

MINUTES OF THE SELMA CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2002

The Selma City Council met in a regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Monday, December 9, 2002 at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present: President George P. Evans and Council members Glenn Sexton, Rita S. Franklin, Jean T. Martin, Nancy G. Sewell, Samuel Randolph, Bennie Ruth Crenshaw and James Durry. Councilman B. L. Tucker was absent from the meeting. Others present were Mayor James Perkins, Jr., City Attorney Jimmy Nunn, City Clerk Jackie Smith, and the Mayor's Administrative Assistant Sherri James. Reverend Winston Williams gave the invocation.

After roll call, President Evans declared a quorum present and the meeting was opened for the transaction of business as set forth on the agenda. President Evans asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda prepared for this meeting. President Evans asked to amend the agenda to include a report on the National League of Cities Conference and a citizen request by Mr. George Grayson. Councilwoman Sewell asked that a report on the R.I.F. Christmas distribution. There being no other additions to the agenda, on motion made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilwoman Franklin, the agenda was approved as amended.

President Evans asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the special called Council meeting held on Monday, November 18, 2002. There being no additions or corrections to the minutes, a motion was made by Councilwoman Martin and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw to adopt the minutes as recorded. The motion carried with a unanimous vote of the Council. President Evans asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on Monday, November 25, 2002. There being no additions or corrections to the minutes, a motion was made by Councilwoman Franklin and seconded by Councilman Durry to adopt the minutes as recorded. The motion carried with a unanimous vote of the Council. President Evans asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the special called Council meeting held on Friday, November 29, 2002. There being no additions or corrections to the minutes, a motion was made by Councilman Durry and seconded by Councilwoman Martin to adopt the minutes as recorded. The motion carried with a unanimous vote of the Council.

I. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. Resolution – Employee Uniform Bid. Mayor Perkins presented Council with a resolution authorizing the award of the employee uniform bid. The resolution states the City Clerk's Office accepted bids to furnish city employees uniforms from November 22nd through December 6th. Bids were opened on December 6, 2002 and G & K Services was the low bidder for an annual cost of \$29,887.00. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilwoman Martin to approve the resolution awarding the employee uniform bid to G & K Services. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

B. K P S Group. Mayor Perkins introduced Mr. Darrell Meyer, Senior Vice President of the K P S Group. Mr. Meyer distributed copies of a proposal for services to prepare a plan for annexation called a Strategic Development Concept and Annexation Plan for the City of Selma. Mr. Meyer briefed the Council on a five-step plan to annex the main gateways including areas along Highway 22 East, Highway 22 West, Highway 14 East, Highway 80 West and Highway 80 East. Mr. Meyer stated the cost to complete the Strategic Development Concept and Annexation Plan would be \$25,400 and does not include any fees to be charged by Khafra Engineering Services. Councilman Sexton asked if there was an estimate of charges for work to be performed by Khafra. Mayor Perkins stated funds included in the city's budget for Khafra Engineering Services could be earmarked for these specific services. Councilwoman Franklin asked if monies for this project could be taken from the Community Reinvestment Account since it does focus on economic development. Mayor Perkins concurred with Councilwoman Franklin's request and stated he would check into the details of the transfer.

I. MAYOR'S REPORT

B. K P S Group. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilwoman Martin to enter into a contract with K P S Group for the sum of \$25,400 to develop a Strategic Development Concept and Annexation Plan for the City of Selma. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were seven affirmative votes and one negative vote. Councilman Sexton cast the negative vote.

C. 2002-2003 Budget. Mayor Perkins distributed copies of a summary sheet listing the changes made to the 2002-2003 budget. Mayor Perkins stated once the revenue changes were made eliminating a projected increase in business licenses and garbage fees the budget now has a \$60,219 deficit. Mayor Perkins stated it is his recommendation that discretionary funds be assessed for an amount required to balance the budget. Mayor Perkins stated he was aware that most Council members had expended a portion of their discretionary funds and recommended an equal percentage amount be taken from each Council member. Councilwoman Martin suggested discretionary funds be decreased to \$5,000 from the current amount of \$15,000 to help balance the budget.

A brief discussion followed whereby Council members Sexton and Sewell rejected the idea of decreasing discretionary funds because the money is used to fund special projects throughout the city. Councilman Randolph recommended a cut to contracts for services. President Evans expressed his concern about a pay increase for the lower paid employees. Mr. Evans also suggested the elimination of the Finance Director's position for the remainder of this fiscal year. Councilwoman Franklin agreed with Mr. Evans and also recommended the contract with E. D. A. in the amount of \$50,000 be removed from the General Fund budget and be paid for from the Community Reinvestment Account. Mayor Perkins stated the auditors have real concerns about the city operating without a Finance Director and he strongly discouraged eliminating the Finance Director's position from the budget at this time. After debating the issue of the Finance Director, Mayor Perkins suggested the matter warrants further discussion.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Martin to cut discretionary fund accounts by an equal percentage amount to balance the budget. Councilwoman Crenshaw seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were five affirmative votes and three negative votes. Council members Sewell, Sexton and Franklin cast the negative votes.

Councilwoman Sewell stated she would like to see the discretionary funds restored to the original amount of \$15,000 because promises for certain projects have been made by some Council members. Councilwoman Sewell recommended the elimination of the Finance Director position and paying the E. D. A. contract from the Community Reinvestment Account to balance the budget. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell to pay the \$50,000 E. D. A. contract from the Community Reinvestment Account. Councilwoman Franklin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were seven affirmative votes and two negative votes. Council members Crenshaw and Randolph cast the negative votes. Councilwoman Crenshaw asked that the discussion on the Finance Director's position be tabled until further notice.

A motion was then made by Councilwoman Crenshaw to adopt the budget pending further discussion of several issues of concern. Councilwoman Martin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were seven affirmative votes and one negative vote. Councilwoman Franklin cast the negative vote. Councilman Durry asked that the record reflect his concern about those employees in the budget who are getting a salary increase.

II. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

A. Lawsuit – Faya Rose Toure v Chief E. L. Tate, et. al. Attorney Nunn informed the Council that he is in receipt of a lawsuit filed by Faya Rose Toure against Chief E. L. Tate, Larry Lundy and Fictitious Officers A & B. Attorney Nunn stated the parties are being sued in their individual capacity and the city will defend the suit because they were acting in their official capacity.

B. Rules and Procedures. Attorney Nunn presented the Council with certain information from the Code of Ordinances, the Alabama League of Municipalities and City Ordinances that will be helpful in the Council developing a set of rules and procedures. President Evans appointed a committee consisting of Council members Sewell, Franklin, Crenshaw and Evans to work with Attorney Nunn on this matter.

C. Salaries – Board of Directors Selma Water Works and Sewer Board. Attorney Nunn presented the Council with copies of the minutes from the City Council meeting held on Monday, January 9, 1989 relative to the salaries of the Selma Water Works & Sewer Board members. The minutes show the Board had approved a salary of \$350 per month and based on an Attorney General's Opinion the Mayor asked the Council to ratify, affirm and approve the salary.

Attorney Nunn stated an ordinance was placed on first reading at the last Council meeting relative to the salaries of the Selma Water Works & Sewer Board of Directors. Attorney Nunn stated after further review, the salaries of present Board members couldn't be increased or decreased during their term in office. Attorney Nunn stated Section 4 of the ordinance was revised to exclude present Board members and will affect all members appointed after the ordinance is adopted. The ordinance sets the salary of the Chairman of the Selma Water Works & Sewer Board at \$125 per month and \$100 per month for each Director. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilman Durry to place the amended ordinance on first reading. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

III. CARL C. MORGAN, JR. LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Carl C. Morgan, Jr. was present before Council to present his monthly liaison report. Mr. Morgan's report consisted of the following items.

- Met with Mayor Hayes of Maplesville to discuss the amendment to the incinerator agreement.
- Met with staff members of the Historical Commission to discuss the agenda for the Advisory Committee meeting.
- Traveled to Linden and Demopolis to discuss their garbage pickup contracts with Arrow and Waste Management.

IV. NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES CONFERENCE UPDATE

Councilwoman Crenshaw stated she felt the NLC conference was very productive and she was impressed with the cleanliness of Salt Lake City. Councilwoman Crenshaw stated by working together the Selma City Council could accomplish a lot of things. Councilwoman Sewell agreed with Councilwoman Crenshaw and commended Councilwoman Franklin on her leadership roles. Other Council members in attendance at the conference echoed the comments of Councilwoman Sewell, Franklin and Crenshaw.

V. COUNCIL MEETING – DECEMBER 23, 2002

President Evans asked the pleasure of the Council as to the next Council meeting scheduled for December 23, 2002. The consensus of the Council was to proceed with the regular meeting date of December 23, 2002 at 10:00 a.m.

VI. READING IS FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTMAS DISTRIBUTION

Councilwoman Sewell reminded the Council of the Christmas R. I. F. distribution that is scheduled for Saturday, December 21, 2002 at the Public Library. Councilwoman Sewell encouraged Council members to come out and participate in this event.

VII. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

RECREATIONN COMMITTEE REPORT

There was no report from the Recreation Committee.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilwoman Crenshaw informed the Council that resumes are currently being accepted to fill two vacancies on the Selma City School Board. Once the deadline has expired, the resumes will be reviewed and interviews scheduled.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Public Safety Committee Report was informational only.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

There was no report from the Community Development Committee.

PUBLIC WORKS/GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilman Sexton reported that CSX are continuing repairs to the railroad crossings as requested by Council.

DISCRETIONARY FUND COMMITTEE REPORT

There was no report from the Discretionary Fund Committee.

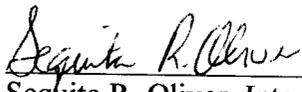
VIII. MR. GEORGE GRAYSON

Mr. George Grayson requested the Council go on record and pass a resolution stating they will not force annexation on any area. Councilwoman Sewell stated the Council does not have a resolution prepared and challenged the Council to adopt such a resolution

There being no other business to come before the Council, on motion made Councilwoman Franklin and seconded by Councilwoman Sewell, the Council voted by unanimous consent to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.


George P. Evans, President

ATTEST:


Sequita R. Oliver, Interim City Clerk

APPROVED:


James Perkins, Jr., Mayor