

MINUTES OF THE
SELMA CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 10, 2020
5:00 P.M.

DRAFT

Call to Order

Invocation: Councilman Samuel L. Randolph,
Ward 5

Pledge of Allegiance

The Selma City Council met in a regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Tuesday, March 10, 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, March 10, 2020, with the following Council Members present during roll call: Council President Corey D. Bowie, and Council Members, Councilman Carl Bowline, Councilman Samuel Randolph, Councilman Johnmie Leashore, Councilwoman Jannie Thomas, and Councilman Michael Johnson. Others present were City Clerk Ivy S. Harrison and Ms. Ronita Wade, City Treasurer. Councilwoman Susan M. Youngblood, Councilwoman Miah Tolbert-Jackson, and Councilwoman Angela Benjamin were absent from tonight's Council Meeting.

*The "Character Trait" for this Month is "Discernment":
Understanding What is Really Happening.*

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 Leashore, and seconded by Councilman Johnson, to approve the agenda, as written. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council President Bowie stated to Council that they should have before them, Consent Agenda Items, a Total of Seven (7) 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 Contract for Former Police Chief John T. Brock, to Perform the Duties of Range Master, Firearm General Trainer, for Ninety (90) Days Not to Exceed 20 Hours Per Week at the Rate of \$20.00 Per Hour.

- (2) To Approve the Following: Usage of the Vaughn Smitherman Building, and Waiver of the Rental Fee for March 10, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. Board Meeting, March 11, 2020 for Cleaning of Building, and the Usage for the Annual Pilgrimage, from March 16 - 21, 2020.
- (3) To Approve Contract for Former Police Chief Robert Green for Ninety (90) Days, Starting February 21 - May 21, 2020, in the Amount of \$1,600.00, Biweekly.
- (4) To Approve Resolution #R113-19/20, for the Chief of Police Salary of \$80,000.00, with Retroactive Pay from January, 2020, until Current; and Fire Chief Annual Salary of \$70,000.00.
- (5) To Approve Contract for Jerry Woods Construction Company in the Amount of \$11,500.00 for Repairing Pot Holes on Birch Street, Kingsley Drive, and L. L. Anderson Avenue, with Funds Coming from Councilwoman Jannie Thomas' Gas Tax Account, #11.6200.51640.7.
- (6) To Approve the Usage of Tables, Chairs, and Garbage Cans for the Old Depot Museum Annual Low Country Boil Fundraiser.
- (7) To Approve Placing Hand Dispensers with Sanitizer in all City Public Buildings.

President Bowie stated, at this point and time, the "Chair" would entertain a "motion" to adopt and approve the above Seven (7) Items for Consent Agenda. During discussion, Councilwoman Thomas asked President Bowie, about the funding for Consent Agenda Items 1, and 3? President Bowie answered, and stated that the funding would come from "Vacant Slots" within the Police Department's Budget. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Randolph, and seconded by Councilman Leashore, to approve and adopt the Seven (7) 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 four affirmative votes for all Seven (7) Consent Agenda Items; one affirmative vote for Items 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7; and 5 and 6, Abstained; one affirmative vote for Items 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7; 1 and 3, Abstained; and one abstention all Seven (7) Consent Agenda Items. During roll call, Councilman Bowline stated, "I vote 'yes' on 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7; I abstain on 5, and 6." During roll call, Councilwoman Thomas stated, "I vote 'yes' on all except 1 and 3; I abstain on 1 and 3." 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 Leashore, and seconded by Councilman Johnson, to approve the agenda, as written. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Continued.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Randolph "announced" that the Selma Housing Authority and the "Guys and Girls' Savings Club" will be "partnering", and will be having a "Shoe Rally Give-a-Way" for the next couple of weeks. Councilman Randolph stated that anyone who would like to donate shoes can take them to the Selma Housing Authority, located on Washington Street, and that they will be accepting shoes for the next couple of weeks.

Councilman Johnson stated that Ward 8 is becoming a "War Zone", and that there has been a lot of shooting in Ward 8 on a very regular basis. Councilman Johnson further stated that he was hoping that Police Chief Fulford or Captain King would be here tonight, to give a plan as to how that can be addressed. Councilman Bowline suggested to Councilman Johnson, to call the A.T.F, and that they've been helpful to him in his Ward. Councilman Bowline stated that the ATF Anonymous Number is 833/251-7867. Councilman Johnson stated that he would like to "offer" "Thanks" to the Citizens, Mr. Kennard Randolph, Pastor Leodis Strong, and the Public Works Department for all of what they did to assist during Jubilee and the "Faith and Politics' Delegation Event that was here this past weekend. Councilman Johnson also Thanked Mr. Sam Walker and the Voting Rights Museum Committee for what they did, especially with cleaning up after the Jubilee Event.

Councilwoman Thomas stated that there will be a Ward Meeting the 3rd Wednesday in this month, at Ward Chapel, and that she is asking everyone to come out. Councilwoman Thomas stated that she along with Commissioner Reubin will be attending a Convention in Clanton, as it relates to litter, garbage and trash.

Councilman Leashore stated that he feels that household garbage is being criminally dumped in Ward 6, and that he thinks the only way to catch these criminals is to put cameras up. Councilman Leashore stated that we don't have an enforcement agency in our City; so, therefore they're ignoring us, particularly on Plant

Street and Shannon Avenue areas, is where this is occurring most. Councilman Leashore further stated that Ward 6 is going to do a better job of catching these culprits.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

Ms. Quenita Mitchell
Re: Relay for Life

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Madison addressed the Council, and stated that it had been requested of him to check on an existing or non-existing 15 Passenger Van that belongs to this City. Attorney Madison stated that he took photos of a white van, insider of the fenced in area at the Public Works Department. Attorney Madison stated that it does appear to have some damage; from what he could see, to the rear driver's side door. Attorney Madison stated that he was told by Mr. Steele that there was some damage to the tires, but that it looks as if it could be operable. Attorney Madison stated that Mr. Steele told him that the van had been there for about 2 years. Councilwoman Thomas stated that it need to be put back on "City Property", so that the vehicle can get repaired. Councilwoman Thomas asked President Bowie to request that the van be brought back, and placed at City Hall. Councilman Randolph stated to President Bowie that he hopes that he can find out what really happened to the City's Van. Councilman Johnson stated that it has not been 2 years since the van was removed from Broad Street, in front of City Hall. Councilman Johnson stated that he was told by Mr. VanDiver that the Van had been hit by a drunk driver while parked on Broad Street. Councilman Johnson stated that he called Mr. Van Diver, and he stated that the van had been hit, and that he looked at the van today, at the Public Works Department. Councilman Johnson stated that the rear has been hit; that the back left bumper is caved in, and there is more damage to the bumper and the frame of the van. Councilman Johnson stated that he repaired the van free of charge for \$2,500, when it was purchased from Clean Machine in 2015. Councilman Johnson stated that Chief Collier did an accident report on it, and where the report is at this point, he does not know, but that we need to find out what happened after the van was hit. Councilman Leashore stated that he's hearing that there's not a Police Report done, and that we need to find out what the facts are as it relates to this van; that we need to ask the New Chief (Police) to research this.

Selma City Vikings and the City of Selma Agreement.

Attorney Madison stated that he was asked to contact Peak Insurance concerning insurance on behalf of the Selma City Vikings. Attorney Madison further stated that he went over to speak to Mr. Jere Peak, and he wasn't in, but he was expecting to hear back from him. Attorney Madison stated that he did speak to someone regarding the Selma City Vikings' Baseball Team, and stated to her that this is not a City of Selma sponsored Team. Attorney Madison stated that he asked that Mr. Peak contact him, but that he has not heard back from him as of yet. Mr. Broadnax of the Selma City Vikings was asked to come forward, to address the Council with questions that they had. Mr. Broadnax addressed the Council and stated that if the Contract is approved tonight that they will have the Insurance by Friday. Mr. Broadnax further stated that they will also be painting the lines on the field for the Game. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Randolph, and seconded by Councilman Bowline, to approve the Selma City Vikings and City of Selma Agreement, *pending* the Certificate of Insurance be received no later than Friday, March 13, 2020. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

Following the above discussion, Councilman Johnson asked Captain Johnny King to come forward, and speak to the Council as it relates to the shootings that have occurred in Ward 8, and what plan is in place to handle this. Captain King addressed the Council, and offered an "update" as it relates to the Police Department. Captain King stated to Council that they have received calls regarding multiple shots occurring in that area, and that they will be increasing extra patrol in this area. Captain King stated that he thinks that this is in retaliation from the incident that occurred recently. Captain King stated that they are asking Citizens to call and report anything that they see, and anything that is "suspicious". Councilwoman Thomas stated to Captain King that she will be scheduling a meeting for he, the Police Chief, and the Residents of Ward 7, to meet, concerning a "Business" that is of "concern".

Following the above discussion, Fire Chief Chris Graham addressed the Council, with an "update", concerning the Fire Department. Fire Chief Graham stated that he wanted to speak to the Council on the Pay Raise matter within the Fire Department. Chief Graham stated that he has two Firemen who have already left, and one that is about to leave, due to the Firemen's pay. Chief Graham stated that he would like to propose to get some type of raise for the Firemen, and that he would like to propose a 12% increase, "across the board". Fire Chief Graham stated to Council that, "I didn't ask for a raise to come to me, but I am asking that we do something about trying to get a raise to our Firemen. We're going to continue to lose People in the Department if we don't do something about it." Chief Graham further stated, "12% would cost just over

\$138,700.00; that the starting pay for Firemen would go from just over \$28,600.00 to \$32,000.00, annually. The Department has around 23 vacancies, and the cost of the pay raise would be an additional \$93,000.00, estimated cost." President Bowie stated to Councilman Bowline that he would like to request that Chief Graham's request be placed in the Administration Committee for review. Fire Chief Graham stated that he is also having some IT issues, and that Ms. Bessie Curtis, IT Director, is aware of these issues, but that she is working alone, and is trying to get back to him as soon as she can. Fire Chief Graham also stated that it may be advantageous that the Fire Department be able to get their IT Staff Person within their Department, just as the Police Department has; that they have skilled Firemen who could probably do the job of "IT" in the Fire Department.

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

Made a report./Closing Remarks.

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

No Report./Closing Remarks. (During his remarks, Councilman Leashore stated that he did not vote in the affirmative for the Grant Writer's Contract, but would like to know how many Grants have been submitted for the "Grant Writer", and the status of those Grants. Councilman Leashore further stated that if the "answers" are in the "negative", that it would be his suggestion to, "Let's cut our loss, exit and get out of this."

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

President Bowie stated that he is in receipt of a Travel Expense Vouchers for Councilwoman Jackson in the amount of \$1,086.95, and for Councilwoman Thomas, in the amount of \$510.00, for the Alabama League Conference, to be held in Tuscaloosa, on May 16 - 19, 2020. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Thomas, and seconded by Councilman Randolph, to approve the said Travel Expense Vouchers for Councilwoman Jackson, and for Councilwoman Thomas. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

President Bowie further stated that he is receipt of a Request from a Resident, who would like to have a Wedding at the Amphitheater/George Patrick Evans' Building, on August 15, 2020. President Bowie stated that there will not be a waiver of fees for the Wedding Event. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Johnson, and seconded by Councilman Randolph, to approve the use of the Amphitheater/George Patrick Evans' Building, on August 15, 2020, for the Resident's Wedding. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council Members present. There were five affirmative votes and one abstention. Councilman Bowline abstained from voting.

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SELMA CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 10, 2020
5:00 P.M.
PUBLIC BUILDINGS COMMITTEE – Councilwoman Jannie Thomas, Chairperson

No Report./Closing Remarks. (During her remarks, Councilwoman Thomas appealed to the Residents, to “bear” with the Council, that they are trying to do something about the repair of potholes in the City.)

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE – Councilwoman Angela Benjamin, Chairperson

Councilwoman Benjamin was absent from tonight’s Council Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING -- March 24, 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 6:42 p.m.

COREY D. BOWIE, *Council President*

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

IVY S. HARRISON, *City Clerk*

DARRIO MELTON, *Mayor*