

**MINUTES OF THE SELMA CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2001**

The Selma City Council met in a regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Monday, February 12, 2001 at 5:00 p.m with the following members present: President George P. Evans and Council members Glenn Sexton, Rita S. Franklin, Jean T. Martin, Nancy G. Sewell, Samuel Randolph, Benny L. Tucker, Bennie Ruth Crenshaw, and James Durry. Others present were Mayor James Perkins, Jr., City Attorney Jimmy Nunn, City Clerk Jackie Smith, and the Mayor's Administrative Assistant Sherri James. The Reverend Darryl Moore 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. Councilwoman Sewell asked that the agenda be amended to include the following resolutions: Selma High School, Digital Divide and Youth Build. There being no other additions to the agenda, on motion made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilwoman Franklin the agenda was approved as amended.

President Evans asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on Monday, January 22, 2001. There being no additions or corrections to the minutes, on motion made by Councilwoman Martin and seconded by Councilwoman Franklin, the minutes were approved as recorded.

**I. MAYOR'S REPORT**

**A. Sales Tax Report.** Mayor Perkins presented the Council with the sales tax report for the fifth month in the fiscal year. The report shows the City collected \$1,092,333.16 for the month of February 2001 as compared to \$1,130,256 for the month of February 2000. The difference represents a decrease of \$37,922 for the month or 3.36 percent. The year-to-date collections represent a net increase of \$222,589 or 13.3 percent.

**B. Budget Amendments – Community Development.** Mayor Perkins distributed a memo to the Council requesting the budget be amended to include an additional appropriation of \$1,000 for miscellaneous expense related to start-up expenses for the re-organization of the Community Development and \$1,000 for car expenses for the vehicle that was transferred from the Code Enforcement Office. A motion was made by Councilwoman Martin and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw to amend the Community Development Office budget \$2,000 for the expenses as outlined. On roll call vote, the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

**C. Budget Amendment – Legal Office.** Mayor Perkins distributed a memo to the Council requesting the budget be amended to include an additional appropriation of \$1,200 for vehicle expenses for the City Attorney. Mayor Perkins stated that the City Attorney uses his personal vehicle while performing city related duties and the amount is consistent with what other department heads receive under similar circumstances. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilwoman Franklin to amend the Legal Office budget \$1,200 for vehicle expenses. On roll call vote, the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

**D. Building Inspection Engineering Service & Support Contract.** Mayor Perkins distributed a memo with an attached copy of a contract for standby engineering and architectural services for the City of Selma and the Khafra/Sommerville Team. Mayor Perkins explained that the city has serious problems with antiquated policies and procedures for building permits, zoning, and code enforcement; and aged infrastructure. The proposed professional service contract with Khafra/Sommerville Team will provide the city with the ability to acquire needed architecture and engineering services on demand.

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**I. MAYOR'S REPORT**

**D. Building Inspection Engineering Service & Support Contract.** The department head and the city attorney have reviewed the contract and the contract amount of \$40,000 is in the Building Inspector's Office budget under the line item of Professional Services. A motion was made by Councilwoman Crenshaw and seconded by Councilwoman Sewell to accept the contract as proposed. On roll call vote the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were seven affirmative votes and two negative votes. Council members Franklin and Sexton cast the negative votes.

**E. Craig Airport Authority and Raytheon Lease Agreement.** Mayor Perkins distributed a memo with an attached copy of an agreement between the City of Selma and the Craig Airport Authority. Mayor Perkins explained that Raytheon has requested rental rate abatement consideration in exchange for a renewed five-year lease and Craig Airport Authority has asked the city and county to share in the abatement terms. The city's portion is proposed at \$10,000 annually over the life of the lease. Mayor Perkins stated that Mrs. Driggers has identified a source for the funds for this year's payment that will not impact the general budget and subsequent payments can be budgeted. A motion was made by Councilwoman Franklin and seconded by Councilman Sexton to enter into the agreement with Craig Airport Authority. On roll call vote the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

**F. Bids Concession Stand Rights.** Mayor Perkins informed the Council that Mr. Elton Reece, Director of Parks and Recreation, recommended that the city bid the rights to the concession stand since the city has been experiencing a decline in concession stand revenue. The City Clerk has let bids on the rights to the concession stand and the high bidder was Gilbert and Maydale King for \$2,221.25. A motion was made by Councilman Sexton and seconded by Councilman Tucker to accept the high bid of \$2,221.25 for the rights to the concession stand. On roll call vote the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

**G. Bids for Police Department Vehicles.** Mayor Perkins informed the Council that the police department capital budget includes two vehicles for the animal control division and a van for the evidence technician. The vehicles presently being used are in constant need of repairs and the costs are exceeding the value of the trucks. The City Clerk has let bids on the vehicles as specified by the police department and Reliable Oldsmobile-GMC was the low bidder at \$14,994.50 each or \$29,989.00 for both vehicles. A motion was made by Councilwoman Franklin and seconded by Councilwoman Martin to accept the low bid of \$29,989.00 and purchase the vehicles for the animal control division. On roll call vote the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

Mayor Perkins informed the Council that the police department capital budget includes a van for the evidence technician. The City Clerk has let the bids on the vehicle as specified by the police department and Reliable Oldsmobile-GMC was the low bidder at \$18,889.00. A motion was made by Councilwoman Franklin and seconded by Councilman Sexton to accept the low bid of \$18,889 and purchase the van for the evidence technician. On roll call vote the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

**H. Bids on Surplus Property.** Mayor Perkins informed the Council that eleven vehicles were declared surplus property and no longer needed by the City of Selma. The City Clerk has let the bids on the vehicles and the total amount the City will receipt from the sale of the surplus vehicles is \$4,521.50. Councilwoman Franklin stated that Rev. Shumate and a group of concerned citizens who are attempting to reopen the former Boys Ranch have contacted her and asked that the surplus fire truck be donated to God's Miracle Ranch. A motion was made by Councilwoman Franklin and seconded by Councilwoman Martin to remove the fire truck from the list of surplus property until the request could be reviewed in more detail and to award the bids for the other surplus vehicles to the highest bidder. On roll call vote the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council. Mayor Perkins stated that this action reduces the amount of receipts from the sale of surplus property to \$4,021.50.

**I. MAYOR'S REPORT**

**I. Finance Director Appropriation Budget Amendment Request.** Mayor Perkins distributed a revised memo to the Council members regarding the position of Finance Director. The proposal requests that the budget be amended to include up to \$65,000 for a Finance Director and up to \$20,000 for a Secretary for the City Clerk's office. A brief discussion followed whereby several Council members expressed their concern about the economy and revenues. Mayor Perkins stated that by the time a person is selected to fill the position the city will be into the sixth month of operations and the costs would be one-half of the proposed amounts for the remainder of this fiscal year. A motion was made by Councilwoman Crenshaw and seconded by Councilman Randolph to accept the proposal for the Finance Director and amend the budget as stated. On roll call vote the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were five affirmative votes and four negative votes. Council members Durry and Franklin asked that the record reflect their negative vote is the result of their concern over future city revenues. Councilwoman Sewell asked that the record reflect her yes vote is pending the funds for these positions are available when an applicant is located. Councilwoman Crenshaw asked that the record reflect her yes vote was made because the Council should be willing to appropriate at least \$5,000 each from their discretionary funds to fund these positions.

**J. Alabama Tombigbee Senior Aides Program.** Mayor Perkins distributed a memo to the Council informing them that the City of Selma has been awarded a grant by the Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission that allows the city to place two senior citizens trainees at City Hall. The participants will serve as Receptionists at the front entrance. The matching cost to the city is \$18,000 per year for two years. Mayor Perkins stated that Alabama Tombigbee will administer the pay and benefits for these individuals at an hourly rate of \$5.15. Personnel Director Randall Miller is recommending the city subsidize the \$5.15 per hour rate. Councilwoman Franklin suggested this recommendation be reviewed by Mayor Perkins and stated that after an initial three-month probation period the Mayor could request a pay increase for the participants. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilwoman Martin to accept the grant and amend the budget for the city's matching portion. On roll call vote the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

**K. Nathan Bedford Forrest Monument.** Mayor Perkins distributed copies of a fax transmittal from Mr. Pierre Tournay, Sr. of Clark Memorials of a quote to move the Nathan B. Forrest monument for \$2,500.00. Mr. Tournay, out of fear of being sued, has since detracted his quote and no longer wants to be considered as a possible vendor to move the monument. Mayor Perkins stated his position is to either move the bust inside of the building or move the monument to battlefield site. The Mayor stated he is now proposing to rename the battlefield site, Heritage Memorial Park, and move the monument to the site at the top of the hill that is not in the flood area. Mayor Perkins recommended the Council adopt a resolution authorizing him to rename the battlefield site and place the monument there along with other monuments that may be placed there for honor in the future. President Evans stated that a Forrest committee has been appointed and they met today to discuss details surrounding the proposed site.

Mr. Benny Austin, a spokesman for the Friends of Forrest, addressed the Council citing several reasons why the Friends of Forrest rejects the battlefield site and asked the Council to allow the monument to remain at its present location. After a brief discussion, Councilwoman Crenshaw made a motion to accept the resolution made by Mayor Perkins. President Evans stated that Councilwoman Crenshaw was out of order making her motion and he would not entertain a motion on this matter at this time. Councilman Randolph attempted to second the motion when President Evans stated that the second would not be recognized because it was out of order.

It was agreed upon that Mr. Benny Austin and Friends of Forrest along with Mayor Perkins and members of the Council meet and attempt to resolve this situation.

## **II. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

**A. Approval of Contract for Renovations to Fire Station Number Three.** Attorney Nunn presented the Council with a proposal for renovations to Fire Station Number Three in the amount of \$2,775. Three proposals were accepted for the renovations and Goodwin Construction submitted the lowest proposal. Fire Department bond fund proceeds would be used to pay for these renovations. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilman Durry to accept the proposal as presented. On roll call vote the motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council. Councilwoman Crenshaw left her Council seat.

**B. Resolution – Assistance of Other Legal Counsel.** Attorney Nunn presented a resolution requesting Jimmy Nunn, City Attorney, be allowed to associate and employ other legal firms to assist him in handling of litigation where he deems it necessary and which said attorneys shall be paid at a reasonable hourly rate which is consistent with other attorneys in the City of Selma. A motion was made by Councilwoman Martin and seconded by Councilwoman Franklin to approve a resolution as presented. On roll call vote the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were eight affirmative votes.

**C. Contract for Legal Counsel.** Attorney Nunn presented the Council with a contract between the City of Selma and Gamble, Gamble and Calame, LLC as special counsel to represent the City in the lawsuit of Clarence Strong, Jason Hill, Percy Sanders, Kenyatta Gaines, Courtney Watts and Kindaka Sanders v. the City of Selma and officers of the Selma Police Department. Attorney Nunn stated that Attorney John Kelly handled this matter previously for the City and all information has been forwarded to Attorney Calame. A motion was made by Councilwoman Martin and seconded by Councilman Sexton to approve the contract as presented. On roll call vote the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were eight affirmative votes.

## **III. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **RECREATIONN COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Recreation Committee had no report.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**A. Housing Revitalization.** Councilwoman Crenshaw returned to make the Administrative Committee report. Councilwoman Crenshaw informed the Council that Mr. Stidden with the Department of HUD made a visit to Selma this past weekend to gather information to begin a youth initiative program. Councilwoman Crenshaw stated that Mr. Stidden is formulating a housing and economic development strategy for Selma and particularly Ward 7.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT**

**A. Retail Table Wine Application for SpeDee C., Inc.** Councilwoman Franklin presented an application for a retail table wine license on behalf of Mr. Ben F. Beard for the SpeDee C store located 602 Broad Street and 215 Highland Avenue. Councilwoman Franklin stated that the application is presented with a recommendation from Police Chief Tate that the license be granted. A background check on the applicants revealed no criminal history. Councilwoman Franklin asked that the application be placed on first reading.

Other reports from the Public Safety Committee were informational only.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Community Development Committee had no report.

**III. STANDING COMMITTEE**

**PUBLIC WORKS/GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Public Works/General Services Committee had no report.

**IV. CITY RETIREES COST OF LIVING INCREASE.**

Mayor Perkins stated that the proposed cost of living increase for retired city employees was discussed at the Council work session and it was determined that since no monies for this project was included in the present budget that this increase be funded in next years budget. Mayor Perkins stated that an increase was granted to the retired city employees in 1998 at an annual cost of \$104,000 and asked the retirees to defer this increase until next year when funds for the increase could be budgeted. Councilwoman Sewell stated that a good faith promise was made to the retired city employees prior to budget and recommended the transfer of \$5,000 from each Council person discretionary fund to the general fund to grant this increase. Mayor Perkins asked the Council to defer this matter until the City Attorney has the opportunity to review the legal ramifications.

**V. RESOLUTION – DIGITAL DIVIDE GRANT.**

Councilwoman Sewell presented a resolution for continued support of the Selma Digital Divide Opportunity AmeriCorps Program for Council approval. The resolution authorizes the filing of said application and authorizes and direct Mayor Perkins to act in connection with the application as may be required. The resolution further resolves that such support includes the City's commitment to provide cash matching funds of approximately \$76,000. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilwoman Franklin to adopt the resolution as prepared. On roll call vote the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were eight affirmative votes.

**VI. RESOLUTION – YOUTH BUILD PROGRAM.**

Councilwoman Sewell presented a resolution that authorizes the filing of an application with the Department of Housing and Urban Development for a Youth Build Program Grant. The resolution authorizes and direct Mayor Perkins to act in connection with the application as may be required. The resolution further resolves that such support includes a total of \$90,800 in cash and in-kind contributions. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilwoman Franklin to adopt the resolution as prepared. On roll call vote the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were eight affirmative votes.

**VII. RESOLUTION – SELMA HIGH SCHOOL.**

Councilwoman Sewell presented a resolution that resolves each member of the Selma City Council would donate at least \$5,000 from his/her discretionary funds to Selma High School to alleviate the financial crisis. This donation will automatically stop the twenty-five minute snack break and restore the much needed instructional time which will add at least six hundred minutes of classroom instruction before the April 11<sup>th</sup> SAT test. Several Council members voiced their rejection of this resolution and stated that their discretionary funds were already obligated to address needs in their wards. President Evans suggested that each Council member donate individually. Councilwoman Sewell was asked to provide additional information for further review.

**VIII. MR. SAM WALKER**

Mr. Sam Walker stated he was present on behalf of the National Voting Rights Museum to request a parade permit for Jubilee Weekend festivities. The parade will be held on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and safety details have been coordinated through the Selma Police Department. Mr. Walker also stated that the festivities require street closing, traffic coordination and general assistance from the Selma Police Department. Mr. Walker also requested financial assistance from the City of Selma in the amount of \$30,000. Mayor Perkins stated that \$15,000 has been included in the 2000-2001 budget and asked Council to approve the execution of a contract between the National Voting Rights Museum and the City of Selma. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilman Randolph authorizing the execution of a contract as stated. On roll call vote the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were eight affirmative votes.

**IX. MR. ROD ROCHESTER**

Mr. Rod Rochester stated he was present before the Council on behalf of Calvary Assembly of God Church to request a parade permit for April 12<sup>th</sup> and April 13<sup>th</sup> for the annual re-enactment of the crucifixion. On Thursday the church is requesting permission to use the Songs of Selma Park at 7:00 p.m. and on Friday, beginning at 2:00 p.m. the parade will begin at City Hall and proceed down Dallas Avenue to Bloch Park. A motion was made by Councilwoman Franklin and seconded by Councilman Tucker to grant the parade permit, pending the coordination of details with the Selma Police Department. The motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were eight affirmative votes.

**X. MR. WILLIAM BOWMAN – VIP ORGANIZATION**

Mr. William Bowman stated that he has addressed the Council on several occasions to bring awareness to the organization he chairs for people who are vision impaired. Mr. Bowman stated that the VIP organization is a non-profit organization that is requesting the Council to make a contribution of \$10,000 from their discretionary fund accounts. President Evans stated that the appropriate form would be distributed for Council members who wish to make a contribution.

**XII. MR. HODTRIC ROBINSON – C.I.T.Y. PROGRAM**

Mr. Hodtric Robinson stated the C.I.T.Y. Program is an educational and behavioral development program that targets 12 to 17 year old at risk youths. Mr. Robinson thanked the Council for the \$15,000 appropriation included in the budget to assist with the purchase of a van. Two officials from the State department addressed the Council regarding the C.I.T.Y. Program, informing the Council that the program will see statewide cuts at approximately \$256,000, due to proration. Officials stated that the public school system has provided some assistance and the Council is also being requested to provide assistance to prevent the loss of slots and staff. Some discussion was held about changing the purpose of the \$15,000 budget appropriation from being designated to purchase a van to being designated to fund instructional needs. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilwoman Martin to change the purpose of the appropriation to fund instructional needs. On roll call vote the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were eight affirmative votes.

**XIII. MRS. BETTY JEMISON**

Mrs. Betty Jemison stated she was present before the Council to bring awareness to the Faith Christian Center. Faith Christian Center currently operates several programs without funding except private donations. Some of the programs offered are employment service, welfare to work, GED, and tutorial. Mrs. Jemison requested financial assistance in the amount of \$7,899 that will enable her to continue to offer the much needed services. President Evans stated that the appropriate form would be distributed for Council members who wish to make a contribution.

**XIV. MR. GEORGE GRAYSON**

Mr. George Grayson stated he was present before the Council requesting a resolution be adopted allowing Black citizens to place a monument depicting Black heritage. Mr. Grayson stated that adoption of a resolution would prevent him for filing documents in the court system. President Evans and Mayor Perkins stated that this matter could be addressed at a future date because the Mayor is currently working to identify a location and set standardized procedures for placing monuments.

**XV. MR. CLARENCE WILLIAMS**

Mr. Clarence Williams stated he was present to address the Council regarding the Nathan B. Forrest monument and he see progress is being made regarding the monument and suggested all interested parties continue working to resolve this matter.

**XVI. REV. DONNIE SHUMATE**

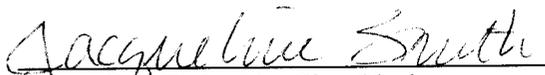
Rev. Donnie Shumate stated he was present before the Council to request any assistance the Council may provide to make the former Boys Ranch operational again. Rev. Shumate stated he would keep everyone informed on the progress of the group.

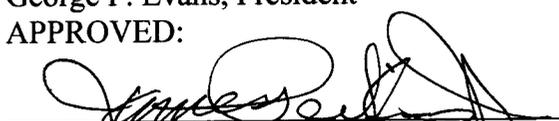
**XVII. SIERRA INTERNATIONAL**

Councilman Durry presented a letter on behalf of Mr. Alray Sumpter and asked Council members to review the material for further discussion later this week.

There being no further business to come before the Council, on motion made and duly seconded, the Council voted by a unanimous consent to adjourn at 9:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Jacqueline T. Smith, City Clerk

  
George P. Evans, President  
APPROVED:  
  
James Perkins, Jr., Mayor