they were normally being paid, when the Sportsplex was in operation. Ms. Wade stated, "As a result, I had to take disciplinary action; a letter of "Warning" to my Staff, because those were misappropriated payroll funds. As I explained to her, the Council 'legislates', and it becomes 'Law'. Once you all approve action, it is our job to execute it. I understand the Mayor says that they did not have the information, but we provided the information, and made them aware. It didn't require going into the New World Software System to make that change, because we could have made the 'change' in the Finance Department. I'm asking you, as Council Members, and I have submitted this to my Attorney, the issues that I have been having, because this is one of them. I have his Secretary who owes BCBS payments

that she has not paid, and refuses to pay. I have sent Memo's to the Mayor, and made him aware, and she's also aware. And, I understand the Mayor is over day-to-day operations, but now I have this issue where my Staff continues to work effectively with the Mayor to ignore the Legislative actions of the Council; that's been constant, and ongoing. I have a Court Ruling that Reinstated me to my full capacity. You all have a Court Order that states to, Reinstates me to that capacity. The Law says that you're over the Legislative aspects of the City. When my Staff elects to, and this is not the first time that this has happened, I understand that we have a right to request that they be held in contempt; that's including the Mayor, the Mayor's Administration, and anybody else. I'm asking you, as the Council, to stand with me, that anytime that these situations occur that we need to move forward, and take legal action, and hold these People who choose to violate the Law, in contempt of Court. So, I have a Memo that I would like to share with you all, in terms of the process of how the funds were misappropriated. These are the Citizens' funds, and I can not be held responsible when others decide that they're going to be contrary to what the Law says. So, I ask that you handle this, and move forward, I have submitted this to my Lawyer who intends to review and take further action and I ask that you submit it to your Lawyers, so that they may take further action, as well." Ms. Wade read the Memo in its entirety to the Council, that she gave to her Accountant and her Staff, as it relates to Misappropriation of Payroll Funds. Following Ms. Wade reading the Memo, Councilwoman Youngblood stated that she is "just appalled" to hear that this has occurred, in spite of the fact that the Council took a vote on this, and that we were no longer part of the "Partnership" between the City and the County. Councilwoman Jackson "Thanked" Ms. Wade for bringing this to their attention, and stated that she is very concerned, and that they need to ensure that they put the necessary procedures in place, so that this does not happen again. Councilwoman Jackson further stated that, "It doesn't matter if it's in writing or not, because they had the understanding that once the Contract became 'null and void', they would not pay the salaries; they went into the Contractual Agreement with this understanding. The moment that the County instructed the Council and the Mayor's Office, the Mayor knew at that time to inform the Employees of the salary change. So, why he felt that he needed something additional from the Council, I don't know. He didn't need anything in writing because it was stated initially in the Contract. The Mayor chose to ignore instructions, and did not follow the instructions." Councilman Johnson asked for an explanation about the funding that was to pay the salaries. Ms. Wade stated that the revenue to pay the salaries was to come from the Gate Receipts. During discussion, Mrs. Carneetie Ellison was asked to come forward, to provide an explanation in terms of the Gate Receipts. Ms. Wade stated that the Mayor's Office received notice on September 24, 2019, from the Law Office of Kelly & Kelly, regarding Dissolution of the Agreement between the County and the City; "So, he was already aware." Councilwoman Thomas stated to President Bowie that they need to move forward, immediately on, getting the funds back that are due back on the Insurance Premium that is owed by the City Employee; "this needs to be filed under the Ethics Commission, because this is an Ethics violation". Ms. Wade stated, "This is misappropriation of City funds. I don't care if it's \$5.00, this is a misappropriation of funds. \$5.00 can lead to Five Millions of Dollars." Councilwoman Jackson stated that she is asking that they take action, and get these funds back. Ms. Wade stated that she is willing to work with them, but would like to know that this Council is making sure, or at least some effort, is being made do get the funds back. Councilman Leashore asked Ms. Wade to call the City Attorney, to see what the status is on the Fixed Assets Inventory Contract, and to let him know once she has found out. Ms. Wade stated that she would do so.

During discussion, Councilwoman Jackson stated to Council that she does have a Purchase Order with Denmark Tree, that she has been working with Ms. Wade on, as it relates to a tree being cut down, located on McLeod and Young Street. Councilwoman Jackson further stated that she contacted Ms. Wade, who informed her that we still have funds that can be used for cutting down trees, and tree trimming. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Jackson, and seconded by Councilman Leashore, to enter into a Contract via Purchase Order, with Denmark Tree, in the amount of \$4,000.00, for Four (4) Trees; 728 Union Street; 622 Union Street; 415 Union Street; Corner of Church Street and Furniss Avenue. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

During discussion, a motion was made by President Bowie, and seconded by Councilman Randolph, to approve \$4,500.00 for payment of the Sidewalk Cave-in at the Songs of Selma Park, via President Bowie's Oil Lease Funds. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

During discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Thomas, and seconded by Councilwoman Youngblood, to approve a Budget Amendment to increase Discretionary Funds \$5,000.00, for a total of \$10,000.00 each for Discretionary Funds. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council Members present. There were seven affirmative votes, one nay vote, and one abstention. During roll call, Councilman Leashore stated, "No, it is ill advised; no."

During discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Benjamin, and seconded by Councilwoman Youngblood, to approve the Contractual Agreement for an Administrative Assistant with Mrs. Carneetie Ellison, removing Item 6, because the computer and copier are already there. Councilwoman Jackson stated that she would feel more comfortable voting, if they have made sure that the Contract is legally binding, and asked President Bowie, if the Contract had been reviewed by their Attorney? President Bowie answered, and stated that the Council's Attorney has reviewed, and stated that it is legal, and binding. Councilman Johnson asked President Bowie, if there is another person that they can "add" to this, in order to have someone that can assist Mrs. Ivy Harrison, City Clerk, as well? Councilwoman Benjamin answered, and

stated that she was going to handle the Contract for the City Clerk's Office, separately; that they had also discussed the City Clerk's Office during the Work Session. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council Members present. There were seven affirmative votes and one abstention. Councilman Leashore abstained from voting. Following said roll call, Councilwoman Benjamin stated that she also asked Councilwoman Jackson during the Work Session, if she would follow-up with Ms. Cindy Stoudenmire, a Faithful Worker of the City of Selma, who came from the City Clerk's Office, to see if she was interested in a position with the City. Councilwoman Jackson stated that she contacted Mrs. Ivy Harrison, City Clerk, and made her aware that this was something that we were looking into, and asked her to contact Ms. Stoudenmire, regarding the need for contract work within her office, and she stated that she would do so. Mrs. Harrison addressed the Council, and stated to Council that she did have an opportunity to speak with Ms. Stoudenmire, and that she is interested. Mrs. Harrison stated that Ms. Stoudenmire is still interested in the position, but is currently working part-time, and would like to give them some level of notice. Councilwoman Benjamin stated since Ms. Stoudenmire is still interested in working with us, to check on the date that she can start. Mrs. Harrison stated that she would do so.

President Bowie stated that he spoke with Ms. Ronita Wade, about the "carry-over" of funds left in the Grass Cutting Line Item, and asked that they "carrying over" the remainder of funds, in the amount of \$5,000.00, for the Grass Cutting Line Item. A motion was made by Councilwoman Youngblood, and seconded by Councilman Johnson, to "carry-over" the funds remaining in the amount of \$5,000.00, in the Grass Cutting Line Item. 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

Made a report. (During his Report, Councilman Johnson "announced" that he will be serving "Thanksgiving Dinners" on Thanksgiving Day, beginning at 11:00 a.m., and asked that anyone who would like to come out and get a "Warm Meal" on Thanksgiving Day, to feel free to come to the Selma Avenue Sports Bar & Grill; that it is "Free". Councilman Johnson stated that, for those who can not make it down there, that they can deliver meals to the homes, as well.)

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

Made a report. (During her Report, Councilwoman Youngblood stated that the Christmas Parade will be on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, along with "Lighting" of the Christmas Tree", and that they will be having "An Old Fashioned Christmas", on Water Avenue. Councilwoman Youngblood "Invited" Everyone to come, and "Light Up the River"!)

##### CAPITAL EQUIPMENT - Councilman Samuel Randolph, Chairperson

No Report.

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

No Report./Closing Remarks.

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

No Report.

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

Made a report./Closing Remarks.

##### 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

Made a report./Closing Remarks.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS COMMITTEE – Councilwoman Jannie Thomas, Chairperson

Made a report. (During her report, Councilwoman Thomas stated that she found out on today that A.L.D.O.T. does not come out into Residential areas of the City, and install replacement boxes, but that they referred her to Stone Sons Electric of Birmingham, who can come into the Residential areas and replace the boxes. Councilwoman Thomas asked President Bowie if he could ask Mr. Steven Hendrieth, Public Works Director, to get a map of all of the locations of these lights, so that they can come down, and install the new boxes. Councilwoman Thomas stated that we have Tourists coming in to our City, and that she is quite sure that Everyone has seen how the City looks; that she is so embarrassed by the garbage and trash in our City particularly, in our Downtown Areas of the City, where Tourists are visiting. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Thomas, and seconded by Councilman Randolph, to approve to move forward with the Contract of Carriage Hill Landscaping for the Downtown Area of the City, in the amount of \$8,000.00, \$6,000.00 for pruning, mulching, and placing flower beds, and \$2,000.00, for pruning and mulching around the entrance signs, via the Beautification Line Item. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

Following the above roll call, a motion was made by Councilwoman Thomas, and seconded by Councilwoman Youngblood, to approve Two (2) Employees to work with Public Buildings; Convention Center, and other Public Buildings, and to also go back to the original Contract for Public Buildings, that was in place previously. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.) / Closing Remarks.

Following the above discussion, Councilwoman Benjamin stated to President Bowie and the Council, that we now have an Administrative Assistant that will "re-connect" the Council to their Constituents, and that she can be reached at the Council's Office, at 874-1234. Councilwoman Benjamin stated that she brings with her a lot of experience; that she has worked in the Tax & License Department, Recreation Department, and now she will be in the Council's Office.)

Also, during more discussion, Councilwoman Youngblood stated to President Bowie that there is a Garden Club that wants to "adopt" the Four (4) Major Corners on Broad Street, to keep clean, and asked if they could vote to allow them to do that? During discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Youngblood, and seconded by Councilman Randolph, to approve to allow the Garden Club to "Volunteer" to "adopt" the Four (4) Major Corners on Broad Street, to keep clean. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE – Councilwoman Angela Benjamin, Chairperson

No Report.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

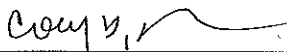
NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING --- December 10, 2019 at 5:00 P.M.

THE COUNCIL MEMBERS WISHED "SAFE TRAVELS" TO COUNCILWOMAN BENJAMIN,  
COUNCILMAN LEASHORE, AND COUNCILMAN RANDOLPH!

"HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO EVERYONE!"

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilman Randolph, to adjourn, and by unanimous consent of the Council, this meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

  
COREY D. BOWIE, *Council President*

ATTEST:

  
IVY S. HARRISON, *City Clerk*

APPROVED:

  
DARRIO MELTON, *Mayor*

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

Call to Order

MOMENT OF SILENCE  
IN  
HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF VETERAN'S DAY!  
WE ALSO "RECOGNIZE AND HONOR"  
COUNCILMAN SAMUEL L. RANDOLPH AND COUNCILMAN JOHNNIE M. LEASHORE!

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,  
November 12, 2019, at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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*The "Character Trait" for this Month is "Wisdom":  
Seeing and Responding to Life Situations from a Perspective that Transcends My Current Circumstances.*

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 Bowline, 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 Resolution #R101-19/20, Authorizing AT&T to Modify an Existing Guyed Tower Located at 3538 U. S. Highway 80, West, Selma, Alabama, to Provide Wireless Services Essentially Within the Corporate Limits and Police Jurisdiction of the City of Selma.
- (2) To Approve Ultra Grand Lounge for a Liquor License.
- (3) To Approve a Fee Waiver of Memorial Stadium for the "Selma City Vikings", for the upcoming season.

- (4) To Approve Moving the Council Meeting to Monday, November 18, 2019, and Tuesday, December 17, 2019.

Council President Bowie asked for a "motion" from the "floor" to approve the Four (4) Items on Consent Agenda. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Randolph, and seconded by Councilwoman Thomas, to approve and adopt the Four (4) Items on Consent Agenda. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed by a majority vote of the Council Members present. There were six affirmative votes and two abstentions. Councilwoman Jackson abstained on Items 1 and 2. Councilman Johnson abstained from voting. During roll call, Councilwoman Jackson stated, "I vote 'yes' on Items 3 and 4 and I abstain on Items 1 and 2. During roll call, Councilman Johnson stated, "I'm going to have to abstain, because I wasn't here for the Work Session."

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After approval of the agenda, Council President Bowie stated to the Council that they should have before them, several sets of Minutes; September 10, 2019, September 24, September 30, 2019, and October 8, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes, and October 7, 2019 Special Called Meeting Minutes. President Bowie stated that it is his hope that Everyone has had an opportunity to peruse the Minutes. President Bowie asked the Council, if they wanted to approve all sets of Minutes, or if they wanted to "carry" them over until Monday's Council Meeting? It was the *Consensus* of the Council Members, to "carry" the Minutes over until Monday's Council Meeting. President Bowie asked the Council Members to please peruse the Minutes, in order to take action at Monday's Council Meeting.

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilwoman Thomas stated to Council that some of the Council Members have Elementary Schools within their Wards, and that she would like to know if they are interested in having one of the Schools in their areas to be part of the Poster Contest; "Keep Alabama Beautiful". Councilwoman Thomas stated that she would like for the Schools in their areas, that have "5<sup>th</sup> Graders", to be a part of the Contest. Councilwoman Thomas further stated that she has the information, that needs to be given to the Principal of the School. Councilwoman Thomas stated that the Contest will "Kick-Off", January, 2020, and the Contest ends on February 10, 2020. Councilwoman Thomas also "Announced" that she and Commissioner Valerie Reubin, will have a "Kick-Off" during the first week in January, for the City of Selma, Litter Free, for "2020", focusing on areas where there are a lot of Tourists; Downtown Areas where a lot of Tourists come in. Councilwoman Thomas stated that they will have "Litter Bags" to give out, for Citizens to use in their vehicles.

Councilwoman Benjamin stated to Council that she sent them a message earlier today, along with the Media, concerning their change in the "Mall Walk", and that it will be this Friday, November 15, at 12:15 p.m. Councilwoman Benjamin stated that on December 13<sup>th</sup> or December 18<sup>th</sup>, they are trying to create a "Polar Express Experience" for the Children, and that she will be sending them information concerning this Event.

Councilwoman Benjamin "Announced" that the Annual End of the Year, "State of the Ward" Address and Acknowledgements, will be on December 16<sup>th</sup>, at 4:30 p.m.

Councilman Randolph stated that he would like to make a "statement", and stated, "I guess you all saw in the newspaper that my case as dismissed; so-called lewdness in the community. I'm glad that it got dismissed but I'm still upset and appalled by the Police Department. Spencer Collier, former Police Chief, and the Mayor tried to shut me up, and put my 'name' in the media. It's just not right for the Police Department to do a citizen like that because you're trying to shut somebody up. The Mayor continually on his 'Talk Show' on the Radio, about 'Councilman Randolph's lewdness in the street'. The only thing I'm asking for is very simple; I want a public apology from the Police Department. I want a public apology from the Mayor; that's all I'm asking for. If you don't do that, I'll see you in Federal Court. I'm not playing. It's just wrong; trying to shut me up. I'm not a person that's easy to shut up. I need a public apology before next Friday." Councilwoman Benjamin stated to Councilman Randolph that she does not blame him for being upset; that she is really, really sorry that he had to go through that. Councilwoman Benjamin stated that she was on the phone with Councilman Randolph when this incident took place, and that at first she thought it was a 'joke' but that it turned out not to be a 'joke'. Councilwoman Benjamin stated, "This man almost lost his job. FedEx called to see what was going on. This is what lies will do to a person's livelihood. Too much is going on."



Pastor Leodis Strong  
Re: "Citizen's" Concerns

(Pastor Strong addressed the Council, and read a "Letter" to the Council, requesting that they enter into an Agreement with the Mayor, and Council, with the "Goal" to "return the laid-off Workers for the restoration and performance of basic/essential public services to the Citizens of Selma." President Bowie stated to Pastor Strong, that he does agree with him, but that in order to move forward, that all would have to come together, in order to work together; 'that he has bent over backwards, trying to work together.' Councilwoman Benjamin stated that she would like to state that, they have put the money where it belongs; that they can not bring one City Employee back. Councilwoman Benjamin further stated, that it has already been shared that the money for the Employees was never gone; that the Administrator of the entire City of Selma is the Mayor. Councilwoman Benjamin stated that they are the 'Legislators', and they put the money where it belongs. Councilwoman Benjamin further stated, "Not one single 'Nine' of us can bring an Employee back." Councilman Randolph stated to Pastor Strong, "I'm confused about why you are here, because everything that you have talked about is in the Mayor's Office. He laid the Folks off. He got the People not picking up the trash. Our City is a '100%' mess. I think you should've went to the Mayor, first. It's coming up to Christmas Time; let's give the laid-off Employees, a 'Christmas Bonus.'" Councilman Leashore stated that he would like to apologize to Reverend Strong. Councilman Leashore further stated, "This Council needs to fix the Budget. I feel that our Employees deserve a livable wage. But, we need to wait and see what our Budget is." Pastor Strong stated that what is needed is the resumption of services, and the problem solved in a way that this can happen. Councilwoman Thomas stated that they have been doing what the "day-to-day" operations should've been doing; with going out and cleaning all over our City. Councilwoman Thomas further stated that they have been "fighting" for the Workers. Councilwoman Thomas stated to the "Workers; "I want to let you know something, you're not here by your own. We're with you." Councilman Johnson stated if the money is there, he would like to bring our Employees back; I heard them loud and clear, and they have spoken. I think we need to send a loud message down to the Mayor's office, and the Citizens, as well, that we are with the Employees, and that we want to give them a raise. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Johnson, to bring all the Workers back, along with giving them a 'raise', when the Budget Process is complete." President Bowie stated to Councilman Johnson, that in order to give the Employees a 'raise', that it will have to be sustainable; that we have to make sure that the funds are there. Councilman Johnson asked if we could give the Employees the One Time Raise, in 2020? Councilwoman Jackson stated that she thinks that we should "Table" this discussion; that we're in a Budget Process, presently. Councilwoman Jackson further stated that they need to make sure that that they know the 'totality' of the funds that they're talking about. Councilwoman Jackson stated that they don't 'vote' on Items such as this, that they have not discussed during the Work Session. Councilman Randolph stated that he thinks that we need to do something for our Employees, even if it's just the "One Time Raise", that we've given in the past. Following more discussion, Councilman Johnson "withdrew" his motion, to move forward with said action. Pastor Strong "Thanked" the Council for allowing him to come, and speak on tonight. President Bowie and the Council "Thanked" Pastor Strong for coming, and addressing the Council on tonight.)

Pastor Chris Minter  
Re: City Workers

(Pastor Minter addressed the Council, and stated to Council that he does not agree with the Council, continuously putting "motions" on the "floor" for something that they have already done. Pastor Minter further stated that there needs to be something in place where all of the Council and the Mayor, can get this matter resolved, with bringing the Workers back to work. Pastor Minter stated that this is the only Council that he knows who have kept this City 'afloat' in the absence of leadership. Pastor Minter stated, 'Every time you look around, I've attended more meetings than the 'Leader' of this City; that's sad. But, what I'm saying is, there needs to be some 'teeth' for what's going on; these Workers deserve it; these Laid-Off Workers deserve it. Ms. Wade has said that the money is there; so, my question is, what are we going to do about it, besides just 'voting'? ... besides, just meeting? I'm tired of Y'all 'voting' for the same thing, and nothing gets resolved. All I'm saying is, there needs to be some 'teeth' to what you all are putting in place. Selma is long over-due for change." Pastor Minter "Thanked" the Council for allowing him to come, and speak on tonight. President Bowie and the Council "Thanked" Pastor Minter for coming, and addressing the Council on tonight.)

Following the above, President Bowie stated to Council, that Interim Police Chief Robert Green is here on tonight, and asked if there were any "Questions" for Chief Green? Interim Police Chief Green was asked to come forward, and address the Council with "Questions" that they had. Councilman Leashore stated to President Bowie, that he heard from an "anonymous source", and that he also needs Chief Green to "validate, or deny", that he has served notice to the Council President, that he will not be here until December 31<sup>st</sup> as previously thought, and only has until November 30<sup>th</sup>, to be with us. Councilman Leashore asked Interim Police Chief Green, "Is that true?" Interim Police Chief Green answered, and stated, "Yes, that's true. My last day will be November 30<sup>th</sup>." Councilman Leashore stated to President Bowie that, this will bring about a serious change in our "Screening Process" for the selection of a Police Chief. President Bowie stated that we

are looking at November 20<sup>th</sup>, and "Interviewing" all Six (6) Applicants on that day. Council Members "Thanked" Interim Police Chief Green, for coming and helping us, and all that he has done for us. Councilwoman Benjamin asked Interim Police Chief, if he there was a "City Employee" who returned a Badge and a Rifle? Interim Police Chief Green answered, and stated, "Yes, about a week ago we did have a City Employee who was not a Police Officer to return a "Badge and a Rifle"?" Councilwoman Thomas stated that she thinks that it is sad that we have a City Employee who was out in the Community, abusing their power with a "Police Badge". Councilwoman Thomas stated to Interim Police Chief Green that she was glad that he has been in place with our City, to address some things that have been going wrong in our City. Councilwoman Benjamin asked Interim Police Chief Green, "Do you have Items that were purchased by a 'Money Order', by the previous Administration before you?" Interim Police Chief Green answered, and stated, "I don't know the specific details, but that there was one piece of property, a vehicle, that was purchased by the Selma Police Department, by a \$250.00 Personal Money Order. Interim Police Chief Green further stated that the vehicle was purchased from the Jackson Police Department. Interim Police Chief Green stated that the vehicle has been assigned to a "Detective" within the Police Department. Councilwoman Benjamin stated to Ms. Ronita Wade, City Treasurer, that she doesn't even know how she can find out anything, but that she would like for her to research this information that Interim Police Chief Green has just stated, as best she can. Councilwoman Jackson asked Interim Police Chief Green, about where the funds for this vehicle for the purchase of this vehicle from the City of Jackson, came from on behalf of the City of Selma? Interim Police Chief Green answered, and stated that he has no idea where Police Chief Collier got the funds to pay for this particular vehicle. Following discussion, President Bowie and the Council Members "Thanked" Interim Police Chief Green, and stated that they have really enjoyed working with him! A "Round of Applause" was also extended to Interim Police Chief Green!

#### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS/COUNCIL REMARKS

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

Made a report. (During his Report, Councilman Johnson stated that he got an opportunity to hear from Mr. Terry Jackson and Mr. Gerald Barron at the Committee Meeting, and that he is looking forward to getting all of the Employees back to work. Councilman Johnson stated that he postponed the Halloween Carnival due to the Weather, but wanted to "Thank" Everyone who came out on yesterday for the "Fun Day". Councilman Johnson stated that he wanted to "Thank" all of the "Volunteers" who helped him on yesterday.)

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

Made a report. (During her Report, Councilwoman Youngblood stated that she would like to "remind" Everyone of the Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Councilwoman Youngblood stated that she, along with Councilwoman Benjamin, Councilwoman Jackson, and Councilwoman Thomas, are working on an "Old Fashioned Christmas" to "add" some "Charm" on Water Avenue.)

Councilwoman Youngblood stated to President Bowie that she also has a Contract for the Welcome Center. Councilman Johnson stated to President Bowie that he also has a Contract for Grass Cutting in Ward 8. President Bowie stated to Councilwoman Youngblood and Councilman Johnson that action will be taken on both of the Contracts, simultaneously. A motion was made by Councilman Johnson, and seconded by Councilwoman Youngblood to approve the following Contracts: (1) Welcome Center - Contract for Services, for Workers at the rate of \$7.25 per hour, 7 days a week, and the Supervisor will set the hours of work; and (2) Mr. Ray Brown and Mr. William Tarver, Grass Cutting in Ward 8, and Cleaning of Ditches, and Cutting of Trees. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council Members present. There were eight affirmative votes and one abstention. Councilwoman Jackson abstained from voting.

Following said roll call, Councilwoman Thomas stated to President Bowie that she has Two (2) Contracts that will also need action to be taken. President Bowie asked Councilwoman Thomas if she wanted to bring the Contracts on Monday, and she stated that she would bring them on Monday, for action by the Council.

President Bowie stated to Council that he talked with Probate Judge Jimmy Nunn on today, and that it was mentioned that the Council needs to take action on the Contract for the Transportation Enhancement Project Agreement on Alabama Highway 80, East, that is shared with the County. President Bowie further stated that the renewal Period is for October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020. A motion was made by Councilwoman Youngblood, and seconded by Councilman Johnson, to approve moving forward with the Transportation Enhancement Project Agreement, with half of the \$15,000.00 being paid by the City, via the Community Development Line Item, and the other half, being paid by the County. During discussion, President Bowie stated that this Item will be *Continued* until Monday's Council Meeting; therefore, the "Motion" was Withdrawn, and the "Second" to the "Motion" was also Withdrawn.

##### CAPITAL EQUIPMENT - Councilman Samuel Randolph, Chairperson

Made a report. (During his report, Councilman Randolph stated that he is looking forward to the Nine (9) Vehicles that the Selma Police Department will be receiving, and that he hopes that we get them before December 7<sup>th</sup>, so that they can be a part of the Christmas Parade! Councilman Randolph "Announced" that

the Selma Housing Authority is soliciting "Toys", that they will be donating to a "Needy Family". Councilman Randolph stated that anyone who would like to give, and "sponsor" a Child with Toys, can do so, and the toys can be dropped off at the Selma Housing Authority, located at 444 Washington Street.)

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE - Councilman Carl Bowline, Chairperson

No Report. (Councilman Bowline stated that he "Thanked" the Employees for coming and being honest with the Committee, during the Combined Committee Meeting, earlier this month.)

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

President Bowie stated that the Public Safety Committee will begin Interviewing for the Police Chief, beginning on Wednesday, November 20, 2019, and that he will be following back up with the Council regarding that Process.

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

Made a report. (During his Report, Councilman Leashore stated to President Bowie, that he was really looking forward to the Exploratory Meeting; however, he did receive the communication that was "CC'd" to the Council, by the Mayor. Councilman Leashore further stated that he concluded that the Meeting was not going to be held, and that was when he knew that this Council needed to hear from these Employees. Councilman Leashore stated that he thought the best option was to set up Two (2) Meetings; "Combined" Committee Meetings in order to hear from the Employees. Councilman Leashore stated to President Bowie that he would like to ask that the Council allow Mr. Marvin Green to come to the Work Session on Monday, and speak on behalf of the Public Works' Employees. Councilman Leashore stated that he is hoping that Mrs. Ivy, City Clerk, will have the Minutes so that the Council can hear the "voices" of these Employees. Councilman Leashore stated that he would like to "Thank" his Colleagues for being there with him to hear the concerns of the Employees during the Committee Meeting. Councilman Leashore stated that it really "drove" him to "tears" to hear from the Employees, that this Council does not care about them, or their Families. President Bowie stated to Councilman Leashore, that he will give Mr. Green a few minutes to come and speak to the Council, and that he would be contacting some of the other Employees, to see if they would like to come and speak to the Council during the Work Session on Monday.)

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

President Bowie stated that Ms. Ronita Wade, City Treasurer, will give a report on Monday, along with Ms. Kim Lewis, Tax Collector.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS COMMITTEE - Councilwoman Jannie Thomas, Chairperson

Made a report. (During her report, Councilwoman Thomas stated that she wanted to "Thank" Councilwoman Benjamin, who has gone through this transition with her, with the Buildings. Councilwoman Thomas stated, going into "2020", we're looking good. Councilwoman Thomas further stated that she went over to the Dallas Academy Building and it is looking pretty good. Councilwoman Thomas stated that they have finished the air conditioners, and they have one more phase that they have to finish; that she got a call from Attorney Woody on today, who had received a call from the Insurance Adjuster, asking him to check, and find out what we want to do about the Ceramics Department's Floors. Councilwoman Thomas stated that she and Attorney Woody are planning to go over, and take pictures of what was on the floors at the time. After we finish that, we'll be finished with getting that Building read to be opened back up. I need to get the Contracts for the Dallas Academy Building, Judge Armstrong, and the BlackBelt Benefit Group, in order to move forward on. Contacted Mr. Robert at the Alabama Power Company, about the lights. They're going to send someone to come and do an estimate of what the cost will be to do the lights for us. Councilwoman Thomas stated to President Bowie that, coming into "2020", she would like for us to do something with our City Buildings, in terms of getting them cleaned. Councilwoman Thomas also asked President Bowie if he could get some assistance with the Fountain that is located at City Hall; that it has trash, garbage, and "green water". Councilwoman Thomas stated that we have Tourists who come and "tour" around our City, and it is disgusting for our City to be in the condition that it's in. Councilwoman Thomas stated, "Our City has never come to the condition it's in; it is ridiculous!" Councilwoman Thomas stated that she has also talked to Mr. Bonn, who is going to give us a "quote" on doing some landscaping, in and around our City Buildings, which will also include City Hall, and that she will bring back a report to the Council once he has done it.)

No Report.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING --- November 18, 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 Leashore, to adjourn, and by unanimous consent of the Council, this meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

  
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COREY D. BOWIE, *Council President*

ATTEST:

  
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IVY S. HARRISON, *City Clerk*

APPROVED:

  
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DARRIO MELTON, *Mayor*