

MINUTES OF THE SELMA CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 24, 2006
5:00 P.M.

The Selma City Council met in a regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Monday, April 24, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order with the following members present during roll call: Council President George Evans and Council members Dr. Cecil Williamson, Reid Cain, Jean T. Martin, Geraldine Allen, 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, and Bridget Mills. Minister Tonya Chestnut gave the invocation. Councilman Randolph was absent from the Chambers during roll call, but arrived at 5:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

After review of the agenda items, the following amendments were made:

Additions: None

Deletions: None

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

After approval of the agenda, President Evans asked for a motion to approve the minutes of April 10, 2006 regular meeting. A motion was made by Councilwoman Martin and seconded by Councilman Leashore to approve the minutes of April 10, 2006. The motion carried with a majority vote (show of hands) of the Council members present.

CITIZENS' REQUEST

Ms. Leola Stewart
Re: Selma Community Pride

Sgt. King & Det. Cowan
Re: PALS

I. MAYOR'S REPORT

(1) Length of Service Recognition Awards. Mayor Perkins stated he would like to recognize the following employees who have earned their service pins: *Ms. Valeria Jones, Personnel Director, Five years of dedicated service to the City of Selma; Mr. Alonzo Jones, Recreation Department; Twenty years of dedicated service to the City of Selma; Mr. Roderick Perkins, Public Works, Fifteen years of dedicated service to the City of Selma; Sgt. Mamie Hale, Selma Police Department; Fifteen years of dedicated service to the City of Selma; Det. Clinton Peebles, Selma Police Department; Fifteen years of dedicated service to the City of Selma; Officer Willie Felder, Selma Police Department; Fifteen years of dedicated service to the City of Selma; Ms. Shelia Dearman, Selma Police Department, Fifteen years of dedicated service to the City of Selma.*

(2) Selma Housing Authority Reappointment. Mayor Perkins stated this is a reappointment of Ms. Betty Finney, who is a member of the Selma Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. Mayor Perkins stated he is recommending that she be reappointed for the next full term beginning April 22, 2006 through April 22, 2011 and asks the Council favorable consideration of this recommendation. A motion was made by Councilman Leashore and seconded by Councilwoman Venter to approve the recommended appointment. Councilman Williamson asked if something had changed that the Council approves these appointments? Mayor Perkins stated they do not have to be approved by the Council, he was bringing it forward as a function of courtesy to the Council, but it is the Mayor's appointment. Mayor Perkins stated if the Council chooses to simply acknowledge that, it would be fine. Council concurs.

(3) Property Negotiations. Mayor Perkins stated, regarding the property transaction that has been discussed in executive session, he would like to briefly indicate to the Council that an offer was made and accepted. Mayor Perkins stated Attorney Nunn is working on the formality of the offer, and preparing the documentation to move forward with the contingency provisions that are included in the agreement. Mayor Perkins stated he would continue to update the Council.

I. MAYOR'S REPORT

(4) Resolution - #R153-04/05 - Budget Amendments for Expenditures. Mayor Perkins stated during the work session, resolution #R153-04/05 was addressed to the Council with a recommendation to move forward with the budget amendments. Mayor Perkins stated this is an administrative function to move monies around and discussion has been done regarding using the unappropriated money to cover these items and he asks the Council favorable consideration. A motion was made by Councilwoman Crenshaw and seconded by Councilman Leashore to approve this said resolution. Following discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were seven ayes and two nays. Councilman Williamson and Councilman Cain cast a nay vote. Mayor Perkins stated there has been a clerical error made. Mayor Perkins stated on Thursday night the correct resolution was submitted and discussed with the Council, however, on tonight there was a prior version of that resolution distributed. Mayor Perkins stated he apologizes for the error, but he accepts full responsibility for it and he would also like to acknowledge the reason for the increase in the audit report. Mayor Perkins stated this was simply a function of, if the Council recalls during the end of the fiscal year there were two resignations in the Finance Department, both of which were Accountants, which put Ms. Mitchell and the department in a bind and the auditors actually stepped up and helped to remedy that shortfall. Mayor Perkins stated he asks the Council to provide a friendly amendment of the prior vote to rescind and vote on the resolution that was received in the packets given to the Council at the work session. A motion was made by Councilwoman Crenshaw and seconded by Councilman Leashore to rescind resolution #R153-04/05. The motion carried with a unanimous vote (show of hands) of the Council. A motion was made by Councilwoman Crenshaw and seconded by Councilman Leashore to accept and approve resolution #R153-05/06 as presented at the Thursday night work session. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were eight ayes and one nay. Councilman Williamson cast a nay vote.

(5) Request for Information - Public Safety. Mayor Perkins stated he received a request for information from the Public Safety Committee made by the Chairman of the committee. Mayor Perkins stated he received this information today and will prepare the appropriate response as soon as possible.

(6) TRUSTBuild. Mayor Perkins stated he was very pleased, on Thursday, of the outcome of the presentation of TRUSTBuild. Mayor Perkins stated the staff is moving forward as indicated with developing the implementation strategy, a detailed information plan, for the first phase/short phase. Mayor Perkins stated the goal is to have the training completed for the scribes and others who will be conducting the surveys by the end of the week, to start the process next week, Monday or Tuesday giving thirty days to complete this first phase of gathering information. Mayor Perkins stated the outcome of the results of the surveys would be worked on as it goes along. Mayor Perkins stated he would like to ask the Council to prepare to fund this project at the next Council meeting. Councilman Williamson asked whether the \$314,000.00 is new funding or would be taken from somewhere else in the budget? Mayor Perkins stated it is new funding, which was discussed in the work session. Following further discussion, Mayor Perkins stated he is willing to have a special work session to bring everyone up to date on the process and how it works.

II. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

(1) Alcoholic Beverage License - Club 49. Attorney Nunn stated the Council has been given copies of an alcoholic beverage license for Club 49 located at 3215 Water Avenue to place on first reading to be decided on at a later Council meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Leashore and seconded by Councilwoman Martin to place the said alcoholic beverage license on first reading. The motion carried with a unanimous vote (show of hands) of the Council.

(2) Draft Resolution Excerpts for the Tax Renewal for the Selma City Schools. Attorney Nunn stated tomorrow is Election Day from 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. to vote on the tax renewal on 7.4 mill for the Selma City Schools. Attorney Nunn stated it has been discussed that the Council would recess this meeting and reconvene on Wednesday, April 26, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. Attorney Nunn stated a draft copy of the excerpts of the minutes and a copy of the resolution, which will be read into the minutes on Wednesday morning.

(3) Request - Lt. Robert Green - Resignation. Attorney Nunn stated at the work session on Thursday night, there was discussion as it relates to the request upon the resignation of Lt. R. W. Green. Attorney Nunn stated each Council member has a copy of this request and if the Council recalls, the resolution states as per retirement and not resignation. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Williamson and seconded by Councilman Cain to revoke this

II. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

resolution and rewrite to allow Lt. Green to retain his badge and weapon upon his resignation. A roll call vote was taken and the motion failed for lack of a majority vote of the Council. There were two ayes and seven nays. President Evans, Councilwoman Martin, Councilwoman Allen, Councilman Randolph, Councilman Leashore, Councilwoman Crenshaw and Councilwoman Venter all cast a nay vote.

(4) City of Selma Litigations. Attorney Nunn stated the Council has been given a copy of a letter dealing with litigation, which was requested by Councilman Williamson.

(5) Restitution Payments - City of Selma vs. Mary Ramsey, et al. Attorney Nunn stated the Council has also been given a copy of a letter dealing with the restitution payments made on behalf of Mary Ramsey and other defendants in the amount of \$146,361.54 as of April 2006. During a brief discussion, Councilwoman Crenshaw stated since 1999, \$1,000,000.00 was stolen and only \$146,361.54 has been recouped. Councilwoman Allen asked how much restitution was required? Attorney Nunn stated it was close to \$750,000.00 in judgments.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

III. DISCUSSION ON RENAMING LAPSLEY STREET

President Evans stated the discussion on renaming Lapsley Street included to cancel the entire process, ask for a public hearing, and possibly sending letter to all persons who live on that street to get their vote on whether the street should be renamed. Councilwoman Allen stated the reading from the committee should be considered first, which would determine the recommendation. Councilwoman Martin stated what the committee met on was development of guidelines for future request; she stated they did not meet on the renaming specific to Lapsley Street. Councilwoman Allen stated this issue was extensively discussed in work session. A motion was then made by Councilwoman Allen and seconded by Councilwoman Martin, as agreed by a consensus of the Council, to allow the residence to voice their opinion in the form of a survey that would indicate whether they agree to a name change or disagree. Councilwoman Allen further stated that she would like to ask that the Council allow the committee to develop a process to go along with that recommendation. The motion carried with a majority vote (show of hands) of the Council members present. There were eight ayes and one nay. Councilman Leashore cast a nay vote.

IV. BASKETBALL GOALS ON NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS

During discussion, President Evans stated he would ask Mayor Perkins to look into this issue. Councilwoman Allen stated she would like to also ask Attorney Nunn to research this issue.

Councilman Cain departed from the Chambers briefly and returned at 7:00 p.m.

V. WATER RATE INCREASE MEETING

President Evans stated he feels everyone should have received notice with their mail that possibly there will be a rate increase in the water bills. President Evans stated there is a meeting scheduled for May 1, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. for the citizens to receive information about why there will be an increase. Mayor Perkins stated the Water Board has a saying that they have the "Cheapest Drink in Town" and it remains such, even after the rate adjustment the water will continue to be the cheapest drink in town. Mayor Perkins stated the citizens would see this clearly during the public meeting, that the water is still cheaper than communities our size and surrounding communities. Mayor Perkins stated what will also be seen is how there is a tremendous need to increase (1) for capital infrastructures investments and, (2) a bond indebtedness, which has provisions within this bond that requires the Water Board rates to produce a profit line item that is 120% of the bond payment for that fiscal year, peculiar, but it is in the clause. Mayor Perkins stated there has not been a rate increase in some time, so this needs to be adjusted to comply with the bond covenant, which was done in 1999. Mayor Perkins stated he looks forward to receiving input from the citizens and sharing information about the status of the Water and Sewer Board.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

RECREATION COMMITTEE - COUNCILMAN SAMUEL RANDOLPH, CHAIRPERSON

Councilman Randolph asked Mayor Perkins if he could provided information to the committee regarding the differences in the number of games at the Sportsplex and the Complex.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE - COUNCILWOMAN DR. GERALDINE ALLEN, CHAIRPERSON

There is no report for the Administrative Committee.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE - COUNCILMAN REID CAIN, CHAIRPERSON

Councilman Cain stated there were two meetings he would like to report, one on April 13, 2006 and one on April 19, 2006. Councilman Cain addressed topics of discussions to the Council. Mayor Perkins stated he would give a report in the work session regarding Councilman Cain's question addressed in his report regarding the tower.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - COUNCILWOMAN JEAN MARTIN, CHAIRPERSON

Councilwoman Martin stated the Women's Annual Luncheon would be held on April 25, 2006 from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Convention Center. Tickets are \$20.00 each. Councilwoman Martin further stated there would be a committee meeting on renaming streets on May 2, 2006 at 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE - COUNCILMAN LEASHORE, CHAIRPERSON

There is no report for the Public Works Committee.

DISCRETIONARY FUNDS COMMITTEE - COUNCILWOMAN CRENSHAW, CHAIRPERSON

Councilwoman Crenshaw stated the Council has given a total of \$4,600.00 from discretionary funds.

ADJOURNMENT

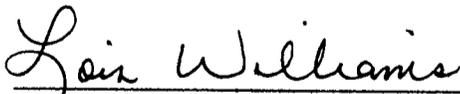
There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Councilman Cain and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw to recess this meeting and reconvene on Wednesday, April 26, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. for the purpose of canvassing the votes of the Special Election to be held on tomorrow, April 25, 2006, and by unanimous consent the Council recessed the meeting at 7:15 p.m.



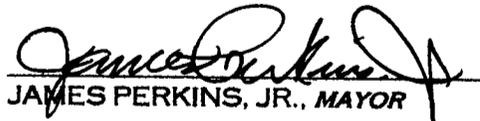
GEORGE P. EVANS, PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

APPROVED:



LOIS WILLIAMS, CITY CLERK



JAMES PERKINS, JR., MAYOR