

MINUTES OF THE SELMA CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2001

The Selma City Council met in a regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Monday, March 26, 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, Benny L. Tucker, Bennie Ruth Crenshaw, and James Durry. Councilman Samuel Randolph was absent from the meeting. 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 Jerry Henry 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 Reading is Fundamental summer distribution project and Selma's Promise Youth Summit. There being no other additions to the agenda, on motion made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilman Durry 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, February 26, 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. Recognition of Richard Randal. Mayor Perkins recognized Richard Randal for his heroic rescue mission to save residents from a burning apartment building. Mayor Perkins presented Mr. Randal with a plaque and thanked him for saving many lives while risking his own. Mr. Randal graciously accepted the plaque and the Council congratulated him on his heroics.

B. Fiscal 1999-2000 Audit Report. Mayor Perkins introduced members of the auditing firm of Boreland and Benefield who performed the fiscal 1999-2000 audit. Mr. Charlie Polmatier addressed the Council by giving a brief overview of the complete audit report. Mr. Polmatier stated the audit report shows the City of Selma to be financially stable with an excess of revenues over expenditures totaling \$153,991. Mr. Polmatier stated notes are accompanying the financial statements and provide greater detail for Council members review. Mr. Polmatier also presented the Grant Compliance Audit Report, which shows no instances of non-compliance. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilwoman Franklin to accept the audit report as presented. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

C. Sales Tax Report. Mayor Perkins presented the Council with the sixth month sales tax report, which shows sales tax collections decreased \$159,899 for the month of March 2001 compared to March 2000. The decrease represents a 17.38% decrease for the month. The year-to-date comparison reflects a \$62,890 increase or 3.7%.

D. Fifth Month Financial Report. Mayor Perkins presented the Council with the fifth month financial report, which shows city departments are operating at approximately \$80,429 in the black. While the reports shows the Police Department operating over budget, when reimbursements from E911 Board, Dallas County Commission, Selma Housing Authority and the U. S. Justice Departments are factored in, the Police Department is operating just slightly over budget.

I. MAYOR'S REPORT

E. Personnel Director. Mayor Perkins informed the Council that Personnel Director Randall Miller was retiring from the City of Selma, effective April 1, 2001, after twenty-nine years of service. The Mayor stated the job vacancy has been posted locally and on the Internet. The Mayor further stated that a Council committee had reviewed the job references and interviewed applicant, Valeria Jones, earlier today. Ms. Valeria Jones has thirty years of experience in Human Resource Management and was the most qualified applicant for the position. A motion was made by Councilwoman Martin and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw to appoint Ms. Valeria Jones to the position of Personnel Director. On roll call vote the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

F. Finance Director. Mayor Perkins informed the Council that Mr. Robert Sanders has applied for the position of Finance Director. The Mayor stated the job vacancy has been posted locally and on the Internet. The Mayor stated that a Council committee had reviewed the job references and interviewed applicant, Robert Sanders. Mr. Sanders has twenty-five years of experience in accounting and licensed by the State Board of Accountancy and was the most qualified applicant for the position. President Evans stated that the position of Finance Director is a month-to-month appointment, not a four-year appointment. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilwoman Martin to appoint Mr. Robert Sanders to the position of Finance Director. On roll call vote the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

G. National Day of Prayer. Mayor Perkins presented a request on behalf of Dr. Park Chittom and the National Day of Prayer Committee to have prayer in the Council Chambers on May 3rd from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Committee has also requested permission to hang a banner on the front balcony of City Hall in observance of National Prayer Day. A motion was made by Councilwoman Crenshaw and seconded by Councilwoman Sewell to grant the request of the National Day of Prayer Committee. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

H. Resolution – Summer Feeding Program. Mayor Perkins presented the Council with a resolution whereby the City of Selma agrees to sponsor the Summer Feeding Program on behalf of the State Department of Education and authorizes James Perkins, Jr., Mayor, to sign any and all documents pertaining thereto. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilman Tucker to adopt the resolution as presented. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

I. Resolution – Emergency Shelter. Mayor Perkins made the Council aware that Selma does not have an emergency shelter. Mayor Perkins presented the Council with a resolution for adoption, indicating the City of Selma desires to apply to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs for an Emergency Shelter Grant Program. The total grant/project cost is \$290,500 with matching funds from the City of Selma in the amount of \$36,500; the Community Action Agency will provide \$36,500 and a requested forgiveness amount of \$72,250.00. Mayor Perkins stated the matching funds are already included in the FY00-01 Planning/Development Office budget. A motion was made by Councilwoman Martin and seconded by Councilwoman Franklin authorizing the submission of the grant application for the emergency shelter. On roll call vote the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

I. MAYOR'S REPORT

J. Welcome Signs. Mayor Perkins explained to the Council that only municipalities are given permission to place welcome signs on State right-of-ways. Mayor Perkins stated Selma has two such signs, one located at the Edmund Pettus Bridge and the other on West Dallas Avenue. The Mayor said in order for the signs to remain, an application from the City of Selma must be made to the Alabama Department of Transportation requesting permission for the signs to remain. Mayor Perkins stated he met with officials from the different civic organizations and explained the situation of why the signs were removed. The Mayor also requested the organizations order new signs to coincide with the newly refurbished signs. Mayor Perkins asked the Council to adopt a resolution informing the ALDOT that the Council and Mayor is in agreement in making this application. A motion was made by Councilwoman Franklin and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw to adopt the resolution as presented. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

K. Alabama Historical Commission. Mayor Perkins asked for Council approval to submit a pre-application and application to the Alabama Historical Commission for continuation of the Mainstreet Program. The grant, if approved, is \$10,000 with a \$10,000 match by the Downtown Selma Association.

Mayor Perkins also asked for Council approval to submit a pre-application and application to the Alabama Historical Commission for the Black Heritage Windshield Tour. The grant amount is \$7,500 with a match of \$7,500 in local funds. The local match is included in the FY1999-2000 Planning/Development budget. A motion was made by Councilwoman Martin and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw. On roll call vote the Council voted unanimously to approve the submission of the grant application and the \$7,500 in matching funds.

L. Police Department Sgt. & Lt. Step Increases. Mayor Perkins stated Personnel Director Randall Miller addressed the Council at a work session regarding twelve sergeants and lieutenants who were promoted after the Police Department pay plan was implemented. These individuals have not received their annual step increase for fiscal 2000-2001. Mayor Perkins asked that this matter be tabled for review by the Public Safety Committee and addressed at the next Council meeting.

II. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

A. Status of Budget Contracts. Attorney Nunn informed the Council that all contracts contained in the fiscal 2000-2001 budget has been prepared and properly executed.

B. Claims against the City. Attorney Nunn gave the Council a brief update on claims filed against the City by Clarence Strong. Attorney Nunn stated he has filed additional briefs and is awaiting the judge's ruling. In the case of Hiwatha Ford, Attorney Nunn stated he has filed an answer and a motion to dismiss. Attorney Nunn is waiting the judge's ruling in this case also.

C. Claim of Bonnie Smedley vs City of Selma. Councilwoman Franklin informed the Council that a claim has been filed against the City on behalf of Ms. Bonnie Smedley who resides on Merrimac Place. This claim has been properly investigated by the Public Works Department and it was determined that the city sewer line runs behind Mrs. Smedley's house and rainwater aggravates the problem. Councilwoman Franklin said this problem has been ongoing for several years and towels from a nearby hotel actually surfaces in Mrs. Smedley's bathroom. Councilwoman Franklin agreed to satisfy the claim with the monies from her bond funds and discretionary funds. Plumbing Contractors has submitted a proposal to re-route the line for a cost of \$4,250; bond funds will be used for this expenditure. Plumbing Contractors has submitted a proposal to tie-in Mrs. Smedley's line to the city line for a cost of \$1,250; discretionary funds will be used to pay for this expenditure. Charges for plumbing work previously done totals \$337 and charges to replace the oak flooring totals \$300; discretionary funds will be used to pay for these expenditures.

II. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

C. Claim of Bonnie Smedley vs City of Selma.

Councilwoman Crenshaw stated this problem is citywide and other Council members are experiencing similar situations in their wards. Councilwoman Crenshaw suggested a meeting be scheduled with officials from the WaterWorks to ask for assistance on these sewer related problems. A motion was made by Councilwoman Franklin and seconded by Councilman Sexton to approve payment of \$1,887 from Ward 2 discretionary funds and \$4,250 from Ward 2 bond funds to correct the sewer problem at the residence of Mrs. Bonnie Smedley. On roll call the Council voted unanimously to approve settling the claim of Mrs. Smedley as outlined above.

D. Thelma Hatcher – Barrett Road. Attorney Nunn stated a complaint has been reviewed on behalf of Ms. Thelma Hatcher who resides on Barrett Road and who is experiencing problems similar to Mrs. Smedley. Mayor Perkins stated he has viewed a video and this problem requires some attention. Councilman Sexton stated this is not a sewer problem but a water problem. This particular house sits in a very low area where water flows towards it from all directions. When there is heavy rainfall there is no way to prevent water from coming inside this house. President Evans stated this matter would become a top priority at the next work session.

III. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

RECREATIONN COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilman Durry provided a status report of the many activities and projects of the Recreation Department.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Housing Revitalization. Councilwoman Crenshaw informed the Council that Mr. Stidham with the Department of HUD made a visit to Selma during the weekend of March 17th to gather information to begin a youth initiative program. Councilwoman Crenshaw stated that Mr. Stidham is formulating a housing and economic development strategy for Selma. Councilwoman Crenshaw stated a fee for this consultation was \$1,200 and made a motion for Council approval to issue payment to Mr. Stidham from the Special Projects Fund. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sewell and on roll call vote, passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Failure to Yield to Emergency Vehicles. Councilwoman Franklin informed the Council that the Selma Police Department is faced with a problem of citizens failing to yield to emergency vehicles. Councilwoman Franklin stated that an ordinance is on the books for this violation and will soon be enforced if the situation does not get under control. News articles will be written in an attempt to curtail this problem but if it continues, citations will be issued.

Other reports from the Public Safety Committee were informational only.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Community Development Committee was made during Mayor's report.

PUBLIC WORKS/GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

A. General Services Employees Pay Increase. Councilman Sexton stated that a Public Works/General Services Committee meeting was held on Thursday, March 1, 2001 to discuss a possible 2% pay increase for General Service's workers. The proposed 2% pay increase equals \$8,850.82 for the remainder of this fiscal year. Several Council members stated the pay increase should be done uniformly and asked that the matter be tabled for further review.

III. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS/GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

B. Street Sweeper. Councilman Sexton informed the Council that the street sweeper has been delivered to the Public Works Department. Public Works Director Tommy Smith will be working with Council members for scheduling in their ward.

C. Smitherman Building Restoration. Councilman Sexton stated the Board of Directors of the Smitherman Historic Museum recently met with him and made a request that the Council release the bond and discretionary funds donated by the former administration in order to complete the building renovations. Mayor Perkins stated he would meet with Councilman Sexton and the Board to further discuss this matter.

IV. SELMA'S PROMISE YOUTH SUMMIT.

Councilwoman Sewell informed the Council that the 2nd annual Selma's Promise Youth Summit would be held on May 4th at Wallace Community College. Some 500 students from area school have been invited to attend and they will have the option of choosing from twelve workshops beneficial to teens. Funds to sponsor this project will come from budgeted line items such as Youth-In-Government, Special Projects and Discretionary Funds. A motion of Council support was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilman Durry to support the youth summit. On roll call vote the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

V. READING IS FUNDAMENTAL SUMMER PROJECT.

Councilwoman Sewell stated the City Council has sponsored the summer Reading is Fundamental project for nine years and asked the Council for continued support. The RIF project motivates children to read. Book distribution sites will remain the same and funds to purchase the books will be taken from the Special Projects Account. Mrs. Sewell gave an estimated cost of \$3,700. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilwoman Franklin to sponsor the summer RIF project. On roll call vote, the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

VI. SELMA DALLAS COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD

Officer Toriano Neely of the Selma-Dallas County Rescue Squad appeared before the Council to inform them that the Dallas County Commission has indicated they will not be able to contribute to the purchase of the boat. Officer Neely has expressed the desire to purchase a rescue boat \$13,000 for this area and asked Council members for a donation. Councilwoman Crenshaw suggested the Rescue Squad write a letter to the State delegation and request discretionary funds. Mayor Perkins agreed to assist Mr. Neely with the letter.

VII. SIERRA INTERNATIONAL GROUP

President Evans asked Councilman Durry on the status of the request of Mr. Alray Sumpter concerning the All-Lock facility. Councilman Durry stated Mr. Sumpter has requested this matter be tabled until further notice.

VIII. RESCHEDULE COUNCIL MEETING

President Evans informed the Council that the next regular scheduled meeting of the Selma City Council will be held on Monday, April 9, 2001 at 4 o'clock rather than the normal 5 o'clock hour. At 6 o'clock the Council meeting will either adjourn or recess because Council members needs to be in attendance of a reapportionment meeting at the Selma Convention Center. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilman Tucker to change the time of the next Council meeting. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

IX. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE ON CITIZENS REQUESTS

President Evans informed the Council that he would like to appoint a committee to review the requests the citizens make to the Council. The committee would determine the availability of funds, the legality of the requests and would then make a recommendation to the body. The Committee on Citizens Requests is: Councilwoman Nancy G. Sewell, Chairwoman, Councilman James Durry, Councilwoman Rita Franklin and Councilwoman Bennie Ruth Crenshaw.

X. SUSAN KEITH – COMMUNITY PROSECUTION INITIATIVE

Mrs. Susan Keith was present before the Council to inform them that a \$69,000 grant has been funded for the Office of the District Attorney's Community Based Prosecution Initiative. Mrs. Keith gave a status report on how Dallas County fared compared with other counties. The purpose of the Community Prosecution Initiative is to foster collaboration with the District Attorney's Office, citizens, law enforcement agencies and other agencies to enhance the community life of the citizens. Mrs. Keith asked the Mayor and Council for their continued support and efforts of working together. Councilwoman Sewell presented Mrs. Keith with a resolution resolving Mayor Perkins and the Selma City Council offers its full support to the Office of the District Attorney's Community Based Prosecution Initiative. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilman Tucker to adopt the resolution supporting the Community Based Prosecution Initiative. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

XI. MINISTER JESSIE LESURE

Minister Jessie Lesure stated she was present before the Council to bring awareness to the Love Everybody Help Outreach Ministry. The Love Everybody Help Outreach Ministry currently operates several ministries, without funding, except private donations. Some of the ministries include feeding, clothing, and attending the needs of the elderly. Minister Lesure requested financial assistance in the amount of \$1,000 to enable her to continue to offer the much needed services. President Evans turned this request over to the Committee on Citizens Requests for review and a recommendation.

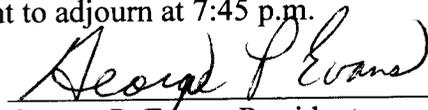
XII. MS. TINA PRICE – COMMUNITY RESOURCE DIRECTORY

Ms. Tina Price stated she was present before the Council requesting assistance in developing a Community Resource Directory. Ms. Price stated she works as a Regional Field Director for the Alabama Department of Children's Affairs and a Community Resource Directory is much needed in our area. The directory would be most beneficial to the citizens because it will list the different service organizations and agencies and the services they offer. Ms. Price asked the Council to provide her with a list of those agencies included the budget that provides services to the community.

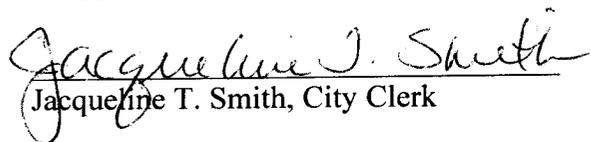
XIII. MR. CLARENCE WILLIAMS

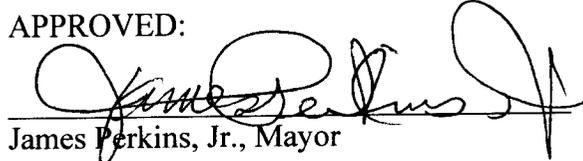
Mr. Clarence Williams stated he was present to address the Council regarding various matters such as water, drainage and sewer problems. President Evans thanked Mr. Williams for his concern and stated the appropriate departments are seeking solutions to these problems.

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 7:45 p.m.


George P. Evans, President

ATTEST:


Jacqueline T. Smith, City Clerk

APPROVED:

James Perkins, Jr., Mayor

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there are certain funds available for a Summer Feeding Program through the School Food Service Section of the Alabama State Department of Education, and

WHEREAS, this program will be administered by the City of Selma, and

WHEREAS, the City of Selma is of the opinion that it would be beneficial to make application for such assistance.

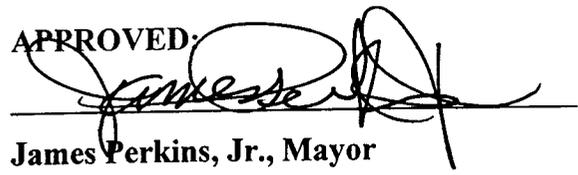
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SELMA, ALABAMA, that the Summer Feeding Program as outlined above is hereby approved and James Perkins, Jr., Mayor, is hereby authorized to sign any and all documents pertaining thereto.

**STATE OF ALABAMA}
COUNTY OF DALLAS}
CITY OF SELMA }**

I, Jacqueline T. Smith, City Clerk of the City of Selma, Alabama do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution which was duly adopted by the Council of the City of Selma, Alabama at a regular meeting held on the 26th day of March, 2001.

Given under my hand and the official seal of the City of Selma, Alabama, this 26th day of March, 2001.

Jacqueline Smith
Jacqueline T. Smith, City Clerk

APPROVED:

James Perkins, Jr., Mayor

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Selma desires to apply to the Alabama Department of Economic Community Affairs (ADECA) for a FY 2001 EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT PROGRAM Grant.

WHEREAS, the City of Selma possesses the legal authority to apply for said grant and execute the proposed program; and

WHEREAS, the application will be reviewed and grants awarded to localities rating the highest in the rating criteria; and

WHEREAS, the local support of the program by commitment of local matching funds is part of the rating criteria; and

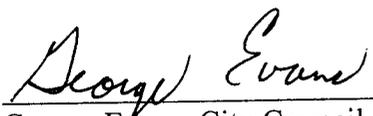
WHEREAS, the City is prepared to share in the cost of these improvements; and

WHEREAS, the total grant/project cost is \$290,500.00, with matching funds from the City of Selma \$36,500.00 and the Community Action Agency to provide \$36,500.00, and a requested forgiveness amount of \$72,250.00.

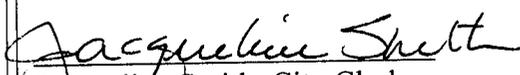
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Selma, Alabama hereby commits to the committed matching funds for the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Selma hereby authorizes the filing of said application, including all understandings and assurances contained therein, and does hereby authorize and direct Mayor James Perkins, Jr. as the official representative of the applicant to act in connection with the application and to provide such information as may be required.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SELMA, ALABAMA, on this the 26TH Day of MARCH, 2001.


George Evans, City Council President

ATTEST:


Jacqueline Smith, City Clerk

APPROVED:


James Perkins, Jr., Mayor

RESOLUTION

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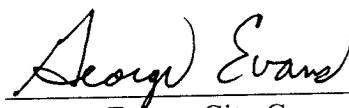
BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Selma, Alabama, that the City enters into an Agreement with the State of Alabama; acting by and through the Alabama Department of Transportation for:

The installation, maintenance and/or landscaping for special directional or political boundary sign(s).

Which Agreement is before this Council, and that the Agreement be executed in the name of the City, by its Mayor, for and on its behalf and that it be attested by the City Clerk and the seal of the City affixed thereto.

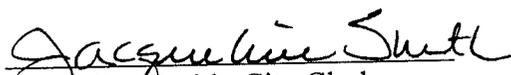
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon the completion of the execution of the Agreement by all parties, that a copy of such Agreement be kept on file by the City Clerk.

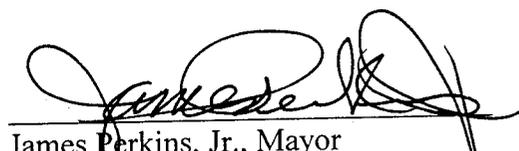
ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SELMA, ALABAMA, on this the 26TH Day of MARCH, 2001.


George Evans, City Council President

ATTEST:

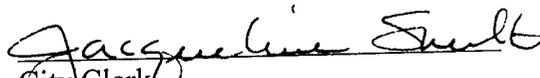
APPROVED:


Jacqueline Smith, City Clerk


James Perkins, Jr., Mayor

I, the undersigned qualified and acting clerk of the City of Selma, Alabama, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true copy of a resolution lawfully passed and adopted by the City Council of the City named therein, at a regular meeting of such Council held on the 26TH day of MARCH, 2001, and that such Resolution is on file in the office of the City Clerk.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City this 26th day of march, 2001.


City Clerk