

MINUTES OF THE
SELMA CITY COUNCIL
MAY 12, 2020
5:00 P.M.

DRAFT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Bowie stated that, at this point and time, we need to go into Executive Session, to discuss Legal Matters, and further, the "Chair" would entertain a "motion". A motion was made by Councilwoman Youngblood, and seconded by Councilman Johnson, to "Recess" into Executive Session, to discuss Legal Matters, at 4:00 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 Youngblood, and seconded by Councilman Johnson, to "Reconvene" back into the Council Meeting at 5:07 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

Call to Order

Invocation: Councilwoman Miah Jackson,
Ward 3

Pledge of Allegiance

The Selma City Council met in a regular session, via Teleconference, on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The Selma City Council met in a regular session, via Teleconference, on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at 5:00 p.m., 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 Miah Tolbert-Jackson, Councilwoman Angela Benjamin, Samuel Randolph, Councilman Johnnie Leashore, Councilwoman Jannie Thomas, and Councilman Michael Johnson. Others present were City Clerk Ivy S. Harrison and Ms. Ronita Wade, City Treasurer.

*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 Councilwoman Youngblood, 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.

Council President Bowie stated to Council that they should have before them, Consent Agenda Items, a Total of Two (2) 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 Vote on Setting a Date to Have Public Hearing for a Variance.
- (2) To Approve Transferring \$34,000.00 from Salary Line Item #1.6100 5111001 to Fixed Assets Line Item #1.6100 51055, for Police Department's Animal Control Vehicle.

President Bowie stated, at this point and time, the "Chair" would entertain a "motion" to adopt and approve the above Two (2) Items for Consent Agenda. Councilman Leashore asked that we "Table" Item #2, until more information from local Auto Dealers. Councilman Bowline stated that we "vote" on the Consent Agenda on tonight, that he would have to "abstain" until he could get further information on both Consent Agenda Items. Following discussion, it was the *Consensus* of the Council to "Table" the *Consent Agenda Items*, in order to get more information on said Items.

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Continued. (President Bowie asked Council Members to please review all of the "Draft" Council Meeting Minutes, in order to take action on all of them at our next Council Meeting.)

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilwoman Benjamin "Announced" to Council, that they continue to have the "Weekly, Community concerning COVID-19", on Tuesdays, and the Call-In Numbers are, "605/475-5950; 040801, Access Code". Councilwoman Benjamin appealed to Everyone to please get in, on the "Call", on Tuesdays; that it is very informative.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

Mr. Edgar Calloway
Re: NorthStar EMS (Ambulance Service)

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney, Major Madison addressed the Council, and stated that he has a couple of Items to present on tonight; (1) The Old Depot Museum Lease Agreement; and (2) Resolution Honoring the Life of Mrs. Sallie Jackson. During discussion, said Items are *Continued* until the next Council Meeting, in order to further discuss the Old Depot Museum Lease Agreement, and to obtain more information on the Resolution, "Honoring" Mrs. Jackson. Councilwoman Thomas asked Attorney Madison about the letters that she had requested that he write to the Property Owners. Attorney Madison stated to Councilwoman Thomas, that he will have the Letters done by the end of this Business Week, which is Friday (May 15th).

FINANCE REPORT

President Bowie asked Ms. Ronita Wade, City Treasurer, to address the Council, with a Finance Report. Ms. Wade addressed the Council, and presented the Finance Reports, for the Month Ending in April, 2020. Ms.

Wade reported on the Taxes received for the Month of April, 2020, and stated for the Month of April, Sales Tax was \$949,085.00, up by \$22,406.00; Lodging Tax was \$47,579.00, up by \$14,045.00; Tobacco Tax was \$16,539.00, down by \$6,537.95; Lodging Tax Surcharge was \$22,359.00, up by \$8,138.00; One Half Cent Sales Tax \$118,635.63, up by \$2,800.81; Simplified Seller Use Tax was \$55,485.00, up by \$2025.70; Municipal Aid Street Gas Tax was \$16,289.00, down by \$22.00; and Rebuild Alabama Gas Tax was \$1,463.56, Diesel, \$5,012.39, Regular Gas, for a Y-T-D- total of \$41,552.00. During her Report, Ms. Wade stated that we are in a good place right now, in terms of spending "versus" revenue that we are receiving. Councilman Leashore asked Ms. Wade, if she ever found out about the Tobacco Tax being increased by a large amount for the Month of March? Ms. Wade answered, and that she would suggest that he speak with the Tax Collector, Ms. Lewis, but that she would also try to find out what she can, and let him know.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS/COUNCIL REMARKS

RECREATION COMMITTEE - Councilman Michael Johnson, Chairperson

Made a report. (During his report, Councilman Johnson stated that he would like to have a Parade for the Young Man who was recently "Drafted" into the NFL, and that he will be following back up with the "plans" for it.)/Closing Remarks.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - Councilwoman Susan Youngblood, Chairperson

No Report./No Remarks.

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT - Councilman Samuel Randolph, Chairperson

No Report./Closing Remarks.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE - Councilman Carl Bowline, Chairperson

Made a report./No Remarks.

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

No Report.

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

Made a report. (During his Report, Councilman Leashore stated that he is in receipt of a copy of an email that was forwarded to the Council Members, from the League of Municipalities, as it relates to the "hazard duty pay" for essential employees. Councilman Leashore read the email in its entirety, which is listed below, from the League of Municipalities, addressed to "Municipalities":

"Some of you will have read that a few municipalities in Alabama have authorized what they called "hazard pay" for some of their essential employees during this COVID19 crisis. The exact details vary of course between each different municipalities and it is easy to understand the good intent behind such decisions. However, if your municipality is considering looking at doing something similar, we would recommend that you try and avoid using the phrase "hazard pay". Due to some legal concerns surrounding what that term implies and the further concern that this term could prove detrimental to your municipality, we would recommend that you instead consider calling it simply a "one time pay increase", "temporary pay adjustment" or "supplemental pay" rather than "hazard pay". We believe that this simple change in terminology may help better protect your municipality moving forward. Also, keep in mind, any such pay increases would have to be authorized by the council."

Councilman Leashore stated that, based upon the email received from the League of Municipalities, that the Council needs to get together on what they would like to call the "Hazardous Duty Pay", for our Employees. Councilman Leashore further stated that the Committee Meeting was scheduled for last Friday, but that it will be rescheduled at a later date.)/Closing Remarks.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - Councilwoman Miah Jackson, Chairperson

No Report./Closing Remarks.

SELMA-DALLAS YOUTH AMBASSADORS - Councilman Johnnie Leashore, Chairperson

No Report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Council President Corey D. Bowie, Chairperson

No Report.

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE - Councilwoman Angela Benjamin, Chairperson

Made a report. (During her report, Councilwoman Benjamin asked Ms. Wade if funds are still in the Budget for the Laid-Off Employees? Ms. Wade answered, and stated, "Yes." Councilwoman Benjamin also asked about the Vacation Benefits for the Laid-Off Employees? Ms. Wade answered, and stated that she would have to refer her to Ms. Pauline Williams, Personnel/Insurance Department, and the Human Resources Department, to get an answer concerning the "Vacation Pay", for the Laid-Off Employees.)/Closing Remarks.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS COMMITTEE - Councilwoman Jannie Thomas, Chairperson

No Report./Closing Remarks.

FOLLOWING THE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS, Councilman Johnson asked City Attorney, Major Madison, if he could ask the Mayor if we can bring the Employees back; Public Works Department, Cemetery Department, and any other Employees as part of the "day-to-day operations", with a decent salary, since Ms. Wade has stated that the Funds are available.)

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Councilman Randolph, and seconded by Councilman Johnson, to adjourn, and by unanimous consent of the Council, this meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

COREY D. BOWIE, *Council President*

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

IVY S. HARRISON, *City Clerk*

DARRIO MELTON, *Mayor*