

MINUTES OF THE SELMA CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2000

The Selma City Council met in a regular session on Monday, February 28, 2000 in the Council Chambers with the following members present: President Carl C. Morgan, Jr. and Council members Glenn Sexton, Rita S. Franklin, Jean T. Martin, Nancy G. Sewell, Mark V. West, Benny L. Tucker, and Bennie Ruth Crenshaw. Councilman Yusuf Abdus-Salaam was absent from the meeting. Others present were Mayor Joe T. Smitherman, City Attorney P. Henry Pitts, City Clerk Jacqueline T. Smith, and City Treasurer Jimmie S. Abbott. Councilman Benny L. Tucker gave the invocation.

After roll call, President Morgan declared a quorum present and the meeting was opened for the transaction of business as set forth on the agenda.

President Morgan asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held on Monday, February 14, 2000. There being no additions or corrections to the minutes, on motion made by Councilman West and seconded by Councilwoman Martin the minutes were approved as recorded.

President Morgan asked if there were any additions or corrections to the reconvened minutes of the City Council meeting held on Thursday, February 17, 2000. There being no additions or corrections to the minutes, on motion made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilman Sexton the minutes were approved as recorded.

I. MR. MONTEL MORTON – US CENSUS BUREAU

President Morgan introduced Mr. Montel Morton from the US Department of Commerce Census Bureau. Mr. Morton stated that he was present before the Council to provide a briefing on the importance of the 2000 Census. Mr. Morton stated that April 1st is Census Day in the entire United States and encouraged all constituents to participate by completing the census forms. Mr. Morton explained that economic development and prosperity, grants, federal funds, etc. that is received by our local and state government is dependent upon the information contained in the census report. Mr. Morton further stated that it is very important that everyone is counted.

II. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. 2000 Bridge Crossing Jubilee. Mayor Smitherman stated that he and several Council members recently met with representatives from Washington, DC including Secret Service Agents and others who are coordinating President Clinton's visit. The Mayor stated that there are no firm decisions on the events the President will be involved in as of yet. Mayor Smitherman further stated that the President's visit would be good publicity for the City of Selma and the City is cooperating one hundred percent with all people involved.

II. MAYOR'S REPORT

B. 4th Month Financial Statement. Mayor Smitherman presented the Council with a copy of the fourth month financial statement that shows that most all city departments are operating under budget with a total through four months being \$277,712. The Mayor stated that spending is usually slower in the winter months and asked the Council not to become alarmed and approve excess spending because the budget figures are expected to level out in the months to come.

C. City-Wide Street Paving Update. Mayor Smitherman gave the Council a brief update on the city wide street paving project stating that wards one, two, and three are nearly complete with streets in ward four currently being paved.

D. Lounge Liquor License Application. Mayor Smitherman presented a lounge liquor license application for K & B Enterprises for the Warren's Old Southern Tavern location. The Mayor stated that the applicants currently operate El Ranchero Mexican Restaurant. The application was placed on first reading and turned over to the Public Safety Committee for review and a recommendation.

E. Read Across American Week. Councilwoman Sewell stated that March 1st through March 7th is being recognized as Read Across American Week. Councilwoman Sewell stated that this project is endorsed by the Selma Education Association to identify the need for literacy. Councilwoman Sewell stated that Council members will read to a child in area schools on Wednesday, March 1st from 9:00 – 9:20 a.m.

III. PRESIDENT MORGAN'S REPORT

A. March 13, 2000 Council Meeting. President Morgan stated that the regular scheduled City Council meeting for March 13th would be cancelled since most Council members would be in Washington, DC for the National League of Cities Conference.

B. Council/School Board Joint Meeting. President Morgan stated that he has been in contact with Superintendent James Carter and they are working on scheduling a joint meeting with the Council and School Board.

C. Weed Abatement Ordinance. President Morgan stated that he has contacted the City of Montgomery and asked for a copy of the weed abatement ordinance. President Morgan distributed copies of the ordinance to the Council for review. President Morgan stated that there are several ordinances incorporated into this weed abatement ordinance. President Morgan asked Council members to review the ordinance and make recommendations at the next Council meeting.

D. Travel Per Diem Rates. President Morgan informed the Council that the auditors has recommended that the amount of travel per diem received by Council members be changed from \$75 per day to \$40 per day which is the amount set by IRS regulations. President Morgan stated that the old travel policy would remain in effect for the March trip to Washington, DC since most of the Council had already made reservations.

IV. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

A. Condemned Houses. Attorney Pitts stated that he has met with Code Enforcement Officer Jackie Barker and obtained an additional list of condemned houses. Attorney Pitts stated that he is in the process of preparing legal action to have the houses declared a public nuisance, which is a faster approach to this problem.

B. James Jemison vs City of Selma. Attorney Pitts informed the Council that the claim filed against the City of Selma by Mr. James Jemison has been turned over to the construction company for defense. Attorney Pitts stated that the City has no liability in the case.

C. Qualifying Fees for Municipal Election. Councilman Tucker asked Attorney Pitts about the procedures for setting qualifying fees for the Mayor and Council for the 2000 municipal elections. Attorneys Pitts asked for an opportunity to review this matter and report back to the Council at the next Council meeting.

V. MR. ED GREEN, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

District Attorney Ed Green stated that he was present before the Council seeking financial support from the City of Selma to assist with matching funds for a Domestic Violence Grant. Mr. Green explained that the grant total is \$275,000 with a required match of \$68,000, one-half of which is being requested from Dallas County and one-half being requested from the City of Selma. Mr. Green stated that the concept of this newly created Domestic Violence Unit is to prosecute domestic violence and sex abuse in our area and it has been well received by the court system. President Morgan stated that before the Council could reach a decision, several questions would have to be answered such as the time frame the requested matching funds would be required. Mr. Green stated that he would obtain more details from the coordinator and report back to the Council.

VI. RENAMING LAPSLEY STREET

Councilwoman Crenshaw stated that Selma residents have approached her with the suggestion of renaming a portion of Lapsley Street from Highland Avenue to Jeff Davis Avenue to honor Mrs. Amelia Boynton who played a very instrumental role in the civil rights struggle. Councilwoman Crenshaw stated that a canvassing committee would be in place next week to talk with residents in this area and she will report back to the Council once the committee work is completed.

VII. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS AND GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Request for Purchase of Backhoe. Councilwoman Sewell stated that the Public Works and General Services Committee met last Wednesday and received a request from Tommy Smith, Public Works Director, to purchase or lease/purchase a backhoe. Mr. Smith stated that his department uses a backhoe in mostly each phase of work performed by the department and the backhoe being used currently is 13 years old and most parts are antiquated. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilwoman Martin requesting the City Clerk place the backhoe out for bid. President Morgan complimented all departments for coming together to prepare downtown area for the President's visit.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Liquor License Applications. Councilman Sexton stated that three applications for lounge liquor licenses was placed on first reading at the last Council meeting. Councilwoman Crenshaw requested each application be voted on separately.

Councilman Tucker motioned that the application for Willie Oliver, Jr. at Dr. Disco's Wings-N-Things be approved. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sewell and passed with a majority of six affirmative votes and two negative votes. Councilwoman Martin and Crenshaw cast the negative votes.

Councilwoman Crenshaw motioned that the application for Razel Patel at Harrell's Grocery be approved. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Martin and passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

Councilwoman Crenshaw motioned that the application for Kevin Lee at Kevin Lee's Raceway be approved. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Franklin and passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

Councilman Sexton stated that a lounge liquor license application was approved on October 11, 1999 for George Sturdivant at Disco 9000 and was never purchased due to other obligations of the applicant. The applicant is now ready to purchase the license and Councilman Sexton requested the Council ratify, affirm, and approve the action taken on October 11th to approve the application. Councilman West motioned to approve the application. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw and passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Recreation Committee report was informational only.

VII. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

A. **Litter Control.** Councilwoman Martin suggested either the Council amends the present ordinance or drafts an ordinance that allows Mr. Jim Stallings to issue litter warnings and/or citations. President Morgan asked Attorney Pitts to review the code and see if a person other than a duly sworn officer can issue citations. President Morgan further stated that the Council may have to revisit the hiring of a Litter Officer and that the weed abatement ordinance will have an impact on this problem.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

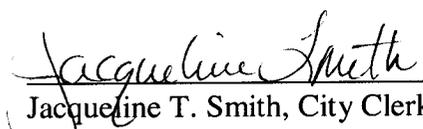
A. **P.A.L.S.** Councilwoman Franklin stated that Alabama PALS has declared April 15th through April 22nd as state wide clean-up week. Councilwoman Franklin stated that bags and sticks will be distributed throughout the city and all citizens are encouraged to participate in the clean up.

B. **Alabama League of Municipalities Hazardous Tree Problem.** Councilwoman Franklin informed the Council that she has been appointed to serve on the Alabama League of Municipalities Hazardous Tree Problem Committee to develop a plan in conjunction with Auburn University. More details on this committee are forthcoming.

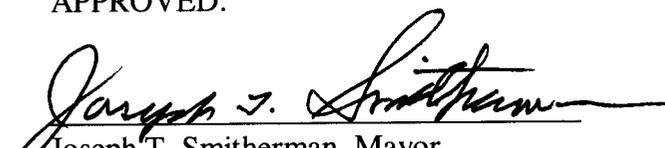
There being no further business to come before the Council, on motion made and duly seconded the Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 11:05 a.m.


CARL C. MORGAN, JR., PRESIDENT

ATTEST:


Jacqueline T. Smith, City Clerk

APPROVED:


Joseph T. Smitherman, Mayor

RESOLUTION

CITY OF SELMA
WEED AND SEED GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the City of Selma has been designated as an Officially Recognized Weed and Seed Site; and

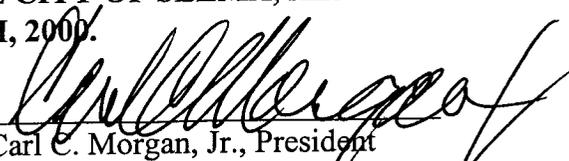
WHEREAS, the designated Weed and Seed Program in the City of Selma has an established and functioning Weed and Seed Steering Committee and support from the public and private sector in the community; and

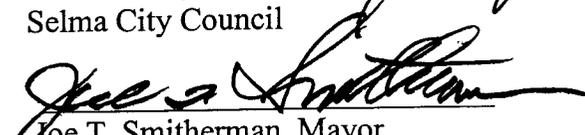
WHEREAS, the City of Selma desires to submit an application for continued funding to the Department of Justice, Executive Office of Weed for assistance to continue the successful implementation and administration of the Weed and Seed Strategy in the City; and

WHEREAS, the continued implementation and administration of the Weed and Seed Program Strategy will provide coordination and collaboration of Federal, State, and Local initiatives that will address the four elements that make up Weed and Seed - Law Enforcement, Community Policing, Prevention Intervention and Treatment and Neighborhood Revitalization.

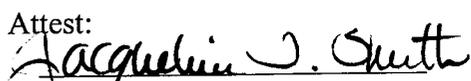
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Selma, Alabama hereby authorizes Joe T. Smitherman in his official capacity as Mayor to submit an application for continued funding including all understandings, assurances and certifications, to the Department of Justice, Executive Office of Weed and Seed for a Grant in the amount of \$225,000.00 to be used for the Weed and Program Strategy in the City of Selma Target Area.

**ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SELMA, ALABAMA
ON THIS THE 27th DAY OF MARCH, 2000.**


Carl E. Morgan, Jr., President
Selma City Council


Joe T. Smitherman, Mayor
City of Selma

Attest:


Jacqueline Smith
City Clerk