

MINUTES OF THE
SELMA CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 28, 2020
5:00 P.M.

DRAFT

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, January 28, 2020, 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, January 28, 2020, 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. Others present were City Clerk Ivy S. Harrison and Ms. Ronita Wade, City Treasurer. Councilman Carl Bowline was absent during roll call, but arrived at 5:12 p.m. Councilwoman Susan M. Youngblood and Councilman Samuel Randolph were absent from tonight's Council Meeting.

*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 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 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 a Legal Statement in the Amount of \$10,373.50.
- (2) To Approve to Increase the Fire Department's Budget by \$44,450.00 for a Capital Improvement Project with Advantage Concrete Doing the Work. (Broad Street Fire Station)

- (3) To Approve a Contract for Mr. McArthur Fitts, to Clean Up, and Cut Grass in Ward 7.
- (4) To Approve a Contract for Mr. Robert Walker at \$8.50 Per Hour, to Work in the Public Buildings.
- (5) To Approve a Contract for Councilwoman Benjamin and Councilman Randolph, to Repair Cave-Ins, and Potholes, in the Amount of \$42,350.00 in Wards 4 and 5, with Funding Coming from Their Gas and Oil Lease Funds, with Woods Construction doing the job.
- (6) To Approve a Contract in the Office of the City Clerk for Secretarial Duties for the Election Process, and Other Duties, Needed in the Clerk's Office, for Ms. Cindy Stoudenmire, with a Pay of \$900.00 Bi-Weekly, for Six (6) Months.

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. Councilwoman Thomas stated to President Bowie, that the Contract in Item #4 above, should have been revised by the City Attorney, to the amount of \$10.00 per hour, to work in the Public Buildings. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Johnson, and seconded by Councilwoman Benjamin, to approve and adopt the Six (6) Items on Consent Agenda, with the "change" of Item # 4, from \$8.50 per hour, to \$10.00 per hour, for the Contract. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed by a majority vote of the Council Members present. There were four affirmative votes for Consent Agenda Items, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6; one nay vote on Consent Agenda Item #1, one abstention on Consent Agenda Items, 4, 5, and 6, and one abstention on all Consent Agenda Items. During roll call, Councilwoman Jackson stated, "I vote 'yes' on 1, 2 and 3; I abstain on 4, 5, and 6." During roll call, Councilman Leashore stated, "I vote 'no' on 1; 'yes' on 2 - 6." During roll call, Councilman Johnson stated, "I abstain, I wasn't at the Work Session."

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Continued.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Leashore stated that the Public Hearing to "Re-Name" Cole Street was just held, and that he would like to at this time move forward on the "Petition" to "Re-Name" Cole Street to "Earnest Tate" Street, in "Honor" of Former Police Chief, Earnest Tate. Councilwoman Jackson stated that she would like to ask that the City Attorney, Mr. Major Madison, research this matter, to see if this is a "Memorial Street", or not, and delay this action for Two (2) more weeks, to get more information. Attorney Madison also addressed the Council, and stated that he is not sure if the Commission or Historical Society is going to have anything on Cole Street, being a "Memorial" Street, named in "Honor" of someone. Councilman Leashore stated that "Cole Street" is not a "Memorial" Street, and that he would "Concur" with delaying action if "Cole Street" was a "Memorial" Street. During discussion, a motion was made Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilwoman Thomas, to "Re-Name" Cole Street to "Earnest Tate" Street. 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 one nay vote. Councilwoman Jackson cast a nay vote. During roll call, Councilwoman Jackson stated, "My vote is 'no' at this time due to not having all of the facts; would like to be prudent."

Councilwoman Benjamin stated that she will have the dates for the "Black Man Heal Symposium" at our next Council Meeting.

Councilman Johnson "Announced" that there will be a Ward 8 Meeting on February 18, 2020, at Sophia P. Kingston Elementary School, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Thomas stated that she wanted to say that she is going to diligently do what the Citizens in Ward 7 call her to do. Councilwoman Thomas further stated that there are a lot of pot holes that have to be repaired, and major problems that need to be addressed.

Councilman Leashore stated that it is a Consensus of the Council to declare War on Citizens who are littering, as the City of Birmingham and others have done. Councilman Leashore further stated, "This situation with litter has to be eradicated, Mr. President and Council. A Resolution will be written by President Bowie,

letting the Citizens know it will not be tolerated anymore, and there are consequences to their actions, so beware of that."

Dr. Avis Williams, Superintendent
Re: Selma City Schools

During her Report, Dr. Williams stated that "January" is, "School Board Appreciation Month", and that she "Thanks" all of the School Board Members for the hard work that they do. President Bowie stated to Dr. Williams and the Council, that he thinks that they should do a Resolution, in Honor of "January, School Board Appreciation Month", and will try and have it ready on Thursday.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

Mr. Havard Spencer
Re: "Introduction" of Himself to Council; "New Citizen of the City of Selma"

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

Cave-In - Riverfront Park

Mr. Henry Thompson, Director, Office of Planning and Development, and Mr. Ray Hogg addressed the Council, as it relates to the Cave-In at Riverfront Park. Mr. Hogg stated to Council that they should have before them a "handout" as it relates to the cave-in at Riverfront Park, and referred them to Page 2 of the handout, which has aerial photos of the cave-in. Mr. Hogg stated that he has never seen anything like this before in his "40-year career". Mr. Hogg stated that the hole is about 48" in diameter. Mr. Hogg further stated that what they have before them is a cost estimate of what it would cost. Mr. Hogg stated that it looks like that we need to replace a 100-foot section of the existing culvert with 48-inch diameter reinforced concrete pipe, anchoring each end with junction boxes. Mr. Hogg stated that it will be necessary to remove and replace the existing concrete steps, as well as, the one existing light fixture. Mr. Hogg stated that the estimated cost to repair the cave-in is \$110,000.00 which includes the Engineering and Inspection Costs of \$15,200.00. President Bowie asked Mr. Thompson, if there were funds in the Tourism Account? Mr. Thompson answered, and stated that he will be getting with Ms. Wade, to look at where the funds can come from. Ms. Wade stated to Council that, after she and Mr. Thompson have met, she will come back before the Council, and make a recommendation, as to where they can get the funds from. Councilwoman Benjamin stated that they saw this last Spring, and that the hole was not this big. Councilwoman Benjamin further stated that we can't keep waiting on cave-ins to happen. Councilwoman Benjamin asked, how soon could we start on this? Mr. Hogg answered, and stated, that he's got to draw the specifications, bid out the project, and so forth. Councilman Leashore stated that this is a major problem, and that he thinks that every Council member should support this. Councilman Leashore stated that gas tax has always been used to handle emergency situations, and asked the Council to consider relinquishing their gas tax to take care of this matter. Ms. Wade stated that the Council can do a contract separately for the design phase, and that they can also use Special Projects to take care of some of the project. Ms. Wade asked the Council to allow Mr. Hogg to move forward with Phase I, and by next Council Meeting she will have some options for them to vote on, and asked that they allow her time to do that. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilwoman Jackson, to approve \$15,000.00 for the design phase of the Cave-In at Riverfront Park, via funds from the Tourism Line Item. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

Following said roll call, Councilwoman Jackson asked Mr. Thompson and Mr. Hogg, if they were saying that they're taking care of both problems in this "one" project? Mr. Hogg answered, and stated, "Yes, we're going to take care of both; I will get bids." Councilman Johnson stated to Mr. Hogg, "We want to make sure that we get warranty with this work." Mr. Hogg stated, "State Law required a 1 Year Warranty from completion date." Councilman Johnson stated, "Hopefully, we can get this done before Jubilee because a lot of activity happens down there". Mr. Hogg stated, "A chain link fence needs to be put in place, to secure that area."

Mr. Thompson stated to Council that the Façade` on the Cahaba Furniture Store Building, next to the Welcome Center, and the Interpretive Center both should be taken care of in an amount of \$5,000.00 each building, not to exceed \$10,000.00 for both. Mr. Thompson stated that sheet rock in the Interpretive Center Building needs to be replaced, and repaired. Mr. Thompson further stated that the issue is inside of the Facility; that wood needs to be replaced, and the front of the building needs to be painted. Mr. Thompson stated that this will stabilize the building, in order to move forward. During discussion, a motion was made by President Bowie, and seconded by Councilman Johnson, to move forward with repair of the Façade` on the City Building on Broad Street, next to the Welcome Center (Cahaba Furniture Store Building), and replace sheet rock and other repairs of the Interpretive Center Building, \$5,000.00 for each building, not to exceed \$10,000.00 for both. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present. During roll call, Councilwoman Jackson stated, "As a matter of record, make sure it's a Licensed Contractor for both of these Projects."

Mr. Thompson stated to Council that they should have before them the Invoice which was submitted by the Alabama Tombigbee on behalf of the Invoice for the WiFi Project for the City of Selma. Mr. Thompson further stated that the City of Selma has received funds for the Grant already, and that he is asking that they approve the Invoice to pay the Contractor for the WiFi Project; Mr. Wayne Green. During discussion, a motion was made by President Bowie, and seconded by Councilman Leashore, to approve the Invoice for Payment in the amount of \$31,000.00 for the WiFi Project, that was funded through the Delta Regional Authority via a Grant, for the City of Selma. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present. During roll call, Councilman Johnson stated, "Mr. Thompson, please find us some grants and funding."

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS/COUNCIL REMARKS

RECREATION COMMITTEE – Councilman Michael Johnson, Chairperson

No Report./Closing Remarks.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – Councilwoman Susan Youngblood, Chairperson

Councilwoman Youngblood was absent from tonight's Council Meeting.

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

Made a report. (During his report, President Bowie "announced" that there will be a Public Safety Committee Meeting on next Tuesday; that they will be looking at "filling" the vacancy for the Municipal Court Judge.)

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

Made a report./Closing Remarks. (During his Remarks, Councilman Leashore "Thanked" the Council Members for their "support".)

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – Councilwoman Miah Jackson, Chairperson

Made a report./Closing Remarks.

SELMA-DALLAS YOUTH AMBASSADORS – Councilman Johnnie Leashore, Chairperson

No Report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Council President Corey D. Bowie, Chairperson

No Report.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS COMMITTEE – Councilwoman Jannie Thomas, Chairperson

Made a report./Closing Remarks. (During her remarks, Councilwoman Thomas "Thanked" Morgan Academy Students and the Coach, for helping to clean and pick up trash at Memorial Stadium.)

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE – Councilwoman Angela Benjamin, Chairperson

No Report./Closing Remarks.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING -- February 11, 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 Councilwoman Jackson, to adjourn, and by unanimous consent of the Council, this meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

COREY D. BOWIE, *Council President*

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

IVY S. HARRISON, *City Clerk*

DARRIO MELTON, *Mayor*