

MINUTES OF THE SELMA CITY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 27, 2006
5:00 P.M.

Call to Order

Invocation: Reverend Winston Williams
St. Paul C.M.E. Church

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

The Selma City Council met in a regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Monday, November 27, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present during roll call: Council President George Evans and Council members Cecil Williamson, Jean T. Martin, Johnnie M. Leashore, Bennie R. Crenshaw and Jannie M. Venter. Councilwoman Geraldine Allen was absent during roll call, and arrived at 5:11 p.m. Councilman Samuel Randolph was absent during roll call, and arrived at 5:16 p.m. Councilman Reid Cain was absent during roll call, and arrived at 5:46 p.m. Others present were Mayor James Perkins, Jr., City Clerk Lois Williams, Assistant City Clerk Ivy S. Harrison, City Attorney Jimmy Nunn, City Treasurer Cynthia Mitchell, and the Mayor's Executive Assistant Darlene Rudolph.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A motion was made by Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilwoman Venter, to approve the agenda as written. **The motion carried with a unanimous vote (show of hands) of the Council.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Crenshaw, and seconded by Councilman Leashore, to table the minutes of November 13, 2006. **The motion carried with a unanimous vote (show of hands) of the Council.**

CITIZENS' REQUESTS

None.

I. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. **Recognition of Selma Fire Department Employees.** Mayor Perkins stated on Sunday morning at approximately 2:30 a.m., the Fire Department responded to an emergency fire call. Mayor Perkins further stated Captain Stokes, Battalion Chief, was in charge of this, but he is away in training now. Mayor Perkins asked the Firemen who were present from the firefighting team to come forward, along with Fire Chief Henry Allen, so that we could acknowledge the tremendous success they had in dealing with that very difficult situation. Mayor Perkins stated it could have been worse but God saw fit that all of the residents at the facility were able to get out alive. Mayor Perkins further stated the tenant-resident who was injured in the apartment that the fire started from, is still in the Burn Unit at a Birmingham hospital. Mayor Perkins also stated it is because of the work and efforts of the employees of the Fire Department that really saved some lives. Mayor Perkins stated he wanted to mention in the process of responding to this incident, the emergency at this facility, it created the need of a secondary staging area where the residents could be located while this fire was being extinguished. Mayor Perkins stated he wanted to go on record, publicly thanking Wal-Mart for allowing their store (facility) to be used during the time this incident occurred. Mayor Perkins further stated he wanted to congratulate each and every one of them for a job well done; not only did they save the lives of the residents but they came out okay, and that is important. Mayor Perkins stated he wanted to publicly thank them for a job well done. Mayor Perkins further stated the Selma Police Department served as transportation, taking the residents from the Epworth House to Wal-Mart. Mayor Perkins also stated he wanted to thank Chief Martin, and the Selma Police Department for their efforts as well.

B. **Microboards Copywriter Live CD Writer Update.** Mayor Perkins stated he would like the City Clerk's office staff to address the Council as it relates to their experience in working with the new Microboards Copywriter CD Equipment. Mayor Perkins asked Mrs. Ivy S. Harrison, Assistant City Clerk, if she would come forward and share with the Council their experience with working with the new equipment that the Council opted to purchase. Mrs. Harrison stated she has been working diligently in an attempt to transcribe the minutes of November 13, 2006. Mrs.

I. MAYOR'S REPORT

Harrison stated the delay in having these minutes done is mainly the result in the inability to maneuver the equipment, while trying to rewind to listen, and then transcribe. Mrs. Harrison stated the equipment, while trying to rewind to listen and transcribe, has the capability to rewind to hear what is being said for transcribing, but it will take her past the point where she really needs it to "stop and start at". Mrs. Harrison further explained when she stops at the end of the day, for instance, to shut the computer down for the day, and come back to re-start the next day, it automatically goes to the point of beginning of the CD, even though that is not where she needs it to take her. Mrs. Harrison also stated the computer, while transcribing from the equipment, does not allow her to listen, transcribe and type onto the computer at the same time; she has to switch from the window of the CD to listen, then to Microsoft Word to type. Mrs. Harrison further stated, in essence, what she is having to do to transcribe the minutes is, listen and write onto a notepad what is being said, and then switch "windows" on the computer to Microsoft Word in order to type what she has listened to, and written. Mrs. Harrison stated this is a duplication, in that she is unable to listen to the CD and transcribe onto the computer at the same time. Mrs. Harrison further stated she started working on the minutes of November 13, 2006, on Monday, November 20th, and continued to work on them on Tuesday, November 21st, and Wednesday, November 22nd, and again all of today, November 27th, and she is still experiencing a tremendous delay in completing them. Mrs. Harrison also stated this new equipment needs additional equipment that will allow them to transcribe from it in order for it to function for transcribing. Mrs. Harrison stated the equipment is fine for recording the City Council minutes, but in terms of word processing for minute transcription, she suggests something else be done in order for it to function as a transcription tool. Mayor Perkins stated from what Mrs. Harrison is saying, the technology that we have so far is good recording technology, but it is not good for transcribing; it is getting good quality recording but when doing the transcription it is a very cumbersome process in using the computer in that light, and really does affect operations. Mayor Perkins asked Council if they would allow him to develop an alternative to what has been done so that whatever we invest in, actually improves the situation, and that it does not duplicate the existing equipment we have, and prolong the process. President Evans asked if he could have a hard copy of the actual CD of the last Council meeting to take and work through for the purpose of seeing what could be some of the problems, to carry out this process. Councilwoman Crenshaw recommended to the Council that they move back to what they were using in the past, until it is worked out with the new equipment. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Crenshaw, and seconded by Councilman Leashore, to use the equipment that was used in the past for recording of the meetings, until this process is worked out. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were four ayes and three nay votes. President Evans, Councilwoman Allen, and Councilman Williamson cast nay votes. Councilwoman Martin abstained.**

C. Length of Service Recognition Awards. Mayor Perkins stated he would like to present Certificates of Service to recognize the following employees: *Mrs. Randy Harris, Finance Department*; Twenty Years of dedicated service to the City of Selma; and *Mr. Terry Jackson, Recreation Department*, Ten Years of dedicated service to the City of Selma. Mayor Perkins stated he would like to thank them for their years of dedicated service to the City of Selma. Mrs. Harris and Mr. Jackson were also presented with Longevity Pins.

D. Christmas Holiday Observance. Mayor Perkins stated the recommendation for the Christmas Holidays would be Friday, December 22nd and Monday, December 25th, and returning to work on Tuesday, December 26th. Councilwoman Crenshaw stated to Mayor Perkins her recommendation would have been Friday, December 22nd, and Tuesday, December 26th, with the office already being closed on Monday, December 25th. Councilwoman Crenshaw asked the Council how would that interfere with work at City Hall? Mayor Perkins stated the long weekend of Friday to Monday and Tuesday could create a hardship for the guys in Public Works but we can make the adjustment, but the citizens are going to have to be understanding, if the Council decides to add the extra day. A motion was made by Councilwoman Crenshaw, and seconded by Councilman Leashore, to approve Friday, December 22nd, Monday, December 25th, and Tuesday, December 26th, as Christmas Holidays for City Employees. **The motion carried with a unanimous vote (show of hands) of the Council.**

E. City Attorney's Salary. Mayor Perkins stated at the last Council meeting, Council raised the issue of the salary of the City Attorney, and his question is what does the Council wish to do at this point, concerning the additional raise for the City Attorney. Councilman Leashore stated he raised the issue because he felt then, as he does now, that our Attorney is grossly underpaid, and he is prepared to receive any recommendation from the executive office about any

I. MAYOR'S REPORT

benefits the City Attorney can receive. Mayor Perkins stated when the Council raised the issue of the City Attorney's salary being raised, he asked City Personnel Director, Ms. Valeria Jones, to do the research, and she is available to present her findings. Ms. Jones stated to Council that she is requesting that Attorney Nunn's base rate of \$53,272.64 be adjusted in accordance with the pay plan that was approved by the Council in December of 2005. Ms. Jones further stated a survey was done and the information is as follows: based upon the median salary by employer-type for the classification of attorneys and the number of years, Attorney Nunn has served, the median base rate for attorneys in local government with 5 - 9 years of experience has a range from \$61,000.00 - \$67,000.00. Ms. Jones also stated Mr. Nunn's base rate is \$53,272.64, so it seems quite appropriate that it be looked at. Councilman Williamson stated to Ms. Jones that on the pay scale that he received from her it showed Attorney Nunn's salary as \$61,272.00. Ms. Jones stated that Attorney Nunn serves on four Boards as its Attorney, Personnel Board, Planning Commission, Board of Adjustment and the Board of Adjustment Code of Appeals, and that is how the amount of \$61,272.00 is shown on the pay scale that he got. Ms. Jones further stated, to keep in mind, that when they did the increase, the consultant included the money he was getting from the Boards in his base salary. Councilman Williamson asked, in other cities that you surveyed does the City Attorney, by virtue of being the City Attorney, also serve as the Attorney for the City Boards, or do they hire other attorneys, or pay them extra? Ms. Jones stated after contacting the League of Municipalities, her research could not find an attorney in a full/time status such as our City Attorney. President Evan stated he does not agree with a salary increase for Attorney Nunn at this point, nothing personal against him; he does work hard but he does not agree with his salary being raised at this point. President Evans further stated, based on his experience, as a City, we are way above everybody, in some cases, in his opinion. He also stated it would be his recommendation to Attorney Nunn for some help to hire another secretary, the work load down there is tremendous for the purpose of what needs to be done down there. President Evans also stated, "raising the bar" and raising salaries of certain individuals is killing the morale of employees. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw, to put Attorney Nunn's salary in line with the classification pay plan. Councilman Williamson asked if the raise was already in the budget that has been approved or does it have to come from unappropriated surplus? It was stated that it will come from unappropriated funds. Councilman Randolph stated he feels the Council's secretary is underpaid and deserves a raise, too, and that the Council needs to change her title to Administrative Assistant. During discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were five ayes and three nay votes. President Evans, Councilman Williamson, and Councilwoman Martin cast nay votes. During roll call, President Evans stated we need to really seriously think about this before we make another big jump; further stating, consequently; when you open one door, you've got to open up another door, that needs to be clarified, and he votes no; Councilwoman Allen stated she votes yes because she knows the degree that Attorney Nunn has, and knows also the range for attorneys. Councilwoman Allen further stated she has personally reviewed the survey for herself, and she does think that Attorney Nunn works very hard. Councilwoman Allen also stated she does not necessarily think that he has to be on every board in order to get \$2,000.00 to raise him to a fair amount. Councilman Randolph stated, as he stated earlier, he feels that their secretary is underpaid but at this time he will vote yes because he knows that Attorney Nunn is underpaid, as well; Councilman Leashore stated, in the spirit of being fair, as he stated earlier, when he asked the Mayor to look at the salary that is being paid to our attorney, he is being grossly underpaid and he felt that then, and he is very pleased to vote yes, hoping that his salary will be brought up to the base that is in the pay plan; Councilwoman Crenshaw stated, in the spirit of also being fundamentally fair, and in doing what is right, and looking at what has been done for attorneys in the past, and she has been here with that, she feels he is grossly underpaid and votes yes; Councilwoman Venter stated, in the same spirit, she has to agree with President Evans in that their firemen and policemen need a raise, because they are also underpaid, but she votes yes for Attorney Nunn because she feels he needs a raise, also.

F. Merit Increase. Mayor Perkins stated there are line items in Fire and Police budgets for the step increases. Mayor Perkins further stated in order for the City to pay it the Council has to vote and approve increases before it can be implemented. Ms. Jones asked if she could make a correction, stating in the 2006 budget there are still increases for Public Safety, both Police and Fire Departments. President Evans stated during the last Council's meeting, Councilman Cain inquired about it, and it was his understanding that it had not been approved in the budget, and they would have to go back and approve it. Mayor Perkins stated that was not what he said. President Evans asked if he would state what he said so that he and the Council would be clear on that. Mayor Perkins stated what he said was that there are line items in both fire and police department budgets for the step increases, and said in order for the City to pay it, the Council has to vote and approve the step increases; it is in the budget but Council would have to approve it to be paid. President Evans stated he stands corrected; he thought when Councilman

I. MAYOR'S REPORT

Cain asked the question of the step raises for Firemen it was not in the budget. President Evans further stated we need to find out where it is in the budget that the step increases are for the Firemen, and Council needs to give that raise. President Evans also stated if he made a mistake in misquoting the Mayor on this, he will retract what was said. Mayor Perkins stated to Council if they look at their budget in the last page, there is a 14-step increase of \$21,340.00 in the Fire Department's budget; the last page in the Police Department lists the salaries, and the step increase of \$46,463.00; and the FLSA increase of \$94,614.00. President Evans stated he stands corrected. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Allen, and seconded by Councilman Randolph, that they allow line items that have been identified by the Mayor be increased for the Firemen and sworn Policemen for payment of raises, which will be automatic, and the implementation of it will be based upon the anniversary date, for the Firemen and sworn Police Officers. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.**

Mayor Perkins stated he wanted to make a comment that when he was first elected into office as Mayor, one of the glaring injustices that he witnessed was employees who were working full-time, and had worked for years, making \$5.50 and \$5.75 per hour, trying to support their families. Mayor Perkins further stated he regrets that anyone would feel that our employees are overpaid; one thing he is pleased about is that in the City of Selma's budget we do not have a single position in our budget that pays our employees that work full-time for us less than \$7.00 per hour. Mayor Perkins stated as the nation engages in discussions about minimum wage increase this is another one of those areas where the City of Selma is ahead of the game. President Evans stated he made the statement and his position is that there are people who are underpaid in the City that he thinks should be paid more money, and there are people, in his opinion, that are paid such a high salary that causes morale problems in the City; it does not mean everybody, but in his opinion, there are some salaries that they need to re-visit and look at again, and find ways to save money, and those people who are on the other side of the fence, such as, Ms. Johnson and some other people like secretaries in this City, that deserve more money, and works hard every day; that is his concern and his position on that. Councilwoman Crenshaw stated whenever we get into salaries we seem to divide the City because it gets to be political. Councilwoman Crenshaw further stated she appreciates the pay plan that the Mayor came on board and put in place.

G. Letter to President Evans from Mayor Perkins. President Evans read a letter from the Mayor addressed to him, with copies to Council, which talks about the public purpose of the land acquisition meeting which stated, "During the November 13th Council meeting, it was suggested by him that the Council and the Mayor meet to discuss a purpose for the proposed land acquisition, and, as of today's date he has not received any correspondence from him concerning a date; please contact his office to set up a time for this". President Evans stated this is a letter he had intended to send to the Mayor over the holidays but it did not get mailed because he was out, and the Council's secretary was also out. President Evans read a letter he had addressed to Mayor Perkins, and stated he will make copies available for Council. President Evans read the letter in its entirety: "Dear Mayor Perkins, I write this letter as a follow-up to our Council meeting on November 13th where we discussed the land acquisition, and I was asked to work with putting a plan together for the use of the 111 acres of land. I would ask that you meet with the Council and outline in writing by way of a presentation so that they would be able to discuss each item and make a decision based on what you and the Council believe to be in the best interest of our City. Currently, I do not have any specific plans outlined for the use of the property; however, I am open to discussion of your vision and the vision of each Council member to come up with a plan that we can sell to the community". President Evans stated this is his response to the Mayor's letter and he will give the Council a copy of it, based on that. President Evans further stated he will wait to hear from the Mayor to see how he wants to move forward on this. Councilwoman Crenshaw stated she feels the community should have some input on the use of the land. Councilwoman Crenshaw further stated she thinks it should be a meeting which the community comes to the Council and tell them what they would like to see happen with the land. Councilwoman Crenshaw also stated she thinks that they should let the people tell them what they think about the land acquisition, and what they think it should be used for.

I. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

A. Public Hearing - Rezoning. Attorney Nunn stated there was going to be a public hearing on a Rezoning matter, which was published in the newspaper, from a M-1 to a B-3, and was going to be presented tonight by the attorneys. Attorney Nunn further stated the request has

II. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

been withdrawn, and the Petitioner will come back to the Planning Commission to present another request to re-zone a piece of property here in the City of Selma.

B. Consent Decree. Attorney Nunn stated he asked President Evans if during the last Council meeting if the Council voted on the Consent Decree and it was mentioned that the City Council did vote on it. Attorney Nunn stated he had gone back and reviewed the minutes of the last 2 - 3 months and cannot see where the City Council voted on that. Attorney Nunn further stated he checked with the City Clerk's office and the City Clerk stated it might have gone through the Administrative Committee and the Council ratified or adopted the minutes or approved the minutes of the Administrative Committee. Attorney Nunn is asking for a copy of the minutes to be attached to the Motion to the Court. Councilman Leashore stated that the Council did vote on this matter already, and he thinks it was during the November 13th meeting but he is not for sure. President Evans stated he thought it was prior to the last Council meeting of November 13th. Attorney Nunn stated it may have been left out of the tape, and President Evans suggested to check the tape, because it was voted on. Attorney Nunn stated the Council could take another vote at this time, to prevent prolonging this matter. A motion was made by Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilman Randolph, to ask the Courts to dissolve the Consent Decree for the Selma City School Board. **The motion carried with a unanimous vote (show of hands) of the Council.**

C. Resolution R121-06/07 - Contract for Services - Budget Appropriation. Attorney Nunn stated agency contracts have been prepared for the budget appropriation for 2006/2007 fiscal year for the City's contractual services. Attorney Nunn further stated Resolution #R121-06/07 gives the Mayor authority to proceed to execute the contracts for the services, and funding has already been allocated for the 2006/2007 fiscal year. Attorney Nunn asks Council's consideration and approval of said Resolution, retroactive to October 2006. A motion was made by Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilwoman Venter, to approve said Resolution #R121-06/07. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.**

D. Resolution R120-06/07 - Condemned Houses. Attorney Nunn stated Resolution R120-06/07 deals with abandoned houses or dangerous buildings, which have been identified as a nuisance within the Code Enforcement Office, which has done an inspection on these properties, investigating who the property owners are. Attorney Nunn further stated it is procedural to give the property owners 31 days to rectify the condition of the structure of said building. Attorney Nunn also stated if they fail to rectify within the 31 days, or appeal to the Board of Adjustments Code of Appeals, within 10 days after receipt of the letter, the City shall move forward in rectifying the dangerous building. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Crenshaw, and seconded by Councilwoman Martin, to approve said Resolution #R120-06/07. **The motion carried with a unanimous vote (show of hands) of the Council.**

E. Memorandum of Agreement. Attorney Nunn stated to Council that they should have before them a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Selma and Gail Hughes as it relates to a custodial license to operate a concession restaurant at the City Marina. Attorney Nunn further stated said contract is bought before the City Council every year, and that the contract is the same amount as last year. A motion was made by Councilwoman Martin, and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw, to approve said Memorandum of Agreement. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.**

F. Habitual Felony Offender Act. Attorney Nunn stated in his absence it had been the request of the Council to research the Habitual Felony Offender Act. Attorney Nunn further stated Section 13-A-5-9 outlines the penalties on conviction of the felonies, and explains it in detail. Attorney Nunn presented to Council copies of the Act, stating there is information on the front and back of the hand-out. Councilwoman Crenshaw stated she would like a list of people who have been arrested that have committed more than one crime, and would like to know how often it is being executed. Councilman Williamson asked if this information was what the State has? Attorney Nunn replied that it was. Councilman Leashore stated it does appear that there is a repeat of the same people committing crimes, and getting right back out on the streets to commit more crimes. Councilman Leashore further stated he thinks the Council needs to go on record and ask the Circuit Court Judges, and the Federal Courts, to look at these habitual offenders and send them to prison. President Evans stated he supports Councilman Leashore and Councilwoman Crenshaw, and would entertain a motion to that effect. A motion was made by Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw, to appeal via the Public Safety Committee to have resolution in place to enforce punishment on habitual offenders. **The motion carried with a unanimous vote (show of hands) of the Council.**

II. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

G. Letter from Mr. Larry D. Striplin, Jr. Attorney Nunn stated to Council that they should have a copy of a letter before them from Mr. Larry Striplin, Jr., requesting permission to temporarily close the Troup Dining Room and The Drinking Room at the St. James Hotel, for a period up to 90 days. Attorney Nunn further stated a request was made to determine if this could be allowed under the Lease Agreement. Attorney Nunn read portions of the Lease Agreement which states, beginning with paragraph 14.(a) ... Subject to the provisions of paragraph (b) herein, in the event the Lessee fails to keep and perform any material covenant or agreement contained herein by it to be kept and performed, fails or ceases to operate the hotel and restaurant facilities ... and such failure or default should continue for *sixty (60)* days after written notice to the Lessee by the Lessor ... (1) Lessor may serve upon Lessee notice that this lease and the then unexpired term hereof shall terminate and become absolutely void Attorney Nunn states if Council recalls, Lessor, as an option, has 60 days after written notice to the Lessee that he is in default of the Lease Agreement. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Allen, and seconded by Councilman Leashore, to agree to the temporary closing, under the condition of getting a written reason for the temporary closing, for sixty (60) days, as per the Lease Agreement. **The motion carried with a unanimous vote (show of hands) of the Council.**

H. Water Board. Attorney Nunn stated the next issue of discussion deals with the Water Board and the five items that were presented to him by Mr. Collins Pettaway. Attorney Nunn further stated in that letter, he agrees with all five items. Attorney Nunn also stated if the Council allows him to run downstairs, he will get those five items, and present them to the Council.

I. Wanda Bush - Application for Liquor License. Attorney Nunn stated he did talk with Ms. Wanda Bush today, and if Council recalls, this is the restaurant that was going to locate in the former Kaiser Building. Attorney Nunn further stated this matter hopefully will be coming before the City Council during the next Council meeting. Attorney Nunn also stated if the Council recalls, they revised the procedures where the applicant does not have to make the repairs prior to the license application coming before the Council. Attorney Nunn stated once the application comes before the City Council for a vote, the Council will take a vote based upon the initial inspections. Attorney Nunn further stated this matter also dealt with the ordinance which we have in place concerning 200 feet from a church. Attorney Nunn stated all of this will be discussed at the next Council meeting for Council's action.

J. Resolution R119-06/07 - Annexation. Attorney Nunn stated Resolution R119-06/07 was requested by Councilman Leashore as it relates to expanding the boundaries of the City of Selma by proceeding to annex all of the property in the vicinity of Highway 80 West, towards and in the direction of Highway 219. Attorney Nunn asked for Council's consideration of said Resolution. A motion was made by Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw, to approve Resolution R119-06/07. During discussion, Councilman Leashore withdrew his motion, and a motion was then made by Councilman Williamson, and seconded by Councilwoman Allen, to table said resolution until after the Committee has met to discuss this issue and process. Attorney Nunn was also asked to provide the Council with the procedures for annexation of said property, and maps of the 50 acre land proposal.

K. City of Selma - Owed \$49,000.00. Councilman Williamson asked Attorney Nunn about the City of Selma being owed \$49,000.00 possibly by the City of Camp Hill, due to an alleged tax collection error by AlaTax. Attorney Nunn stated he was just finding out about that, and a meeting has been scheduled with Ms. Cynthia Mitchell, to get an update.

Councilman Williamson asked if the appeal of the \$310,000.00 judgment against the City of Selma had been filed? Attorney Nunn stated the appeal has not been filed but the Post Judgment Motions have been filed. Councilman Williamson also asked about the Tower suit, and Attorney Nunn replied that all of the briefs have been filed in the suit, and they are awaiting a ruling on those briefs.

Attorney Nunn thanked the Mayor and Council for their vote earlier (salary increase for the City Attorney).

BUSINESS ITEMS:

I. COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

President Evans stated during the month of December the Council will meet once on Monday, December 18th. A motion was made by Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilman Crenshaw, to approve said Council meeting. **The motion carried with a unanimous vote (show of hands) of the Council.** During further discussion, a motion was then made by Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw, to suspend the rules to change the Council meeting to December 18th at 5:00 p.m. **The motion carried with a unanimous vote (show of hands) of the Council.**

II. TRAINS BLOCKING CROSSINGS

Councilman Williamson stated on yesterday morning at the railroad crossing trains were blocking traffic from about 6:00 a.m. until about 9:30 a.m., on Crescent Hill Drive, Hooper Drive and Jeff Davis Avenue, the railroad crossings were blocked and the people were off the train; there was nobody on the train. Councilman Williamson further stated he called the Police Department about 8:00 a.m., and asked the Clerk if the Police were giving citations, and she suggested that he call Chief Martin. Councilman Williamson also stated his question is, do you have to get permission from somebody to give a citation when people are breaking the law? Councilman Crenshaw stated when these trains are blocking, there are people who are late for work, and kids are late for school, and she thinks they need to do something about it. President Evans and the Council concur that they go on record that they want this issue dealt with. A motion was made by Councilwoman Crenshaw, and seconded by Councilwoman Martin, to carry out the enforcement of the ordinance and give citations on the spot henceforth. **The motion carried with a unanimous vote (show of hands) of the Council.** Mayor Perkins stated, for the record, the railroad company that they are referencing has been issued two, possibly three, citations already.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE - COUNCILMAN CECIL WILLIAMSON, CHAIRPERSON

Councilman Williamson gave everybody a copy of his report. Councilman Williamson stated there were 8 applicants for the vacancy on the School Board, and interviews were conducted on the applicants. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilwoman Allen, to table the process for the applications until after the Consent Decree is completed. **The motion carried with a unanimous vote (show of hands) of the Council.**

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE - COUNCILWOMAN GERALDINE ALLEN, CHAIRPERSON

Councilwoman Allen stated President Evans, along with herself, met with the ABI on November 21st to discuss the reported burglary of Chief Martin, and the website, angelfire.com. Councilwoman Allen further stated the following statement was made by the ABI and the District Attorney, Michael Jackson: "Due to the lack of physical evidence to review, there will not be an investigation by the ABI of the incident involving Chief Jimmy Martin. The District Attorney, Mr. Michael Jackson, validated this statement that at this time the defendants are being prosecuted in accordance with charges related to the incident but not conspiracy to murder. As for the website, angelfire.com, there have been no criminal offenses noted by this site. If an internal investigation of the city police occurs and criminal offenses are identified the ABI is willing at that time to be consulted for help." Councilwoman Allen also stated the Public Safety Committee will meet on Friday, December 1st at 2:30 p.m. Councilwoman Allen stated the Committee has received its report from Mr. Rutledge as it relates to 911.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - COUNCILWOMAN BENNIE CRENSHAW, CHAIRPERSON

Councilwoman Martin stated the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and Open House will be held at City Hall on December 1st at 4:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend. The Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, December 2nd at 9:00 a.m., and anyone planning to ride in the parade needs to contact Mrs. Patti Sexton at 874-2111. Councilwoman Martin also stated the Youth-In-Government and the Youth Ambassadors, along with Councilwoman Crenshaw, Councilwoman Venter, and herself, met at the St. James Hotel. Councilwoman Martin also stated Judge Valerie Chittom spoke to the Group, stating how important the organization is.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE - COUNCILWOMAN VENTER, CHAIRPERSON

Councilwoman Venter stated due to Thanksgiving Holidays, garbage was not picked up on Thursday or Friday, but did resume on Monday.

RECREATION COMMITTEE - COUNCILMAN JOHNNIE LEASHORE, CHAIRPERSON

No report.

DISCRETIONARY FUNDS COMMITTEE -- PRESIDENT EVANS

President Evans stated the forms are being distributed.

Mayor Perkins addressed the Council, and read the language again that Councilwoman Allen had read to Council, as it pertains to the report made by the ABI and the District Attorney. Mayor Perkins further stated this report does not mean that the investigation is closed, does not say that the Selma Police Department does not have an open investigation ongoing with this case. Mayor Perkins stated he also wanted to bring to the attention of the Council that in Dr. Allen's report, District Attorney, Mr. Michael Jackson, validated this statement, "that at this time, the defendants are being prosecuted in accordance with charges related to the incident but not conspiracy to murder". Mayor Perkins stated he wants it to be clear, and encourages the Council if they are discussing this issue, it is an ongoing investigation. Mayor Perkins further stated the allegation that was made as an attempt on Chief Martin's life was not made up and would just ask all of Council members to just be careful. Mayor Perkins stated, on a positive note, he would like to remind the Council and the Citizens about the Christmas Parade that is scheduled for Saturday, December 2nd, downtown; it will run the usual route. Mayor Perkins encourages everyone to come out and participate. Mayor Perkins stated the parade will be at 9:00 a.m., and the Alabama State University Hornets will be a featured guest, along with others, which will be outlined in Wednesday's paper. Mayor Perkins stated, he wanted to remind to some, and mention to others, that the City of Selma lost one of its employees, the death of Ms. Joyce Smith, who was a Tour Guide at the Vaughan-Smitherman Building. She was eulogized on Wednesday, November 22nd, and we will miss Joyce; she was a good friend of many who worked in the City, and really just a model employee. She will be missed.

CLOSING REMARKS BY EACH COUNCIL MEMBER (2 MINUTE LIMIT)

Councilwoman Venter - Would like to thank everyone for coming out to the Ward Meeting.

Councilman Cain - No Comments.

Councilman Randolph - No Comments.

Councilwoman Martin - Encourages everyone to attend the Cahaba Center's "Christmas Village" at the Cahaba Annex Building, on December 6th, from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. There will be Christmas Carols performing, Arts and Crafts; Poinsettias and other plants from the Greenhouse will be available for sale. Refreshments will be served. Mrs. Martin encourages everyone to thank the nice people for what they are doing there.

Councilwoman Allen - There will be a Ward 4 Meeting on Wednesday, November 29th at 6:00 p.m., at Cedar Park School.

Councilman Leashore - Requests that a letter be sent to Dr. Carter.

Councilman Williamson - Still getting complaints about the noise in the City, and hopes the Selma Police Department is on top of that in issuing citations.

Councilwoman Crenshaw - No Comments.

President Evans - President Evans stated he had been asked to announce that anyone who would like to order a T-Shirt for the Christmas Parade can purchased from Ms. Lauri Cothran, Chamber of Commerce, or Mrs. Patti Sexton, Community Development.

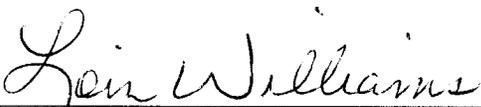
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilwoman Allen, to adjourn, and by unanimous consent of the Council, this meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.



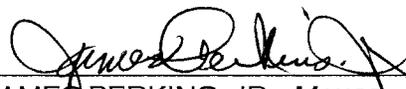
GEORGE P. EVANS, *COUNCIL PRESIDENT*

ATTEST:



LOIS WILLIAMS, *CITY CLERK*

APPROVED:



JAMES PERKINS, JR., *MAYOR*