

MINUTES OF THE
SELMA CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 11, 2020
4:30 P.M.

DRAFT

Call to Order

Invocation: Councilman Johnnie Leashore,
Ward 6

Pledge of Allegiance

The Selma City Council met in a regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 4:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The Selma City Council met in a regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, with the following Council Members present during roll call: Council President Corey D. Bowie, and Council Members, Councilman Carl Bowline, Councilwoman Susan M. Youngblood, Councilwoman Angela Benjamin, Councilman Johnnie Leashore, and Councilwoman Jannie Thomas. Others present were City Clerk Ivy S. Harrison, Ms. Ronita Wade, City Treasurer, and City Attorney, Major Madison. Councilwoman Miah Tolbert-Jackson, Councilman Samuel Randolph and Councilman Michael Johnson were absent from tonight's Council Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Bowie stated that, at this point and time, we need to go into Executive Session for about 30 - 45 Minutes, to discuss Legal Matters, and further, the "Chair" would entertain a "motion". A motion was made by Councilman Bowline, and seconded by Councilman Leashore, to "Recess" into Executive Session for about 30 - 45 Minutes, to discuss Legal Matters, at 4:40 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed by a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

Following Executive Session, President Bowie called for a "motion" from the "floor", to "Reconvene" the Council Meeting, back into "Session". A motion was made by Councilwoman Benjamin, and seconded by Councilman Bowline, to "Reconvene" back into the Council Meeting at 5:04 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

*The "Character Trait" for this Month is "Resourcefulness":
Finding Practical Uses for That Which Others Would Overlook or Discard.*

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Council President Bowie stated to Council that they should have before them, Consent Agenda Items, a Total of Six (6) Items, to be considered for tonight's Council Meeting. 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 to be placed on Consent Agenda, as follows:

- (1) To Approve to Set Aside \$165,000.00 from the Lodging Fee Funds and \$100,000.00 from the General Fund with the Cost Savings Coming from the Jail Contract for a Total of \$265,000.00 to Repair the Sinkhole at Riverfront Park.
- (2) To Approve the Harrell's Refrigeration Service Statement in the Amount of \$1,500.00 for the Old Depot Museum.
- (3) To Approve a Contract for Mr. Robert Walker to Setup and Breakdown after Events being Held in the City's Buildings. Mr. Walker will be Paid \$10.00 an Hour with the Funding Coming from the General Fund.
- (4) To Approve Resolution #R106-19/20 Rescinding Resolution #R139-17/18 to Discontinue the Supplemented Salaries of Recreation Employees as it Relates to the Dallas County Youth Sportsplex.
- (5) To Approve a Statement from Selcom, LLC for Phone Service in the Council's Office for \$250.00 and PineBelt for Internet Services for a One Time Fee of \$329.99.
- (6) To Approve Resolutions, #R105-19/20 Appointing Chief Chris Graham as Fire Chief at an Annual Salary of \$70,000.00 and Resolution #R107-19/20 Appointing Chief Kenta Fulford as Police Chief at an Annual Salary of \$80,000.00.

President Bowie stated, at this point and time, the "Chair" would entertain a "motion" to adopt and approve the above Six (6) Items for Consent Agenda. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilwoman Youngblood, to approve and adopt the Six (6) Items on Consent Agenda. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed by a majority vote of the Council Members present. There were five affirmative votes on all Consent Agenda Items. Councilman Bowline abstained on Consent Item 5. Councilman Bowline cast a nay vote on Consent Item 4. During roll call, Councilman Bowline stated, "Yes on Items 1, 2, 3 and 6; abstain on 5; vote 'no' on 4, I would prefer Councilman Johnson to be here to discuss Consent Item 4.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After approval of the agenda, President Bowie stated to the Council that they should have before them the November 18, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes, December 2, 2019 Special Called Meeting Minutes, December 10, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes, and the December 17, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes. President Bowie asked the Council, if they wanted to "vote" on them, and move forward on all three (3) sets on tonight, or did they want to carry them over, until the next Council Meeting? During discussion, it was the *Consensus* of the Council to take action at tonight's Council Meeting. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Youngblood, and seconded by Councilman Bowline, to approve said sets of Minutes; namely, November 18, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes, December 2, 2019 Special Called Meeting Minutes, December 10, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes, and the December 17, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Former Police Chief Earnest L. Tate and His Family were asked to come forward, and address the Council. The Council "Presented" Former Police Chief Earnest L. Tate with a Proclamation, in "Honor of Cole Street" being "Renamed, Earnest L. Tate" Street! Councilman Leashore read said Proclamation (Attached) in its entirety! President Bowie and the Council made "Warm, Kind Remarks" to Chief Tate! Former Police Chief Tate "Thanked" the Council, and made "Warm, Kind Remarks", as well! We "Congratulate" Police Chief Tate on this Wonderful Achievement and Honor! A "Round of Applause" and "Standing Ovation" were also extended to Chief Tate on this "Honor"! Mrs. Tate was also asked to "Stand", and was "Recognized", as well, for this "Honor"! Mrs. Tate also made "Warm Comments", and "Thanked" Councilman Leashore, and all of the Council Members, for their "tasks" working to get this "Achievement and Honor", on behalf of her Dear Husband, Chief Tate!

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

Mr. Havard Spencer
Re: Byrd School
Street Lights on Lapsley St., Union St., Furniss Ave., and McCleod St.

Mr. Warren "Billy" Young

Re: "Alpha Phi Alpha", John D. Taylor Scholarship Fund

(Mr. Young wants to also "partner" with the City of Selma, in Celebration of "Selma's Birthday".)

Mr. Marquise Neely

Re: Restaurant and Lounge

Mr. Sam Walker

Re: Bridge Crossing Jubilee

(Mr. Walker addressed the Council in an effort to request that the Bridge Crossing Jubilee Committee, be allowed to use the same Buildings as they did last year; the Amphitheater, Evans Building, and Water Avenue Area. Mr. Walker stated that he has already met with Mayor Melton, and made deposits on the rental of the Buildings. Mr. Walker stated that the Vendor Issue needs to be resolved, as it relates to Businesses renting space to "Vendors" in front of their "Business", and collecting the "Vendor" Fees, last year. Mr. Walker stated that Mayor Melton asked him to do a letter regarding this matter.)

Attorney Donovan McGuire

Re: Forum (Alabama Democratic Executive Commission)

(Attorney McGuire "Announced" that there will be a "Meet the Candidates" Forum, on Tuesday, February 25th, at 6:00 p.m. Attorney McGuire "Invited" Everyone to come.)

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Fire Chief Graham stated to Council that he does not have a report on tonight.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Police Chief Fulford was asked to come forward, and address the Council, with questions that they had. Councilwoman Benjamin asked Chief Fulford about the Contract for Chief Green? Chief Fulford answered, and stated that City Attorney Madison is working on it. City Attorney Madison stated to Council that we are "on track" with the Contract, and that it should be complete soon. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Benjamin, and seconded by Councilwoman Youngblood, to proceed with the contract of Former Police Chief Green. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present. Following roll call, City Attorney Madison stated to Council that he will confirm the start date, and bring back to the Council, along with the hours that Chief Green will be working with Chief Fulford.

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 "For the Month Ending in January, 2020, Sales Tax was reported at \$917,185.00, up from the previous Year by \$34,840.00; Lodging Tax was \$23,551.00, up by \$3,047.00 from the previous Year; Tobacco Tax was \$19,525.00, down by \$3,864.00 from the previous Year; Lodging Surcharge Tax was \$10,877.00, up by \$6,136.00 from the previous Year; One-Half Cent Sales Tax was \$114,648.00, up by \$4,355.00, from the previous Year, and Simplified Seller Use Tax was \$61,926.00, up by \$37,609.00." Councilman Bowline stated that he thinks the Council needs to move forward with looking into a "Vaping" Tax. Councilwoman Benjamin stated to President Bowie that the Tobacco Tax is declining and that she thinks that they need to make sure that the Cigarette Seals are being used on Cigarettes. President Bowie asked about a report on Cigarette Tax Seals? Ms. Wade stated perhaps the Tax Collector can provide a better understanding of this. Ms. Wade stated that Y-T-D- Revenue for the month of January was \$2,044,255.00, and that Expenses were \$1,225,773.00. Councilman Leashore asked President Bowie about getting a report from our Tax Collector, on taxes collected. President Bowie stated that he would put in a request for a report on our taxes collected.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS/COUNCIL REMARKS

RECREATION COMMITTEE - Councilman Michael Johnson, Chairperson

Councilman Johnson was absent from tonight's Council Meeting.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - Councilwoman Susan Youngblood, Chairperson

Made a report./Made Closing Remarks.

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT - Councilman Samuel Randolph, Chairperson

Councilman Randolph was absent from tonight's Council Meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE - Councilman Carl Bowline, Chairperson

Made a 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. (During his Closing Remarks, Councilman Leashore "Wished" Everyone a "Happy Valentine's Day"!)

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - Councilwoman Miah Jackson, Chairperson

Councilwoman Jackson was absent from tonight's Council Meeting.

SELMA-DALLAS YOUTH AMBASSADORS - Councilman Johnnie Leashore, Chairperson

No Report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Council President Corey D. Bowie, Chairperson

No Report.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS COMMITTEE - Councilwoman Jannie Thomas, Chairperson

Made a report. (During her report, Councilwoman Thomas "announced" that the "Litter-Free Kick-Off" will be this Saturday Morning for the City of Selma, and that Students from "area schools" will be assisting her with this Project, along with Commissioner Valerie Reubin. Councilwoman Thomas also "announced" that there will be a Community Event, "We Give Back 2U", that will be held at Grant Chapel, on the Corner of L. L. Anderson Avenue, and Church Street, on Saturday February 15th, beginning at 12 o'clock noon. Councilwoman Thomas stated that there will be "Games, Food, and Fellowship"! Councilwoman Thomas stated that this "area" is also the "Future Site" for a "Park" that will be placed there. Councilwoman Thomas stated that they are going to have a "Good Day" on Saturday, February 15th, and that Everyone is "Invited" to come, and be a part of this "Community Celebration"!)/Closing Remarks.

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE - Councilwoman Angela Benjamin, Chairperson

Made a report. (During her report, Councilwoman Benjamin announced that the Black Man Heal Symposium will be on February 24th, and the Black History Program will be on February 26th. Councilwoman Benjamin also stated to Council that Discretionary Fund Forms are being circulated to Everyone; namely, Selma High School, "50th Anniversary Celebration, February 27th and February 28th"; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Scholarship Fund; and Whole Child.)/Closing Remarks.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING -- February 25, 2019 at 5:00 P.M.

"HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO EVERYONE!"

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilman Bowline, to adjourn, and by unanimous consent of the Council, this meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

COREY D. BOWIE, *Council President*

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

IVY S. HARRISON, *City Clerk*

DARRIO MELTON, *Mayor*