

**MINUTES OF THE
SELMA CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2004**

The Selma City Council met in a regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Monday, March 8, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present: Council President George Evans and Council members Glenn Sexton, Jean T. Martin, Nancy G. Sewell, and James Durry. Others present were City Clerk Lois Williams, City Treasurer Cynthia Mitchell, City Attorney Jimmy Nunn and Mayor's Administrative Assistant Sherri James. Mayor James Perkins, Jr., Council members Rita S. Franklin, Samuel Randolph, Benny L. Tucker and Bennie R. Crenshaw were absent from the meeting. President Evans stated the Mayor and members of the Council are attending the National League of Cities Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. Reverend Ezekiel Pettway gave the invocation.

After roll call, President Evans declared a quorum present and the meeting was opened for the transaction of business as set forth on the agenda. President Evans asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda prepared for this meeting. President Evans stated he would like to add to the agenda, a letter addressed to Mayor Perkins and Chief Green regarding Crime Task Force recommendations. Councilwoman Sewell stated she would like to add to the agenda, the J. D. Taylor Scholarship Banquet to be held on March 27, 2004. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilman Sexton to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried with a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

President Evans asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the regular meeting held on Monday, February 23, 2004. There being no corrections to be made to the minutes, a motion was made by Councilwoman Martin and seconded by Councilman Durry to adopt the said minutes as written. The motion carried with a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

Discussion: Citizens' Input on Ward Realignment

There were no responses from citizens regarding ward realignment.

I. CITIZENS' REQUESTS

A. Reverend Robert Walker – Easter Walk. Reverend Robert Walker addressed the Council stating he would like permission from the Council to use the streets of the City of Selma and the Valley Creek Park for an Easter walk and reenactment. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilman Sexton to approve the request for the Easter walk and reenactment. The motion carried with a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

B. Dr. Lofti Bashir – Smoke Free Environment. Ms. Pam Bostick addressed the Council in the absence of Dr. Lofti Bashir, stating she represents a coalition of people from Public Health, American Cancer Society, Pediatricians and several public officials concerning a smoke free environment. Ms. Bostick stated much of the momentum of this request extends from the Youth-In-Government group, who were very passionate during their presentation to improve and strengthen the smoking ordinance. She stated they ask specifically to update the ordinance to include restaurants and recreation facilities. Dr. Lofti Bashir arrived, he also addressed the Council and shared a real life story of a minor who was a smoker. Dr. Bashir also addressed the issue of second hand smoke risks, and asks the Council to endorse these concerns.

II. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT

Mrs. Elizabeth Driggers, Director of Community Development, addressed the Council asking approval, as per her memo, to contract with J. M. Veres, Consultant, for \$5,000.00 to prepare Emergency Shelter Grant Application. She stated funds would

II. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT

be from the Planning and Development matching funds, Brownfield Underground Storage Tank match. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilwoman Martin to approve the matching funds of \$5,000.00 for the grant application. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present. Mrs. Driggers stated Mrs. Lola Rogers, Program/Project Manager, would be working with this program.

III. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

A. Central Alabama Animal Shelter Update. Attorney Nunn stated Mrs. Elizabeth Driggers, Director of Planning & Development, would address the Council on this item. Mrs. Driggers stated Attorney Nunn presented this property for the Central Alabama Animal Shelter at the Planning Board meeting; the Planning Board approved recommending to the Council to change the zoning for this property. She stated Attorney Nunn has begun the legal advertising and this item will be presented to the Council for approval at the next Council meeting. She further stated she has spoken with Mr. Painter, City Engineer, and discussed that if this rezoning is approved, the plan is to have the contracts approved and move forward on the project.

B. Resolutions – Condemned Houses. Attorney Nunn stated the Council has copies of several resolutions (R142-03/04 thru R150-03/04) as it relates to condemned properties and properties that were declared as a dangerous condition. Attorney Nunn stated these properties are being presented at this time to assess the cost of demolition for each property. After the Council's approval of said resolutions, the City Attorney's office will apply and file lien against the properties. A motion was made by Councilman Sewell and seconded by Councilwoman Martin to approve the said resolutions for the condemned properties stated. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

C. Ordinance – Wrecker Services. Attorney Nunn stated Councilwoman Franklin requested revisions to be added to this ordinance. Attorney Nunn stated these revisions are completed and would be presented to the committee again.

D. Ordinance – Curfew for Youth. Attorney Nunn stated there have been two public hearings regarding this ordinance, one of which was held on today. Attorney Nunn asked if there was more discussion necessary and what is the pleasure of the Council on this matter. President Evans stated further discussion on this matter would not be necessary, the Council has received suggestions from Chief Green regarding other alternatives, which should be addressed before reporting to the committee, possibly at the next Council meeting.

E. Ordinance – Basketball Playing. Attorney Nunn stated this ordinance was presented to the Council at the last Council meeting for review. Councilman Sexton stated he feels more discussion is needed on this issue. Councilman Durry stated he has been assigned to take a look at this situation and make a report, which he would do at the next Council meeting.

F. Towers Within the City of Selma City Limits. Attorney Nunn stated individuals and companies are seeking cellular tower sites within the City of Selma, and the City of Selma does own several prime locations, which they would like to place a tower. Attorney Nunn stated several sites have been reviewed, but the prime site is located on Selma Avenue. He stated, in this location, the tower height would not be above the height of the existing water tower in that area. Attorney Nunn further stated according to what has been negotiated with other cities, a thirty-year lease, with four or five antennas on the tower, paid the City about \$50,000.00 to \$55,000.00 per year.

III. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

A motion was made by Councilman Durry and seconded by Councilwoman Sewell to approve moving forward with investigations and negotiations for this tower in this location. The motion carried with a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

IV. ORDINANCES UPDATE/ORDINANCES ENFORCEMENT

Attorney Nunn stated there is no update on this item at this time. He stated he would have an update at the next Council meeting.

V. GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION/APPOINTMENT

President Evans stated Ms. Valeria Jones, Personnel Director, has scheduled a meeting for interviews on March 22, 2004, at 2:00 p.m.

VI. DUTCH DINNER TENTATIVE DATE - APRIL 29, 2004

President Evans stated the tentative date for the Dutch Dinner is April 29, 2004, per Councilwoman Franklin. Councilwoman Martin stated this project has been turned over to her to try to negotiate the cost to the dinners.

VII. LETTER ADDRESSED FOR RESPONSE OF CRIME TASK FORCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

President Evans stated based on the information received prior to the last Council meeting, two matters are addressed with a letter to Mayor Perkins and Chief Green. President Evans stated a response is requested from both parties regarding the Crime Task Force Committee recommendations. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilwoman Martin to make these letters sent to Mayor Perkins and Chief Green a part of the records of the minutes. Councilwoman Sewell also stated these items would be discussed after receipt of their responses. The motion carried with a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

VIII. J. D. TAYLOR SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET

Councilwoman Sewell stated the annual J. D. Taylor Scholarship awards program would be honoring two outstanding citizens: Mr. James Perkins, Sr. and Council President George P. Evans. Councilwoman Sewell stated she would like to have plaques available to present to these individuals from the City of Selma, and it is the consensus of the Council members present to do so.

IX. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Councilman Durry stated he would like to ask again that anyone interested in coaching the youth at the Recreation Department for baseball, softball and soccer, please contact Coach Reece.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

There is no report for the Administrative Committee.

IX. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Councilwoman Sewell stated the Public Safety committee met on this afternoon and reviewed the curfew ordinance. Councilwoman Sewell stated they also shared the letter that was written by Chief Green to Mayor Perkins on March 2, 2004, and would like to make this letter a part of the records of the minutes. She stated she would give a detailed report at the next meeting.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Councilwoman Martin stated she would like to request a Crime Task Force meeting to be held in her ward, and she understands that she is not allowed to call this meeting, but a representative of the ward, which she appoints, would have to do so.

PUBLIC WORKS/GENERAL SERVICES

Councilman Sexton stated the construction work being done on Mabry Street is on schedule and may be completed this week.

DISCRETIONARY FUNDS COMMITTEE

There is no report for the Discretionary Funds Committee.

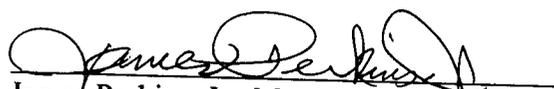
There being no other business to come before the Council, on motion made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilwoman Martin, the Council voted by unanimous consent to adjourn this meeting at 6:13 p.m.


George P. Evans, President

ATTEST:


Lois Williams, City Clerk

APPROVED:


James Perkins, Jr., Mayor