

**MINUTES OF THE
SELMA CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 23, 2011
5:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

Invocation: Councilman Thomas C. Atchison,
Ward One, Selma City Council

Pledge of Allegiance

The Selma City Council met in a regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Tuesday, August 23, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present during roll call: Council President Dr. Cecil Williamson and Council Members: Councilman Thomas Atchison, Councilman Greg Bjelke, Councilwoman Angela Benjamin, Councilman Samuel Randolph, and Councilman Corey Bowie. Others present were Mayor George Evans, City Clerk Ivy S. Harrison, City Attorney Jimmy Nunn, City Treasurer Cynthia Mitchell, and the Mayor's Executive Assistant, Ms. Brenda Smothers. Councilwoman Susan Keith was absent during roll call, but arrived at 5:05 p.m. Councilman Benny L. Tucker and Councilwoman Bennie R. Crenshaw were absent from the Council Meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Williamson asked for the approval of the agenda items. A motion was made by Councilman Bowie, and seconded by Councilman Atchison, to approve the agenda items, as written. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After approval of the agenda, President Williamson asked for the approval of the minutes of August 9, 2011 regular meeting minutes. A motion was made by Councilwoman Benjamin, and seconded by Councilman Bowie, to approve the minutes of August 9, 2011. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.**

CITIZENS' REQUESTS

Mr. Brent Harris
Re: Historic Preservation Commission and Ordinance Violations

Mr. Robert Dower
Re: "Books and Boxing"

Ms. Queenie Jackson
Re: "I Have A Dream Day" - August 28, 2011, 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Songs of Selma Park

MAYOR'S REPORT

PRESENTATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AND PROCLAMATION

PROCLAMATION. Mayor Evans stated to Council that he would like to present and acknowledge the following Proclamation, and that each of them should also have copies within their packets:

President Williamson stated to Mayor Evans that he is sure that he will do an official "recognition and acknowledgement" once he begins his Report, but that he, along with the Council, would like to recognize District Court Judge Robert (Bob) Armstrong and District Attorney Michael Jackson, who are present tonight for our Council Meeting, and further stated that we are delighted to have them with us tonight!

Proclamation - "National Recovery Month". Mayor Evans asked President Williamson to come down, for the Presentation of the Proclamation, honoring "National Recovery Month". Mayor Evans stated that District Court Judge Robert (Bob) Armstrong, along with Mrs. Miah Jackson (Mrs. Michael Jackson), are indeed here, and asked that they both come forward to accept the Proclamation. Mayor Evans further stated that District Attorney Michael Jackson is here, and acknowledged his presence tonight, as well. Mayor Evans, on behalf of himself and the Council, read the Proclamation in its entirety, and asked the Citizens to join them in Proclaiming the *Month of September, 2011*, as "National Recovery Month" in the City of Selma, and asked that we call upon the People of Selma to observe this Month with appropriate programs, activities, and ceremonies supporting this Year's Theme, "Join the Voices for Recovery: Recovery Benefits Everyone". Mayor Evans and the Council asked all Citizens to join in this "Observance", which was received with a "Round of Applause" to acknowledge this Recognition!

PRESENTATION OF LONGEVITY CERTIFICATES AND PINS

Mayor Evans stated he would like to present Certificates of Service and Longevity Pins in recognition of the following employees: Ms. Teresa Carter, AmeriCorps Program, *Five Years of Service* to the City of Selma, and Mr. Darryl Moore, Code Enforcement Department, *Fifteen Years of Service* to the City of Selma. Mayor Evans stated he would like to thank them for their Years of Dedicated Service to the City of Selma, and they were both presented with a Longevity Pin. President Williamson stated, on behalf of the Council, that they certainly appreciate all of what they do for the City of Selma.

RECOGNITION OF NEW EMPLOYEE

Mayor Evans stated he would like to recognize and introduce Ms. Laurie Stewart, new Employee of the City of Selma, who replaced Mrs. Patti Sexton, of the Office of Planning and Development. Ms. Griffeth stated that they are very happy to have her, and look forward to some wonderful things coming out of the Department. Mayor Evans introduced her to the Council, and she was received with a "Warm Welcome", and a "Round of Applause"!

A. Code Enforcement Report - July, 2011. Mayor Evans stated to Council that they should each have before them a copy of the Code Enforcement Report, which reflects all of the Citations for the Month of July, 2011. Mayor Evans further stated that the Report also reflects the overgrown lots by Wards, abandoned vehicles, dilapidated properties identified, as well as, properties that have been approved to be cut and cleared by the Public Works Department. Mayor Evans stated that Mr. Darryl Moore is here to answer any questions they may have.

B. Resolution #R261-10/11 - FY 2011 H.U.D. Community Challenge Planning Grant. Mayor Evans stated to Council that he would like to ask Ms. Charlotte Griffeth to come forward and address the Council as it relates to Resolution #R261-10/11, FY 2011 H.U.D. Community Challenge Planning Grant Application. Ms. Griffeth addressed the Council with an explanation of Resolution #R261-10/11, FY 2011 H.U.D. Community Challenge Planning Grant, and stated that this Grant is for planning, establishing and acquiring land for redevelopment and revitalization that reserves property for the development of affordable housing within the context of sustainable development. Ms. Griffeth further stated that she spoke with H.U.D., and in this particular Grant, funding is set aside for small communities and small towns. Councilman Bowie asked Ms. Griffeth, with permission of Mayor Evans, if it was possible that by the next Council Meeting the Council could get a list of all of the grants that we have received through matching funds for this fiscal year, and she stated she would. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Bowie, and seconded by Councilman Atchison, to approve Resolution #R261-10/11, FY 2011 H.U.D. Community Challenge Planning Grant Application, authorizing submission of an application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, requesting \$550,000.00 in grant funds, and to place the required \$100,000.00 local match in the FY 2012 Grant Match Budget. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

C. Selma Youth Conference Wrap-Up Presentation. Mayor Evans asked Councilwoman Benjamin to come forward, to do a Selma Youth Conference Wrap-Up Presentation. Councilwoman Benjamin addressed the Council, and attempted to do the PowerPoint Presentation, but stated that she is having some technical difficulties with it, and that it would have to be Continued over to the next Council Meeting. Councilwoman Benjamin stated, however, that she would like to ask "Little Miss" Janay Williams, to come forward for a presentation as the "Bible Bowl Scholar Champion". Mayor Evans, along with Councilwoman Benjamin, presented her with a "Trophy", as Winner and "Champion" of the "Bible Bowl Championship". "Little Miss" Williams, who is the Granddaughter of Ms. Evelyn Cox, and a Member of

Tabernacle of Praise Church, was "Congratulated", and given a "Round of Applause" in Honor of her Accomplishments!

D. **Marina Update.** Mayor Evans stated to Council that Councilman Tucker is Chairperson of this Committee, and it is his understanding that his Wife is in the Hospital, and asked that we keep Councilman Tucker and his Wife, in our Prayers during this time, and that he hopes everything goes well for her. Mayor Evans further stated that hopefully by the next Council Meeting he will be able to bring back to them an update on the Marina. President Williamson stated to Mayor Evans and the Council, that Councilman Tucker asked that he be removed as Chairperson of the Recreation Committee because of the health concerns that he is having to deal with, and that Councilman Bjelke be named as his replacement. President Williamson further stated that Councilman Bjelke is the new Chairperson, and asked that he, along with the Recreation Committee, plan to meet with Mayor Evans, in an effort to move forward with the Marina.

E. **Rural Council Roundtable/Business Council Update.** Mayor Evans stated to Council that he attended a very good meeting last week, and that the Co-Chairman for the Delta Regional Authority, Mr. Massengil, was here. Mayor Evans further stated that we had two (2) sessions for our Citizens here in Selma, as well as, from other surrounding Counties, at the Convention Center. Mayor Evans stated that we had an excellent roundtable discussion, about some things that need to be done here in the BlackBelt, and that he will take that information back to Washington, in hopes of finding out what can be done to make a difference in our City, and other Cities within the BlackBelt. Mayor Evans stated one of the topics for discussion was the dredging of our River, as well as, so many other topics that were discussed. Mayor Evans stated it was well attended, and he just wanted to update the Council on that.

F. **Donor Opportunities for the Riverfront Park.** Mayor Evans stated to Council that as they know, the Selma Realtors did make a huge donation to the Riverfront, for which he is very grateful, and he would like to invite anyone else who is interested in becoming a Donor for the Riverfront Park, to please feel free to do so. Mayor Evans stated that Donor opportunities are offered to Individuals, Families, Organizations and Corporations, and can be in the form of the following: Custom Engraved Brick, Engraved Markers for the Bike Racks, and Engraved Plaques for Benches, Park Lights, Drinking Fountains, "Emergency" Call Boxes, and Trash Receptacles. Mayor Evans further stated that Donors of \$25,000.00 or more will be featured on a series of plaques located at the Main Gate; such as, a Butterfly Garden, Interactive Water Feature, Children's Playground, Carousel, Aquarium, Dog Park and Way-Finding Sign System. Mayor Evans stated any amount donated will be appreciated.

G. **Update on Etheridge Avenue Extension.** Mayor Evans stated to Council that Norfolk Southern has received the letter from us, with the attached Legal Agreement which was revised by Attorney Nunn and Mr. Josh Pierce, our Project Manager. Mayor Evans further stated that he had spoken with Mr. Pierce who stated that we are waiting to hear from Norfolk Southern's Legal Department.

H. **Reminder, and Announcements.** Mayor Evans stated he would like to announce, and remind Citizens and the Council of the following:

- (1) *Let's Move! Selma Kick-Off - Thursday, August 25th at 5:00 p.m. - Phoenix Park; Riverfront Park Ribbon Cutting at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Evans and the Council Invite All of the Citizens to Please Come Out and Be a Part of Both of These "Functions"!*
- (2) *Selma Police Department Business Watch - Monday, August 29th - Public Safety Building*
- (3) *Citizens Police Academy - Accepting Applications (Class Runs from September 26th - November 7th; Deadline for Applications: September 12th) - Selma Police Department Training Building (Corner of Alabama Avenue and Green Street).*
- (4) *Traffic Camera is Being Installed on Today at the Intersection of L. L. Anderson Avenue and Broad Street.*

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

A. **Resolution #R260-10/11 - Weed Abatement (Phase 1).** Attorney Nunn stated to Council that they should have before them Resolution #R260-10/11, Weed Abatement (Phase 1), which consists of Sixty-Five (65) pieces of property that have been identified to have dangerous weeds, as listed herein, via the Code Enforcement Office. Attorney Nunn further stated Resolution #R260-10/11 authorizes the City Clerk, Mrs. Ivy S. Harrison, to forward Certified Letters to the Property Owners, as it relates to weeds that have been declared a public nuisance via the Code Enforcement Officer, advising them of the same. Attorney Nunn further stated that the Letters request the Property Owners to abate the weeds that have been declared a nuisance, and if they shall not do the same, then the City of Selma will abate the weeds, and place a Lien on said property. Attorney Nunn asked Council's approval of the same. A motion was made by Councilman Atchison, and seconded by Councilwoman Keith, to approve Resolution #R260-10/11, Weed Abatement (Phase 1). A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

B. Ordinance #O112-10/11 - Weed Abatement Ordinance Amendment. Attorney Nunn stated to Council that if they recall, during our last Council Meeting we discussed this Item in detail, as it relates to Ordinance #O118-06/07, codified in our Code Book of Ordinances, Section 14-67(5) under Chapter 14, Division 1, Article IV, of the Selma Code of Ordinances. Attorney Nunn further stated that it was requested by the Council that we amend Ordinance #O118-06/07, to include language that, instead of having to go back to the beginning of the Process to Abate the Weeds and/or Cutting of Grass, when we go through the Process once, this will allow us to come back within that same current growing season, to undertake further cutting, or removal of said noxious growths without further "Notice", on a monthly basis for the duration of the then current growing season. Attorney Nunn asked Council's consideration of Ordinance #O112-10/11, Weed Abatement Ordinance Amendment, to be placed on 1st Reading. A motion was made by Councilwoman Keith, and seconded by Councilman Atchison, to place said Ordinance #O112-10/11, Weed Abatement Ordinance Amendment, on 1st Reading. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council Members present.

C. Redistricting Update. Attorney Nunn stated to Council that we did receive from President Williamson as it relates to Redistricting for the City of Selma, and confirming a date to travel to the Reapportionment Office in Montgomery. Attorney Nunn further stated that there were four (4) dates given; namely, Friday, August 26th, Monday, August 29th, Wednesday, August 31st, and Thursday, September 1st. Attorney Nunn stated after speaking with the Reapportionment Office, they stated that Friday, August 26th would not be a date that would be available for them, so the only dates left and available to them were August 29th, August 31st, and September 1st. Attorney Nunn further stated it is left up to the Council to consider a date. President Williamson asked the Council if there was a preference as to a date? It was the consensus of the Council to select the date of Thursday, September 1st. President Williamson asked Attorney Nunn to schedule the Redistricting Meeting in Montgomery for Thursday, September 1st at 10:00 that morning, if possible. Attorney Nunn stated to Council that it was mentioned that if a Council Member was losing or gaining Citizens to their Ward, that what they would need to do is look at their Ward, to try to see at least what portion that they would like to transfer, and look and see what Ward they would like that portion to go to. Attorney Nunn stated in this way, the Reapportionment Office will have something in mind, and would go ahead and try to proceed from there.

D. Hearing to Consider Revocation of Business License. Attorney Nunn stated to Council that, for the ones who were not here, we did have a Hearing scheduled today at 4:00 p.m., to Consider Revocation of a Business License; namely, 12th Stone. Attorney Nunn further stated that we presented Evidence, and time ran over to the scheduled Council Meeting, but it has been rescheduled for Tuesday, September 13, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. Attorney Nunn stated that he will get Notices out to them, but that he is asking all of the Council Members to place the Hearing on their schedule for Tuesday, September 13th at 3:00 p.m., and that the Council Meeting will follow the Hearing, at 5:00 p.m., on that same day.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

I. NOISE ORDINANCE

President Williamson stated he wanted to remind everybody that we still have a Noise Ordinance in place.

II. ETHERIDGE STREET UPDATE

This Item was covered during the Mayor's Report.

III. REVISITING WEED ABATEMENT PROCESS

This Item was covered during the City Attorney's Report.

IV. WARD 4 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Councilwoman Benjamin asked Mayor Evans if he had heard anything from the people we are working with concerning Ward 4 Community Development; the Park and the Playground, anything different? Mayor Evans answered and stated that there are no new updates as of now. Councilwoman Benjamin stated that they are having a meeting on September 6th at 5:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, and asked if he could meet with the Planning and Development Office, for their availability, so that they could move forward, and Mayor Evans stated that he would.

V. ST. JAMES HOTEL

President Williamson stated that since the storm back on April 27th, the door has been "boarded" up at the St. James Hotel, and asked Mayor Evans if he could advise the Council of anything on that. Mayor

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Evans answered and stated that the door has been ordered. Mayor Evans further stated that there is a meeting scheduled to meet with the Committee, to re-visit the Agreement, and that it is something that needs to be addressed; that hopefully by the next Council Meeting he will have something to bring to the Council as it relates to this. President Williamson stated to Mayor Evans that he agrees with him completely, and asked if the Community Development Committee could be made abreast of what is going on, and be in on these discussions, since the Council is responsible for City Buildings. Mayor Evans answered and stated that he will make sure that they are made aware of what is going on, and the date of the meeting. President Williamson stated that Councilwoman Keith is Chairperson of the Committee, and he would like for the Chairperson and the Committee Members to be made aware, and thanked Mayor Evans for concurring with this.

VI. OLD Y.M.C.A. BUILDING

President Williamson asked Councilman Atchison if there was anything to report on as it relates to the Old Y.M.C.A. Building? Councilman Atchison answered and stated that he was planning to ask Mayor Evans if we have had any progress, and/or if we have received any notice of an appeal to the Circuit Court from the Owner's Attorney? Mayor Evans answered and stated that he has not had any discussions since they last met, but perhaps Councilman Bjelke may have an update. Councilman Bjelke stated that he is making his "rounds", and he is trying to keep the "ball" going; that he has met with Mayor Evans, Mr. Bolton, and that he is e-mailing the Historic Society. Councilman Bjelke stated that he is trying as fast as he can to pull everybody together; that it is slower than he would like it to be. Councilman Atchison stated, with all due respect to everybody, including himself, he promised the Owner of Swift Drug Company that he would stay on this, and that they need to get rolling one way or the other, because it is a liability for everybody. Councilman Atchison further stated that he thinks that time has definitely "run" on a resolution. President Williamson asked Councilman Atchison and Councilman Bjelke to stay on "top" of this, along with meeting with Mayor Evans, in an effort to bring this to some resolution, and that he is going to keep it on the Agenda until it is resolved.

VII. GARBAGE SUBCOMMITTEE

President Williamson stated that we have had quite a problem as everybody in Town knows, and stated to Councilwoman Keith that he re-activating the Garbage Subcommittee, and allowing Councilman Atchison to take his place. President Williamson asked Councilwoman Keith to move forward on this.

VIII. REDISTRICTING

This Item was covered during the City Attorney's Report.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

RECREATION COMMITTEE – Councilman Greg Bjelke, Chairman

President Williamson stated to the Council that, as was stated earlier, Councilman Greg Bjelke is the new Chairman of the Recreation Committee (per the request of Councilman Tucker). Councilman Bjelke stated that he will hopefully have a Report during the next Council Meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE – Councilwoman Angela Benjamin, Chairman

No Report.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – Councilman Corey Bowie, Chairman

No Report.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – Councilwoman Susan Keith, Chairman

Councilwoman Keith made a report.

PUBLIC WORKS/GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – Councilman Samuel Randolph, Chairperson

No Report.

DISCRETIONARY COMMITTEE - President Cecil Williamson, Chairperson

President Williamson stated to Mayor Evans that they were able to collect \$475.00 for the "Let's Move! Selma" T-Shirts. Mayor Evans thanked the Council, and stated that he will personally make a contribution, and that he feels that they will get the \$1,000.00 that is needed to purchase the T-Shirts. President Williamson also stated to Councilman Randolph, that they collected \$1,300.00 towards the "Mentoring" Field Trip for the Children of the Selma Housing Authority, to Tour the Pensacola Naval Museum and the Beach in Pensacola, Florida. Councilman Randolph thanked the Council for their donations.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - Councilwoman Angela Benjamin, Chairperson

Councilwoman Benjamin made a report.

SELMA-DALLAS YOUTH AMBASSADORS - Councilwoman Bennie Ruth Crenshaw, Chairperson

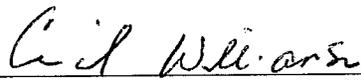
Councilwoman Crenshaw was absent from the Council Meeting.

FOLLOWING THE ABOVE REPORT, MAYOR EVANS AND THE COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGED THE PRESENCE OF MR. HOWARD MAY AND MR. GERALD "JERRY" WORTHINGTON, OF BUSH HOG, WHO ATTENDED TONIGHT'S COUNCIL MEETING. MAYOR EVANS AND THE COUNCIL THANKED THEM FOR BEING A PART OF THE COUNCIL MEETING ON TONIGHT.

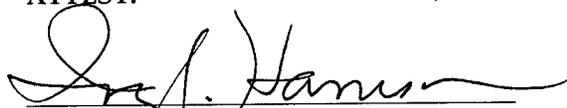
CLOSING REMARKS BY EACH COUNCIL MEMBER.

ADJOURNMENT

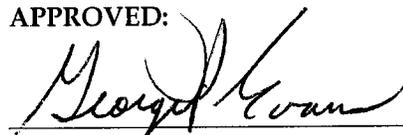
There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Councilman Bowie, and seconded by Councilwoman Benjamin, to adjourn this meeting, and by unanimous consent of the Council, this meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.



DR. CECIL WILLIAMSON, *Council President*

ATTEST:


IVY S. HARRISON, *City Clerk*

APPROVED:


GEORGE PATRICK EVANS, *Mayor*