

## **MINUTES OF THE SELMA CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2000**

The Selma City Council met in a regular session on Monday, January 10, 2000 in the Council Chambers of City Hall 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, Bennie R. Crenshaw, and Yusuf Abdus-Salaam. Others present were Mayor Joe T. Smitherman, City Attorney P. Henry Pitts, City Clerk Jackie 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 Council meeting held on Monday, December 13, 1999. There being no additions or corrections to the minutes, on motion made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilwoman Franklin, the minutes were approved as recorded.

President Morgan asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the recessed Council meeting held on Thursday, December 16, 1999. There being no additions or corrections to the minutes, on motion made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilwoman Martin, the minutes were approved as recorded.

### **I. DOWNTOWN SELMA ASSOCIATION COLOR BOOK**

Downtown Selma Association Director Patty Sexton presented the color book participants who presented color book calendars to the members of the City Council. Participants were Darrius Moore, Courtney Jefferies, Laken Sexton and Elizabeth Manderson. President Morgan and members of the Council thanked the children and encouraged them to keep up the good work.

### **II. MAYOR'S REPORT**

**A. Third Month Financial Report.** Mayor Smitherman presented the Council with a copy of the third month financial statement. Mayor Smitherman stated that while the report shows the City operated \$262,000 over budget, the actual operating figures are closer to \$19,000 under budget. The Mayor explained that certain expenditures related to the bond issue were paid out of the general fund before the actual funds were received and stated that is the reason for the over-stated numbers on the report.

**B. Local Law Enforcement Grant.** Mayor Smitherman stated that the City has received in excess of \$206,000 for each of the past two years through local law enforcement grant that is used for capital purchases for the Police Department. The Mayor stated that an application has been submitted for the grant in the amount of \$206,473.00 for this fiscal year. Committee has been appointed and they will hold a meeting later today to review the proposed budget.

## **II. MAYOR'S REPORT**

**B. Local Law Enforcement Grant.** The proposed budget, including the matching funds, is \$229,414.00. The proposed expenditures include the purchase of seven new police vehicles with accessories, seven shotguns, two police motorcycles, and miscellaneous priority needs with grant award requirements. Mayor Smitherman indicated that the City must match the grant with \$22,941.00.

Councilwoman Martin motioned to approved the proposed budget of expenditures for the local law enforcement grant. Councilman Tucker seconded the motion and the Council voted unanimously.

Councilman Sexton motioned to approved making an additional appropriation from the general fund to be used as matching funds for the local law enforcement grant. Councilman Tucker seconded the motion and the Council voted unanimously.

Councilman Salaam asked the Council to go on record stating that this local law enforcement grant would serve as a compliment to the Weed and Seed Grant, whose main focus is also law enforcement.

**C. Bond Fund Update.** Mayor Smitherman stated that the bond issue was closed on December 29, 1999 and the funds have been divided according to the four issues on the ballot and deposited into separate accounts. The Mayor further stated that the interest earned on the deposits would be used to offset the bond election fees such as election supplies, attorney fees and agent fees.

Mayor Smitherman requested Council approval to add three streets to the citywide list of streets to be paved, the streets being Carver Avenue, Mechanic Street and Lavender Street at a cost of approximately \$18,000. Councilwoman Sewell made a motion to add the streets as requested by Mayor Smitherman. Councilwoman Martin seconded the motion and the Council voted unanimously on the motion. The Mayor asked Council members to review their printout of their ward paving and discuss any changes with him. A total of \$407,375 has been spent to date on the citywide paving.

## **III. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

**A. Municipal Election 2000.** Attorney Pitts stated that Councilman West has indicated that the Council would like to amend the salaries of elected officials for the 2000 administration. Attorney Pitts explained that in order to change the salaries of elected officials, an ordinance must be prepared and adopted six months prior to election day. Attorney Pitts asked the Council if they wanted such an ordinance drafted and what will be the amended salaries. President Morgan asked that this matter be deferred until the Finance Committee meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup>. President Morgan stated that the Council would discuss amending the salaries and inform him to prepare an ordinance that will be placed on first reading at the next Council meeting.

### **III. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

**B. School Board Consent Decree.** Attorney Pitts stated that he has talked with attorneys representing the Selma City School Board and he is of the opinion that there will not be any problems with the passing of a resolution seeking to dissolve the School Board Consent Decree. Attorney Pitts stated he would ask the School Board to pass a resolution stating that it is the desire of the Selma City School Board and the City of Selma as the appointing authority, that the previous decree entered in 1991 be set aside and not be binding on the Selma municipal government.

President Morgan asked Attorney Pitts to provide the Council with copies of the documents for review at the Finance Committee meeting.

**C. Absentee Election Commission.** Attorney Pitts stated that he has discussed this matter with certain individuals and they have indicated that they are not willing to change the appointment of the Absentee Election Commission and if changed, it will end up in litigation. Councilman Salaam stated that he would definitely like to see changes to the Absentee Election Commission because he feel it is now unconstitutional. Councilwoman Sewell agreed that she, too, feels it is unfair to individuals other than those appointing the Commission. Councilman Salaam stated that all candidates should have the same opportunity to appoint someone to the Commission. President Morgan stated that this matter needs to be examined more closely and requested copies of the documents for Council review. Councilman Salaam suggested that Attorney Pitts discuss this matter with the Justice Department and get their input on the matter.

### **IV. MRS. WANDA BUSH**

Mrs. Wanda Bush stated that she has been the owner of Warren's Old Southern Tavern on Water Avenue for the past two and one-half years. Mrs. Bush said she is appearing before the Council seeking permission to move the establishment to the Old Harmony Club, across from the Selma Times Journal on Water Avenue. Mrs. Bush stated that the building would require extensive renovations and she would like the consensus of the Council prior to remodeling. Councilwoman Martin welcomed the restoration of the Old Harmony Club and asked her colleagues to support Mrs. Bush's request. President Morgan stated that the building is in a properly zoned area. Councilwoman Martin motioned to approve the transfer, pending all required building codes are met. Councilman Sexton seconded the motion and the Council voted unanimously on the motion.

### **V. MR. ROBERT CRAIG**

Mr. Robert Craig stated that he was present to address the Council concerning the status of two vacant, condemned houses located at 1412 and 1244 St. Ann Street. Mr. Craig stated that these structures are located next to his house and he is having a serious problem with rats, snakes and other rodents. Mr. Craig stated that these houses has been condemned for the past six years and he has spoken with Mr. Jackie Barker several times who keep telling him the houses are on the list. Mr. Craig asked the Council to intervene in this matter immediately. Councilwoman Sewell motioned that the Council declares an

emergency and proceeds expeditiously to have the structures demolished. Councilman West seconded the motion and the Council voted unanimously.

## **VI. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Public Safety Committee report was informational only.

### **PUBLIC WORKS/GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Public Works/General Services Committee report was informational only.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Community Development Committee report was informational only.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Administrative Committee report was informational only.

### **RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Recreation Committee report was informational only.

## **VII. OTHER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**A. Renaming of Streets.** Councilman Salaam stated that residents of Ward 8 are in the process of circulating a petition to rename Division Street. Councilwoman Martin suggested a monument be placed in the Songs of Selma Park and the foot of the Edmund Pettus Bridge rather than renaming streets. President Morgan stated that he thought Councilwoman Martin has a wonderful suggestion to honor Selmians because most all tourists visit the foot of the Bridge. Councilman Salaam stated that he was not objecting to that idea but that his constituents would like Division Street renamed Jonathan Daniels Unity Way.

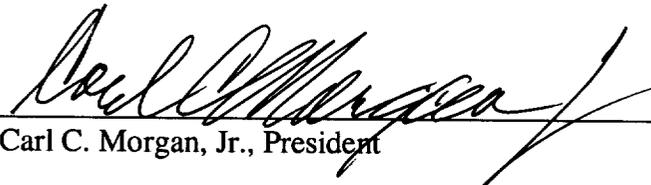
**B. Old Tremont School Renovation.** Councilwoman Sewell stated that she would like to use a certain amount of her funds from the bond fund to renovate a portion of the Old Tremont School to be used for Youth Programs. Councilwoman Sewell requested the Council go on record as asking the Community Development Office to seek funds from historic grants for this purpose. Councilwoman Sewell motioned for the Community Development Office to look into possible funding avenues for the renovation of the Old Tremont School. Councilman Salaam seconded the motion and the Council voted unanimously. Councilwoman Sewell also asked Council members to donate funds from their bond funds to assist with this project.

**C. Funds for National Voting Rights Museum.** Councilwoman Crenshaw stated that Board members of the National Voting Rights Museum are in the planning process and they have received no commitment of funds from the City. President Morgan stated that this matter would be discussed at the Finance Committee meeting.

**VII. OTHER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

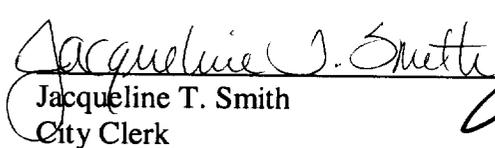
**D. Appropriation of Capital Budget Funds.** Councilman Salaam stated that the transfer of funds in the general fund capital budget to the Council discretionary fund account has previously been discussed. Each Council member will reallocate \$10,000 from his or her bond funds ward project account to the capital equipment account to purchase equipment totaling \$90,000. The \$90,000 earmarked in the general fund capital budget would be reallocated to the Council discretionary fund account. A motion was made by Councilman West and seconded by Councilwoman Sewell to make the transfer as outlined above. The Council voted unanimously on the motion.

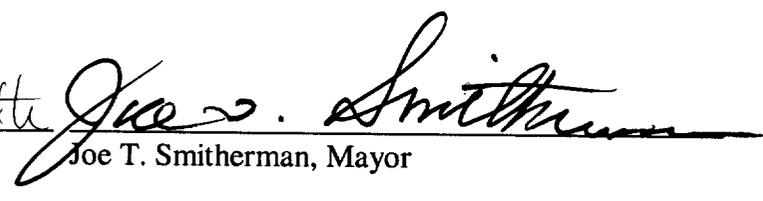
There being no further business to come before the Council, on motion made and duly seconded, the Council voted by a unanimous consent to adjourn at 11:00 a.m.

  
Carl C. Morgan, Jr., President

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

  
Jacqueline T. Smith  
City Clerk

  
Joe T. Smitherman, Mayor