

MINUTES OF THE SELMA CITY COUNCIL  
APRIL 9, 2007  
5:00 P.M.

Call to Order

Invocation: Reverend Lee Goodwin  
Second Baptist Church

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

The Selma City Council met in a regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Monday, April 9, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present during roll call: Council President George Evans and Council members Cecil Williamson, Reid Cain, Jean T. Martin, Geraldine Allen, and Johnnie M. Leashore. Others present were Mayor James Perkins, Jr., City Clerk Lois Williams, City Attorney Jimmy Nunn, Mayor's Executive Assistant Darlene Rudolph, Assistant City Clerk Ivy S. Harrison and the Accounting Supervisor Irma Roberts. Council members Randolph, Crenshaw and Venter were absent during roll call. Councilwoman Crenshaw and Councilwoman Venter arrived at 5:07 p.m. Councilman Randolph arrived at 5:20 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

President Evans asked for the approval of the agenda items. A motion was made by Councilman Williamson and seconded by Councilman Cain to approve the agenda as written. **The motion carried with a unanimous (show of hands) vote of the Council members present.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

After approval of the agenda, President Evans asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2007 regular meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Cain and seconded by Councilman Williamson to continue these minutes until the next Council meeting. **The motion carried with a unanimous (show of hands) vote of the Council members present.**

President Evans also asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2007 regular meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Leashore and seconded by Councilwoman Venter to approve the minutes with corrections noted by Councilwoman Allen and Councilman Williamson. **The motion carried with a majority (show of hands) vote of the Council members present. There were seven ayes and one abstention. Councilman Cain abstained from voting due to his absence from that meeting.**

CITIZENS' REQUESTS

Mrs. Sarah Harris  
Re: March of Dimes

MAYOR'S REPORT

A. **Resolution #R166-06/07 - Recreation Grant.** Mayor Perkins stated this item was discussed in the work session regarding a grant received from International Paper; this is a grant that will be added to the Budget and auditors suggested that there be documentation to support this transactions, which is the said resolution and he asks Council favorable consideration. A motion was made by Councilman Leashore and seconded by Councilwoman Venter to approve the said resolution for the City of Selma Recreation Department to document acceptance of a grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 from International Paper. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present.**

B. **Proclamation - Fair Housing Month.** Mayor Perkins asked the Council to favorably consider this proclamation, which he read in its entirety, acknowledging April as Fair Housing Month. A motion was made by Councilwoman Martin and seconded by Councilman Leashore to approve the said proclamation. **The motion carried with a unanimous (show of hands) vote of the Council members present.**

C. **Five Year Lease Agreement with Regions Bank.** Mayor Perkins stated the Council has been given copies of the signed five year lease agreement. Councilman Cain read and asked Mayor Perkins if he could explain what the "deposit" is as mentioned in the lease agreement. Mayor Perkins stated he believes this is just a "standard" language in the agreement, that no "deposit" was ever discussed, but he would find out.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

D. **Personnel Manual.** Mayor Perkins stated this item was addressed during work session and he would like to reiterate that the Personnel Manual is currently under revision and is a continuing process, once completed, will be presented to the Personnel Board for approval in the not too distant future.

E. **Acknowledgement of Appointments.** Mayor Perkins stated he would like to remind the Council of the nominations for the County Board of Equalization. Mayor Perkins stated this was discussed in the work session and he would like to acknowledge this item into the record as there is a need to move forward; perhaps it can be discussed again in the next work session.

F. **Environmental Court.** Mayor Perkins stated this item was also discussed at the work session and asked that the Council would allow time for Mr. Larry Friday, Inert Landfill Director and Mrs. Valeria Chittom, Municipal Judge to meet and discuss this issue further and report an update back to the Council on "how best" to approach this issue.

G. **Resolution #R158-06/07 - Dishwasher for Convention Center.** Mayor Perkins stated the Council had asked if Oil Lease funds could be used to purchase the dishwasher. Mayor Perkins stated the answer is no, so there is a need to come up with a source of funds, and he believes the unappropriated funds would support this amount of \$6,997.00 and asked Council favorable consideration. A motion was made by Councilwoman Martin and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw to approve the said resolution to purchase a dishwasher for the Carl Morgan Convention Center in the amount of \$6,997.00 with funds to be allocated from unappropriated funds. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council. Councilman Randolph arrived at the meeting during this item.

**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

A. **Statement - A.M. I. C. Payment.** Attorney Nunn stated the Council has been given a copy of a statement from A.M.I.C. as it relates to deductibles and claims paid on behalf of the City of Selma. Attorney Nunn asked the Council to approve payment of the said statement. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Crenshaw and seconded by Councilman Leashore to approve payment of the statement to A.M.I.C. in the amount of \$4,765.00 to be allocated from the insurance liability line item in the budget. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

B. **Carnival Permit - Playland Amusements.** Attorney Nunn discussed and asked the Council to ratify and affirm the carnival permit for Playland Amusements which was located at the Selma Mall parking lot from March 28, 2007 through April 8, 2007. A motion was made by Councilman Leashore and seconded by Councilwoman Martin to ratify issuance of the permit to Playland Amusement for the period of March 28, 2007 through April 8, 2007. The motion carried with a unanimous (show of hands) vote of the Council.

C. **Enforcement of Livestock Ordinance #O122-06/07.** Attorney Nunn stated this item was discussed during work session and the attached memo discusses enforcement of the livestock codes. During discussion, President Evans stated these issues would be reviewed by the Council, and a committee would be developed to determine a recommendation. Committee members are President Evans, Councilwoman Martin and Councilwoman Venter as Chairperson.

D. **Declaratory Judgment-Selma Water Board.** Attorney Nunn stated as an update the Council on the declaratory judgment filed on behalf of the Water Board, the Board Attorney has stated it would be possibly in May before a judgment is declared and he will update the Council accordingly.

E. **Executive Session.** Attorney Nunn stated he would like to request that the Council have executive session to discuss matters of good name and character and pending litigation.

F. **Illegal Merchandise Update.** Attorney Nunn stated he has done some research by contacting other cities for enforcement models for the City of Selma, and will hopefully have an update at the next Council meeting. Mayor Perkins stated he also have recommendations to be considered.

G. **Elected School Board.** Attorney Nunn stated this matter is still being researched, there are legislative issues to be considered, and he will update the Council as he gathers this information.

**I. BELL ROAD**

President Evans stated there has been an issue with traffic overload at Bell Road daily around 3:00 p.m. and we need to develop a means of relieving this congestion. President asked Mayor Perkins if he would help to review this issue and come up with a solution.

**II. OIL LEASE APPROPRIATIONS**

President Evans asked Mayor Perkins if the Oil Lease Funds had been received yet. Mayor Perkins stated no, but upon receipt he would like to ask the Council to consider using their funds as the collective effort for the purpose of constructing and/or repairing sidewalks throughout the city.

**III. DIVERSITY WORKSHOP**

President Evans stated the free diversity workshop has been scheduled for Saturday, April 14, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**IV. ENVIRONMENTAL COURT**

Councilman Williamson asked if it is the consensus of the Council to move forward with this matter. There was a consensus of the Council to move forward with this matter.

**V. RESIGNATION OF SELMA CITY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER**

A motion was made by Councilman Leashore and seconded by Councilman Randolph to acknowledge acceptance of the resignation from Mr. David Haygood from the Selma City School Board. The motion carried with a unanimous (show of hands) vote of the Council.

**VI. LEAGUE OF THE SOUTH-COUNCILMAN WILLIAMSON'S APOLOGY TO COUNCILWOMAN VENTER**

Councilman Randolph asked Councilman Williamson if he would reconsider apologizing to Councilwoman Venter for comments he made about her on a TV broadcast. Following a lengthy discussion, Councilman Williamson stated he does not want to address the matter. Councilman Leashore made a motion to ask the Council to denounce Councilman Williamson for not adhering to the request made by Councilman Randolph, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw, stating an amendment to the motion, that the Council disagrees with his behavior. President Evans then stated this motion would be out of order. An appeal was then made by Councilman Leashore if the Council agreed with President Evans' ruling. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were five ayes and four nay votes. Councilman Randolph, Councilman Leashore, Councilwoman Crenshaw and Councilwoman Venter all cast a nay vote.

**VII. NOISE ORDINANCE**

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Allen and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw to amend the policy for speed breakers to include notification to the Council. The motion carried with a unanimous (show of hands) vote of the Council members present.

**VIII. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

President Evans stated due to the Alabama League of Municipality Conference being held on the same day as the next regular Council meeting, he asks the Council to consider moving the meeting to the last Monday of the month, April 30, 2007. A motion was made by Councilwoman Martin and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw to the next regular meeting to April 30, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. The motion carried with a unanimous (show of hands) vote of the Council.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**RECREATION COMMITTEE - Councilman Leashore, Chairperson**

No Report.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE - Councilman Dr. Cecil Williamson, Chairperson

Councilman Williamson reported. Copy of minutes attached. During discussion of raising the salary for Council Secretary, Dianna Johnson, a motion was made by Councilman Leashore and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw to rescind the pay raise for Dianna Johnson and give the Mayor permission to make a proposal for a pay raise for all employees in the next fiscal year. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion failed for lack of an affirmative majority vote. There were three ayes and six nay votes. President Evans, Councilman Williamson, Councilman Cain, Councilwoman Martin, Councilwoman Allen and Councilman Randolph all cast a nay vote.** Following further discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Randolph to raise her salary to \$37,000.00. The motion failed for lack of a second. A motion was made by Councilman Williamson to raise her salary to \$28,000.00. His motion also failed for lack of a second. A motion was then made by Councilman Cain to raise her salary to \$31,000.00, seconded by Councilman Randolph. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were six ayes and three nay votes. Councilman Leashore, Councilwoman Crenshaw and Councilwoman Venter each cast a nay vote.** President Evans stated this approval is pending a resolution and asked Attorney Nunn if he would prepare a resolution for the next Council meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Leashore and seconded by Councilwoman Venter to present the same pay raise for all other secretaries in that classification. Councilwoman Venter stated there are ten others listed. President Evans stated this motion is out of order. Councilman Leashore stated he would like the record to reflect that he tried to get fairness and equity considered, however, he was overruled.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE - Councilwoman Dr. Geraldine Allen, Chairperson

Councilwoman Allen reported. Copy of minutes are attached.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - Councilwoman Bennie Ruth Crenshaw, Chairperson

No Report.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE - Councilwoman Venter, Chairperson

Councilwoman Venter reported. Copy of minutes are attached.

DISCRETIONARY FUNDS COMMITTEE - President Evans, Chairperson

President Evans stated a list is being circulated for funds from the Council discretionary.

**CLOSING REMARKS BY EACH COUNCIL MEMBER.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

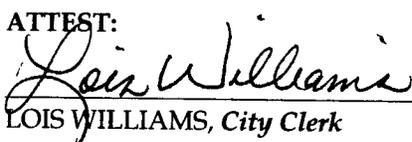
President Evans requested a motion to recess into executive session. A motion was made by Councilman Randolph, and seconded by Councilwoman Allen, to recess this meeting into executive session as per request of Attorney Nunn to discuss good name and character and legal matters, at 6:59 p.m. **The motion carried with a unanimous vote (show of hands) of the Council.**

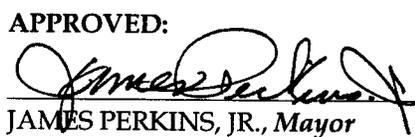
Following executive session, a motion was made by Councilwoman Martin, and seconded by Councilwoman Venter, to reconvene the meeting into regular session at 7:52 p.m. **The motion carried with a unanimous vote (show of hands) of the Council.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Councilwoman Martin, and seconded by Councilwoman Allen to adjourn, and by unanimous consent of the Council, this meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

  
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GEORGE P. EVANS, *Council President*

ATTEST:  
  
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LOIS WILLIAMS, *City Clerk*

APPROVED:  
  
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JAMES PERKINS, JR., *Mayor*