

**MINUTES OF THE  
SELMA CITY COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 19, 2007  
5:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

Invocation: Reverend Gary Crum, Pastor  
Ellwood Baptist Church

Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance

The Selma City Council met in a regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Monday, November 19, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The following members were present during roll call: Council President George Evans and Council members Cecil Williamson, Reid Cain, Jean T. Martin, Johnnie M. Leashore, Bennie R. Crenshaw and Jannie M. Venter. Others present were Mayor James Perkins, Jr., City Clerk Lois Williams, City Attorney Jimmy Nunn, City Treasurer Cynthia Mitchell, the Mayor's Executive Assistant Darlene Rudolph and Assistant City Clerk Ivy S. Harrison. Councilwoman Allen was absent from the meeting due to illness. Councilman Randolph and Councilwoman Crenshaw were absent during roll call.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

President Evans asked for the approval of the agenda items. A motion was made by Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilwoman Venter, 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 October 22, 2007 Regular meeting. A motion was made by Councilwoman Martin, and seconded by Councilwoman Venter, to approve the minutes of October 22, 2007. **The motion carried with a unanimous (show of hands) vote of the Council members present. Councilwoman Crenshaw arrived in the Chambers during this vote.**

President Evans also asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2007 Reconvened meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilwoman Venter, to approve the minutes of October 29, 2007. **The motion passed with a unanimous (show of hands) vote of the Council members present.**

President Evans further asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2007 Special Called meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilwoman Martin, to approve the minutes of November 8, 2007. **The motion carried with a unanimous (show of hands) vote of the Council members present.**

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION – NLC Awards** – President Evans stated there were several awards received by some of the Council members during the League meeting and he certainly wants to congratulate Councilwoman Crenshaw, who received the highest level of achievement in the National League, which is the Diamond award. Councilman Randolph also received the Gold award. During further discussion, President Evans stated he began working on an initiative following the 2006 League meeting in Rena, Nevada to come up with a way to notify all of Selma and Dallas County residents in the event of a disaster "at the touch of a button". He also stated after working with Ms. Pam Cook and E911 he found out that "we could do this" and he would like to present a check taken from his discretionary to the Probate Judge and Dallas County Commission on behalf of the City of Selma for the purpose of making sure that every citizen in Selma is aware of what's happening in case of a disaster so that they can "take cover". President Evans further stated this is an initial investment for a telephone message that will never have to put in place again, in the amount of \$3,000.00.

**CITIZENS' REQUESTS**

Captain Donald New  
Re: Homelessness Sheltering (\$1,500.00)

Ms. Donna Phillips  
Re: Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

Mr. Frank J. Smith  
Re: Bond Issue

Mr. Robert Stewart, Jr.  
Re: Bond Issue

**CITIZENS' REQUESTS**

Mr. Matt Wynalda and Mr. Sean Black  
Re: TEAM Program

Ms. Kimesha Alvarado  
Re: Youth Leadership Coalition

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**A. Bond Ordinance - #O101-06/07.** Mayor Perkins stated he would like to go ahead and request that the Council votes favorably on putting the bond ordinance on first reading. Mayor Perkins stated he has made provisions for the Bond Attorney, the Investment Bankers and the Staff to consult with the Council on Wednesday at 12:00 noon. Mayor Perkins stated if the Council has questions; they will have the opportunity to do so on Wednesday. A motion was made by Councilman Leashore and seconded by Councilwoman Venter to place the said ordinance on first reading. During a lengthy discussion, President Evans passed the gavel stating he would like to discuss three concerns that could be resolved between now and the next meeting for the sole purpose of making sure that the public is informed so when they vote, they will know what they are voting for and where they are voting in February as citizens and taxpayers; he stated, 1) location of the security cameras is still a question for him and the citizens, 2) location of the movie theatre, and 3) public safety concerns. Mayor Perkins stated the information concerning the security cameras is included in the packages given to the Council. Ms. Griffeth addressed the Council regarding the movie theatre stating she has been working with the potential operator on the concept of a movie theatre and two locations are being looked at, one of Highland and one on the Riverfront. President Evans stated there are lots of recommendations from the Public Safety Consultant that certainly warrants "tweaking" the bond to the extent that these things be included to avoid having to come back later, and each Council member should be given a copy of the report so they can also give an opinion as to whether they agree to delete or add anything based on the recommendations from the Consultants. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council members present. There were six affirmative votes and two nay votes. Councilman Williamson and Councilman Cain both cast a nay vote.**

**B. Tourism Advisory Board Appointments.** Mrs. Griffeth addressed the Council stating the process has begun for revitalizing the Tourism Advisory Board and there are three positions that are vacant, which terms otherwise expires as of November 2007. **Resolution #R114-07/08** - Ms. Griffeth read the said resolution in its entirety, to appoint John Rawls to replace David Deramus from November 26, 2007 - November 26, 2010. A motion was made by Councilman Leashore and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw to approve said appointment. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present.** **Resolution #R115-07/08** - Ms. Griffeth also read the said resolution in its entirety, to re-appoint Shebra Kidd from November 26, 2007 - November 26, 2010. A motion was made by Councilwoman Martin and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw to approve said appointment. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present.** **Resolution #R116-07/08** - Ms. Griffeth also read the said resolution in its entirety, to appoint John Davis to replace Elise Blackwell from November 26, 2007 - November 26, 2010. A motion was made by Councilman Leashore and seconded by Councilman Randolph to approve said appointment. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council members present. There were seven affirmative votes and one nay vote. Councilman Williamson cast a nay vote.**

**C. Resolution #R113-07/08 - Purchase of Crew Cab Truck - Public Works.** Mayor Perkins stated he would like to ask Ms. Lois Williams and Mr. Henry Hicks to come forward to address the Council on the said resolution. Ms. Williams addressed the Council reading said resolution in its entirety. A motion was made by Councilman Leashore and seconded by Councilwoman Venter to approve the said purchase in the amount of \$21,570.00 to be paid from the Public Works Fixed Asset Account 1.6200.430.4 allocated in the approved FY 2007-2008 Budget. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present.**

**D. Selma High School Choir Robes Appropriation.** Mayor Perkins asked Mrs. Woods, Selma High School Choir Director, to come forward to accept an appropriation for robes for the choir. Mayor Perkins stated he asked the Council to pull together some resources so that Selma High School could afford robes for the choir, and they did so with a portion of the appropriation and he picked up the "slack" in the amount of \$1,100.00 and thanked Mrs. Woods and the choir for their representation.

**E. Municipal Award of Excellence - TRUSTBuild.** Mayor Perkins asked that everyone who has been a part of the TRUSTBuild initiative would come forward. During discussion, Mayor Perkins stated that prior to the Council meeting on November 26<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m. there would be a press conference to announce what has transpired in Selma with the TRUSTBuild situation, which he feels is noteworthy.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**F. Inert Trashfill.** Councilman Williamson asked Mayor Perkins if the City would be able to meet the deadline given in the 10-year report to close one trashfill by the end of this year and open the other one. Mayor Perkins asked Mrs. Debra Love to address this matter. Mrs. Love addressed the Council stating the permit does not expire until maybe June or July 2008 and public hearings will be conducted at that time.

**G. Personnel Department.** Councilman Williamson stated to Mayor Perkins that if he can quote him correctly, it was said that everyone received a three or five percent raise, but it looks like someone in the Personnel Department received about a twenty-three percent raise, and asked if there was an explanation for that? Mayor Perkins called Ms. Jones to address this issue. Ms. Jones addressed the Council stating "you may recall" in last years budget she had a position listed for an HR Generalist for \$32,000.00 and elected not to put it in the 2007-2008 budget because she decided not to fill the position and it was deleted, hence saving the City \$28,000.00. Ms. Jones further stated what she decided to do for an entry level employee on her staff, due to much progress shown, is take some of the duties from the HR Generalist position and allowed her to do some of those duties and she is doing a fantastic job. Councilman Williamson stated, theoretically, "your budget is \$4,000.00 more than it was last year." Ms. Jones stated the Council did approve the money that was paid to this person and there was no attempt to conceal that information. Councilman Williamson stated he was not present at the meetings, but he has been looking at the tapes and going through the budgets and he "thinks" he heard what the Mayor said, and then he found this one that was more than three or five percent. Councilman Leashore stated he was aware of it and he commends Ms. Jones for that. Councilwoman Crenshaw concurred. President Evans stated he voted for the budget with the understanding that there would be no raises given to anyone with the exception of Public Safety and TRUSTBuild. President Evans asked Ms. Jones is there anyone else who works for this City, except the Police Department, who received a raise or a supplement that the Council is not aware of. Ms. Jones stated she would have to review it. Councilman Randolph stated that Recreation has done the same thing and there was not a "big fuss", so he is not "knocking" the young lady's pay raise, but he would like to go on record and ask Mayor Perkins if he could find the money to give Lois Williams a pay raise as well as Attorney Nunn's Secretary. Mayor Perkins stated he would do so if the Council would authorize at the same time; raises for all the people he got letters from when the Council gave Ms. Johnson that raise. President Evans stated he is sure Ms. Johnson's name will piggyback on everything now because of this, she is deserving of a raise and he will not back off of that. President Evans stated, in reality, he feels there are a lot of people who deserve more money, but it should be done according to what is fair and what's equitable.

**G. New Personnel Manual.** Councilman Williamson asked Mayor Perkins when will the new personnel manual be available? Ms. Jones addressed the Council stating she is very pleased to respond to this issue, and keep in mind that "I am a party of one", and she is trying to produce a very thorough comprehensive personnel manual, which by the end of December the Council will have a wonderful draft, that she feels will be very user friendly for our employees.

**G. Process to Hire New Police Chief.** Councilman Cain stated he has a question for Mayor Perkins on the evaluation process for the new police chief and how is the Council going to be involved? Mayor Perkins stated at the appropriate time, he will share the process and who the participants will be.

**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

**A. Addison Way Apartments.** Attorney Nunn stated he would like to ask Ms. Griffith and Judith Van Dyke to come forward. Ms. Van Dyke addressed the Council stating she works for Bennett & Company and there have been plans to do major renovations at Cloverdale Apts. Ms. Van Dyke requests per her letter, an easement from the City of Selma for the areas where the parking and curving encroach on the City right of way along Cloverdale Road, Birkshire Road and Lynngate Road. A motion was made by Councilman Cain and seconded by Councilman Leashore to approve the easement. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present.**

**B. Ordinance #O102-07/08 - Business License Reform Act.** Attorney Nunn stated the Council has been given a revised business license which is classified under #O102-07/08, Business License Code of City of Selma schedule of Licenses and Fees. Attorney Nunn stated in 2006 the Municipal Business License Reform Act #2006-586 was passed by the Legislature to tentatively put municipalities on a license uniformity. Attorney Nunn stated the effective date for this ordinance is January 2008. During discussion, Attorney Nunn asked the Council to place this ordinance on first reading. A motion was made by Councilman Leashore and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw to approve placing the said ordinance on first reading. **The motion carried with a majority vote of the Council members present. There**

**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

were six affirmative votes and two nay votes. Councilman Williamson and Councilman Cain both cast nay votes.

C. **Fire Protection Code - Public Hearing.** Attorney Nunn stated he would like to remind the Council per Resolution #R109-07/08 that the City Council scheduled a Public Hearing on December 10, 2007 at 4:00 p.m., to discuss the City of Selma's desire to adopt regulations accepted by the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA), along with reference books with acceptance and amendments thereto as the standard for enforcement of the Selma City Code.

D. **Liquor License Application.** Attorney Nunn stated during the last Council a restaurant retail liquor license request was presented to the Council and placed on first reading on behalf of Monica Garcia trade name Diego's Mexican Restaurant, formerly Lil Mexico, located at 8 Mulberry Road. A motion was made by Councilwoman Martin and seconded by Councilman Randolph to approve said liquor license. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council members present. There were six affirmative votes and two abstentions. Councilman Williamson and Councilwoman both abstained from voting.**

E. **Indecent Exposure.** Attorney Nunn stated two to three other City's information has been presented to the Council for review, and he is still waiting on information from other Cities regarding their passage. He stated he would obtain copies for the next Council meeting.

F. **Update on Hollman's Case.** Attorney Nunn stated there is no update at this time.

G. **Shopping Carts Fines.** Councilman Randolph asked if the City has an ordinance against taking shopping carts and leaving them on the streets. Attorney Nunn stated at one time there was discussion about holding the storeowners responsible and it has been four to five years since this discussion took place. Attorney Nunn stated he would research this matter to see how other Cities handle this issue.

H. **Elected School Board.** Councilman Cain asked Attorney Nunn the status on the Elected School Board process. Attorney Nunn stated he is not certain what the status is at this point. Councilman Leashore stated the records would reflect that the Council voted to move forward with an Elected School Board, and he thinks the next point of order would be that the City Attorney proceeds to ascertain what the next step that should take place is. Councilman Leashore stated his understanding is that there will have to be a referendum of the people, which means that our state delegates will have to bring this issue up in the State Legislature, so maybe a letter would be forthcoming from this City that the Council has already gone on record that they support and do want an Elected School Board, and then let them begin the process of putting whatever is needed in order for the people to decide whether their school board will be elected or continue to be appointed by this Council. President Evans stated the questionnaires are still being distributed and all of them have not been received back yet, and when they are, the Council would make a decision based on this feedback. Councilman Leashore stated there have been public forums about this issue and the attendance may not have been what he or others would have liked for it to be, however; the concept was afforded where the people would have an input, therefore, based on those public forums, this Council did to on record to opt to have an Elected School Board. President Evans stated the Council could hopefully get the information back from the schools and put an end to this particular question.

I. **SICKLE CELL UTILIZATION OF OFFICE SPACE IN GOOD SAMARITAN BUILDING.** Councilman Leashore stated there was a committee meeting regarding this issue and the report is that the committee is not prepared to bring forth a recommendation to allow Sickle Cell their request, however; they choose to meet them half way hoping that they would decrease their needs, which perhaps would be in line with their costs. Therefore, Councilman Leashore stated, Mrs. Mills was to report this information to the Sickle Cell officials and bring their response back to the Council.

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

I. **2007-2008 COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

President Evans stated Councilman Leashore indicated that he did not want to Chair a committee so "basically all I did was move one person, second man in line" to be Chair, and left everything like it was from the standpoint of carrying out the rest of this year. During discussion, Councilman Leashore stated he told President Evans that he refused to "serve" on any committee with his colleague, and if he did serve "with him", he at least wants to be the Chair. President Evans stated he retracts his statement. Councilman Leashore asked

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

President Evans to remove him from this committee in its entirety. President Evans stated a copy of this committee appointment be given to the Clerk for the record.

**II. RULES AND PROCEDUES FOR GOVERNING THE DELIBERATIONS AND MEETINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL (SECTION 33)**

President Evans stated he and Councilman Leashore did meet while in New Orleans and had some discussion about this matter and they could not agree, basically, on the part where it deals with conduct of Council members. President Evans stated he would not refrain from his position on this matter and Councilman Leashore certainly had his strong position as well, and he respects that. President Evans further stated he feels that the Council should be judged just as the citizens are judged and therefore the process would be continued, and he asked the Council to allow them to continue discussion on this matter and report back. The Council concurred.

**III. SELMA CITY SCHOOL BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

President Evans stated Councilman Leashore has distributed copies to the Council concerning this matter. Councilman Leashore stated interviews have been conducted and have had some good applicants during the time that these vacancies occurred and it was the agreement of this Council to forego these appointments because we were anticipating hearing back from the Courts relieving the City of Selma, as well as the Selma City School Board from the Consent Decree; and of course, it was in agreement that once that relief had been given, that the Council would move forward with the appointment of the two vacancies. Councilman Leashore stated during this time, there became a third vacancy, so what he is requesting is that the Council now move forward with the two vacancies that were interviewed for with the slated candidates that attended. Councilman Leashore further stated it would be unfair to them to have made themselves available to go through the process and not include them in the process of being elected among the two. During discussion, a motion was then made by Councilman Leashore and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw to appoint two members from the current list and then move forward with the notification of the third vacancy. He stated this would give the School Board the eleven members that the law requires. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion failed for lack of a majority vote of the Council members present. There were four affirmative votes and four nay votes. President Evans and Council members Williamson, Cain and Martin all cast nay votes.**

**IV. REQUEST FOR SERVICE - TIPPETT DRIVE**

President Evans stated this issue has been addressed.

**V. BROADCASTING COUNCIL MEETINGS (PROPOSALS)**

President Evans stated he gave Councilman Leashore and Councilwoman Martin a sealed envelope and they can read them, and he has one also, that he will open at this time. President Evans stated the proposal from Dixie 100 FM is for \$6,000.00. President Evans stated the proposal Councilman Leashore has is from Dixie 100 (WHBB) AM for \$6,000.00. President Evans stated the proposal Councilwoman Martin has is from 105.3 (WBFZ) for \$6,100.00. Councilman Leashore stated Scott Communication's proposal is for \$7,000.00, which he read to the Council. Following discussion, President Evans asked how many Council members want to use their discretionary funds for the purpose of broadcasting the meeting? President Evans stated this discussion would be continued until the next Council meeting on Monday.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**RECREATION COMMITTEE - Councilman Leashore, Chairperson**

No Report.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE - Councilman Dr. Cecil Williamson, Chairperson**

No Report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE - Councilwoman Dr. Geraldine Allen, Chairperson**

No Report.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - Councilwoman Bennie Ruth Crenshaw, Chairperson**

No Report.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE - Councilwoman Venter, Chairperson**

No Report.

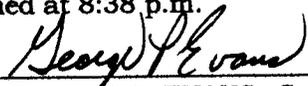
**DISCRETIONARY FUNDS COMMITTEE - President Evans, Chairperson**

No Report.

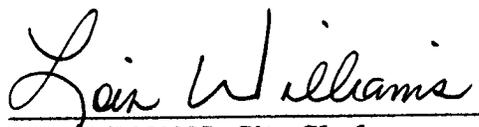
**CLOSING REMARKS BY EACH COUNCIL MEMBER.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilman Randolph, to adjourn, and by unanimous consent of the Council, this meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

  
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GEORGE P. EVANS, *Council President*

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
LOIS WILLIAMS, *City Clerk*

**APPROVED:**

  
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JAMES PERKINS, JR., *Mayor*