

**MINUTES OF THE
SELMA CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 14, 2009
5:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

Invocation: Reverend Glenn King, Sr., Pastor
Grace Baptist Temple Church and New College Hill A.M.E. Zion Church

Pledge of Allegiance

The Selma City Council met in a regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Monday, April 14, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present during roll call: Council President Dr. Geraldine Allen and Council members Cecil Williamson, Dr. Monica Newton, Angela Benjamin, Benny L. Tucker, and 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 Brenda Smothers. Councilwoman Susan Keith was absent during roll call, but arrived at 5:07 p.m. Councilwoman Bennie R. Crenshaw was absent during roll call, but arrived at 5:12 p.m. Councilman Samuel Randolph was absent during roll call, but arrived at 6:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Allen asked for the approval of the agenda items. A motion was made by Councilman Bowie, and seconded by Councilman Tucker, to approve the agenda items as written. The motion carried with a unanimous (show of hands) vote of the Council members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After approval of the agenda, President Allen asked for the approval of the minutes of March 24, 2009 regular meeting minutes. A motion was made by Councilman Bowie, and seconded by Councilman Tucker, to approve the minutes of March 24, 2009. President Allen stated, for the record, that she feels their Secretary, Mrs. Ivy Harrison, is doing a wonderful job; that they have the minutes very timely, and thanked her for doing so. The motion carried with a unanimous (show of hands) vote of the Council members present.

CITIZENS' REQUESTS

Mrs. Patti Sexton and Mrs. Veronica Brown
Re: Cancer Society Relay-for-Life -
May 1, 2009

Mr. Jerry Wang
Re: Selma-Dallas County Y.M.C.A. - "Updates"
"Healthy Kids' Day" - April 18th - 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
"Annual Strong Kids Prayer Breakfast" - April 24th - 7:00 a.m.

MAYOR'S REPORT

A. **Proclamation - "National Moment of Remembrance"**. Mayor Evans stated to Council that he has prepared a Proclamation for the Council to approve and adopt to proclaim Memorial Day, May 25, 2009, as a day for all to participate in the "National Moment of Remembrance" and designate 3 o'clock p.m., wherever you are, as a time to pause and unite in remembrance, in an effort to make this Nation One. Mayor Evans read said Proclamation in its entirety, and asked Council favorable consideration of the same. A motion was made by Councilwoman Keith, and seconded by Councilman Bowie, to approve proclaiming Memorial Day, May 25, 2009, as a day for all to participate in the "National Moment of Remembrance", and designate 3 o'clock p.m., wherever you are, as a time to pause and unite in remembrance, "For all the Fallen, Let us make this Nation One". A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

B. Resolution #R196-08-09 - 2010 Census Partnership. Mayor Evans stated to Council, as they all know it is so critical for our School System Revenue, and City and County Government to make sure that the numbers are correct with the 2010 Census, and that it will be ten (10) years again before it gets done, and that only about 56% of the forms that were sent in 10 years ago were available, and that means our numbers could be off. Mayor Evans further stated Mayor Scott, former mayor of the Town of Mosses is here, and that as Mayor he is taking the lead to spearhead this Program for our City with the Probate Judge, along with the School System, and are designating committees to share in this particular process. Mayor Evans stated that they are asking Ms. Faulkner to serve as one of the Chairpersons, along with Mr. Mike Reynolds, as Media. Mayor Evans stated that they are moving forward with this, and asked Council to be a part of this, as well. Mayor Evans asked Mayor Scott to come forward and make a presentation on behalf of this program, that they are trying to implement. Mayor Scott addressed the Council in support of this Program. Mayor Evans acknowledged Ms. Debra Howard who was present, who has also done an outstanding job with working with Ms. Smothers and the Mayor's office, in putting all of this together. Mayor Evans asked Council's favorable consideration of Resolution #R196-08/09 2010 Census Partnership Agreement. A motion was made by Councilwoman Benjamin, and seconded by Councilwoman Newton, which affirms the Council's support of and partnership with the 2010 Census. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

C. Resolution #R198-08/09 - Appointment to the Cahaba Board for Mental Health and Mental Retardation. Mayor Evans stated to Council that they should have before them a copy of Resolution #R198-08/09 which represents his recommendation to appoint Mr. Walter McCrimon to the Cahaba Board for Mental Health and Mental Retardation, for a term of Six (6) years retroactive to April 1, 2009, to expire on April 1, 2015. Mayor Evans further stated Dr. Bruce Dozer was appointed to the Cahaba Board for Mental Health and Mental Retardation, and his appointment term expired at noon on April 1, 2009. Mayor Evans stated there is no salary that comes with this appointment, and that this is a voluntary appointment of service to serve on the Cahaba Board for Mental Health and Mental Retardation. A motion was made by Councilman Bowie, and seconded by Councilman Tucker, to accept Mayor Evans' recommendation to appoint Mr. Walter McCrimon to the Cahaba Board for Mental Health and Mental Retardation, for a term of six (6) years, retroactive to April 1, 2009, to expire on April 1, 2015. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

D. Introduction of City Hall - "Greeters". Mayor Evans stated to Council that we have some Ladies and Men who have agreed to be Volunteers to be "Greeters" downstairs at the desk in the Lobby Area of City Hall. Mayor Evans further stated that the "Greeters" will "Welcome" Citizens and Visitors to City Hall, and will offer assistance and directions to them, as well, and that they have been with us for about a week. Mayor Evans stated Ms. Cox, who has a group of people working with her, helped to "BrainStorm" this idea and put it together, is also here and asked her to come forward and address the Council. The other members of the Team were also asked to come forward, to introduce themselves to the Council and the audience. Mayor Evans thanked them, and extended an invitation to anyone else who would like to be a "volunteer", to feel free to contact him.

E. Neighborhood/Community Gardens Project - Report. Mayor Evans stated to Council that Ms. Nichols and Ms. Douglas came and met with him about the Neighborhood Gardening Project. Mayor Evans stated Ms. Douglas, a "Master Gardener", wants to volunteer her time to improve our neighborhoods with gardens, and that she is present at tonight's Council meeting. Mayor Evans further stated Ms. Douglas has a team of people already volunteering, and asked that she come forward to address the Council with an introduction of herself, along with a presentation about her Neighborhood/Community Gardens Project. Mayor Evans and the Council thanked Ms. Douglas for all of her efforts in moving the City and Community forward, and also the Volunteers who are assisting her.

F. Appointment of Voting Delegate and Alternate to the Alabama League of Municipalities - Convention. President Allen stated to Council that they are required to have a voting delegate that will go to the Alabama League of Municipalities Convention, and that they would also need an Alternate. President Allen further stated she would like to hear from the Council, of nominations or anyone who would like to volunteer to be the Voting Delegate for our Council. A motion was made by Councilwoman Newton, and seconded by Councilwoman Keith, to nominate President Allen as the Council's Voting Delegate. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council members present. There were six affirmative votes of the Council present, and two abstentions. President Allen and Councilwoman Crenshaw abstained from voting. A motion was made by Councilwoman Keith, and seconded by Councilman Bowie, to nominate Councilwoman Benjamin to serve as 1st Alternate Voting Delegate on behalf of the Council. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council members present. There were six affirmative votes of the Council present, and two abstentions. Councilwoman Benjamin and Councilwoman Crenshaw abstained from voting.

G. Police Department Reports - March 2009. Mayor Evans stated to Council that they should have before them a copy of the Police Department Report, which gives all of the incident reports by Wards, along with a copy of the Loud Noise Statistics. Mayor Evans stated these reports were prepared by Chief Riley and his Staff, for the month of March, 2009. Mayor Evans further stated as seen by Wards, the

MAYOR'S REPORT

percentage of incidents that have been reported, the total for the month are \$2,521 in the various Wards. Mayor Evans stated the Loud Noise Statistics reflects, in the Loud Noise Incident report, the highest number was 10 which was reported in Ward 8; and Issued Loud Noise Citations was 11 in Ward 8. Mayor Evans stated Chief Riley is here if they have questions.

H. **Resolution #R195-08/09 - Contract for Riverfront Project - Preparation.** Mayor Evans asked Ms. Charlotte Griffeth to come forward and address the Council as it relates to the Contract for the Riverfront Project, along with the Interpretive Center Stabilization Report. Mayor Evans stated he has met with Mr. Burns with the National Parks Service, who stated that there is a possibility for some additional funding to help us with the Interpretive Center if we needed it. Mayor Evans further stated he filled out the paperwork, and that we have close to a Million Dollars going towards the Interpretive Center that we have collected within the last thirty (30) days which he thinks is going to be very helpful. Mayor Evans stated he will provide a written report to Council members as it relates to a status of the Interpretive Center as of now. Ms. Griffeth came forward and read Resolution #R195-08/09 in its entirety, which represents permission to obligate \$40,545.00 from the Revolving Loan Fund Account (4.6000 401-9), and enter into a contract with Tyus Trucking, for the purpose of the Riverfront Project Preparation. A motion was made by Councilwoman Crenshaw, and seconded by Councilman Tucker, to approve said Resolution #R195-08/09, in the amount of \$40,545.00 for the purpose of the above-referenced project. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

I. **Resolution #R180-08/09 - Interpretive Center Stabilization Engineering Report.** Ms. Charlotte Griffeth stated to Council that they should also have within their packets Resolution #R180-08/09, which represents Authorization to Advertise Requests for Proposals for Professional Services Necessary to Continue the Stabilization and Restoration of the Future Site of the Selma Voting Rights Interpretive Center. Ms. Griffeth read said Resolution #R180-08/09 in its entirety, wherein the City of Selma is the recipient of statutory aid funding in the amount of \$492,000.00 appropriated in 2008 by Congress via the United States Department of the Interior, National Parks Service, to continue the stabilization and restoration work on the site of the future Selma Voting Rights Interpretive Center. Resolution #R180-08/09 represents any and all appropriate advertisement request proposals for Program Administration and Engineering Services to continue the stabilization and restoration work on the site of the future Selma Voting Rights Interpretive Center, are hereby ratified and authorized. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present. Ms. Griffeth gave the Council an overview on the Interpretive Center Project.

J. **J. L. Chestnut, Jr. Boulevard - Signs - Quotes.** Mayor Evans stated to Council that they should have within their packets quotes for the J. L. Chestnut, Jr. Boulevard signs, which were given to him by Mr. Tommy Smith, Director of Public Works Department. Mayor Evans further stated the total for the street signs is in the amount of \$3,534.94, which also includes the cost of the signs in the Historical District. A motion was made by Councilwoman Crenshaw, and seconded by Councilman Randolph, to approve the quotes in the amount of \$3,534.94, for the J. L. Chestnut, Jr. Boulevard street signs. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were eight affirmative votes and one abstention. Councilman Williamson abstained from voting.

K. **Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual.** Mayor Evans stated to Council that they should also have within their packets a copy of the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual, for their "interesting reading" and review. Mayor Evans asked President Allen if they as Council could ask the Administrative Committee to review, and come back with recommendations. President Allen stated she would put it in the hands of the Administrative Committee to review, but that she would like for all Council Members to please review the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual, and forward any changes and revisions to the Administrative Committee. President Allen also asked the Administrative Committee to meet with Ms. Valeria Jones, City Personnel Director, and come back with recommendations to the Council.

L. **Current City Employees - List.** Mayor Evans stated to Council that a request was made to obtain a current City of Selma Employees' Listing, which he has made available to each Council Member, and should also be within their packets. Mayor Evans further stated to Council if they have any questions, to please feel free to contact him.

M. **Summer Youth Program - Report.** Mayor Evans stated at the last Council Meeting, a question was asked as it relates to the Summer Youth Program. Mayor Evans stated to Council that they should have copies of a letter that was mailed out to individuals and businesses for the purpose of trying to get assistance with getting youth involved with summer employment. Mayor Evans further stated April 24th is the final date for all of the checks to come in, and that he will have an idea as to how many individuals will be able to work at that time. Mayor Evans stated he hopes that we will get the funding that we need to move this Program forward, and that he will make a report once all of the funding has been received.

N. **Over-Time Report - March, 2009.** Mayor Evans stated to Council that he is furnishing them, for informational purposes, a copy of the Overtime Report for the Month of March, 2009. Mayor Evans

MAYOR'S REPORT

further stated that they are monitoring overtime on a month-to-month basis, and that the report gives a breakdown by Departments.

O. **Monthly Financial Report and Budget.** Mayor Evans stated to Council that they should have within their packets the Budget, which reflects the changes that have been made. Mayor Evans further stated to Council as compared to last year in March, and each month for the past 3 months, as they can see we are running at a deficit. Mayor Evans stated this past month our deficit is \$51,132.96, compared to last year this time.

P. **Resolution #R197-08/09 - FY2008-2009 Budget Amendments.** Mayor Evans stated Resolution #R197-08/09 represents necessary changes that have been made in our budget in order to balance our budget. Mayor Evans further stated some of the money will be coming from unappropriated funds from 2009 balance. Mayor Evans asked Council favorable consideration of Resolution #R197-08/09 which authorizes the amendment of the afore-mentioned line items in said Resolution #R197-08/09 totaling Eighteen Thousand Three Hundred Fifteen Dollars and Sixteen Cents (\$18,315.16). Ms. Cynthia Mitchell was asked to come forward and address the Council with an explanation of the necessary changes to the Budget. During discussion, Councilwoman Crenshaw asked Ms. Mitchell when Dr. Allen instructed her to go into her discretionary and pay for something, where did the \$1,600.00 come from, and what does it represent, when she had \$400.00 left in there? Ms. Mitchell answered, and stated, the \$1,600.00 represents the reduction in the Budget of \$2,000.00 for each Council person, and once she reduced it, it left her a negative balance of \$1,660.00. Councilwoman Crenshaw then asked Ms. Mitchell how can you take something from something that was already appropriated, and "now you are going to come back and tell her that you're going to take \$2000.00 from money that had already been appropriated"? Councilwoman Crenshaw asked Ms. Mitchell to explain that to her, and Ms. Mitchell stated she thinks that can be answered by someone else besides herself. Ms. Mitchell further stated, if she is not mistaken, the Council voted on reducing the budget by \$18,000.00 and the only way she knew to do that was to take \$2,000.00 from each Council person. Councilwoman Crenshaw asked again, "how can you take \$2,000.00 from something that is not there"? Ms. Mitchell stated she reduced the budget, and did not touch the expenditures, and it caused the expenditures to be over at that time. Councilwoman Crenshaw stated she just needs a written explanation as to how that happened. Ms. Mitchell stated this same thing happened in the 'Contract for Services' line item, and that is why they are here today to try to do a budget amendment to rectify it and put it in balance. Councilwoman Crenshaw stated she needs a written explanation on this, and she needs to get it with an understanding. President Allen stated, for the record, "anything that was done was done because this Council voted to do it, and whatever you said I did, was not I. It was the Council, and you as any of the other Council members know, we also voted that before anything is approved that you are spending that the President will have to sign off on it, and that's what I did was sign off on it." President Allen stated to Councilwoman Crenshaw that she has had her two times and that they are not going to continue this discussion, and that she is going to ask that the Treasurer give her in writing, and all of the other Council members, the answer to Councilwoman Crenshaw's question. Councilwoman Crenshaw stated until she gets an understanding, she will have to appeal to the Council to get that answer. President Allen stated to Council that Councilwoman Crenshaw has had her two times and she is appealing to them, and she called for a Roll Call vote. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were five affirmative votes, three nay votes, and one abstention. President Allen, Councilman Tucker, and Councilman Bowie each cast a nay vote. Councilwoman Crenshaw abstained from voting. Councilwoman Crenshaw asked Ms. Mitchell, "will you please in writing for me because we have a person on board now that has taken the budget over who, I don't think, ever worked with the budget who has required all of these cuts, and right now we don't even know where we're going with this budget; I don't even know if it's passed or not. So will you please give me in writing what happened with this in terms of the second cuts because first of all you're cutting from a budget where people have already spent money; so will you just give me in writing the process by which this was done." President Allen asked that the minutes reflect this statement, "that anything that had been cut from that budget can be found in the minutes that were approved by this Council; whether you voted for it or not is a different story." Following the above-stated discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Newton, and seconded by Councilwoman Keith, to approve Resolution #R197-08/09, with the necessary changes to balance the budget. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were seven affirmative votes and two nay votes. Councilman Randolph and Councilwoman Crenshaw each cast a nay vote.

Q. **Update - Missing Vehicles.** Mayor Evans stated to Council that he has prepared a detailed report, as per their request, on all of the findings as it relates to the vehicles that were misplaced, abandoned, crushed, or whatever the case may be. Mayor Evans further stated to Council that this is a detailed report of that, as of March 30, 2009, which lists all of the individuals who were involved. Mayor Evans stated it was a careless job on behalf of whoever was responsible for "manning that ship", that did not do the paperwork, and accountability was not there as it relates to keeping up with those vehicle as they should. Mayor Evans further stated to Council, that because of those things, there are measures in place right now that will hopefully not allow this to ever happen again in terms of process and procedure.

MAYOR'S REPORT

R. **Update - Attorney General's Investigation of Missing Money - Selma Police Department.** Mayor Evans stated to Council, after Attorney Nunn brought the information to him, that he personally talked with Mr. Gene Sisson, Division Chief of Investigations, from the Attorney General's Office. Mayor Evans further stated Mr. Sisson gave him a Conference Call that included himself, Chief of Police Riley, along with Attorney Nunn. Mayor Evans stated Mr. Sisson stated he had tried on several occasions to try to get to the "bottom" of the missing money but because of the fact that there was a lack of cooperation, and several individuals who may have had keys or combination to the safe, he concluded that there was not enough evidence to label a claim to indict anybody and, as a result of that, they had to withdraw their investigation unless some new evidence appeared. Councilman Williamson stated he thinks the Council should conduct its own investigation of this, and stated to Mayor Evans that he thinks he should consider appointing a committee of the Council to have its own investigation of this. Councilman Williamson further stated "I know things like this happen but that I do not see why these people are still working for us". Councilwoman Crenshaw stated that Mayor Evans has not made a recommendation as to how they need to proceed with this, and that she would like to hear a recommendation from Mayor Evans stating that this is something that they need to do. Mayor Evans stated to Council that he has talked on several occasions with all of the individuals involved, with the exception of the people who no longer work for us, and if the Attorney General's Office could not get something, how can he get it? Mayor Evans further stated, "things happen . . . mistakes have been made; we've got to move on". Mayor Evans stated, in his opinion, "you won't find anything that you can convict anybody on, other than the fact that something happened that shouldn't have happened that caused a lack of accountability". Mayor Evans stated he is sorry that this happened, but at this point he does not see that having an investigation by the Council is going to turn up any more evidence than the Attorney General unless you have something else on your mind, and that he does not have a recommendation. President Allen stated to Council before they leave this issue, she will open the floor as to action that the Council would like to take, and give them that opportunity now. No one came forward with action; therefore, President Allen stated they are going to call this item "mute", and move on to the next item.

S. **Update - Settlement for Jerry Woods' Vehicle - Selma Police Department.** Mayor Evans stated the Red Mustang in this matter has a long history, and he has talked with Chief of Police Riley who would like to take the money from his Gas Account and transfer into the Drug Enforcement Fund to pay for the Red Mustang in the amount of \$3,500.00, in settlement for this vehicle which is owned by Mr. Jerry Woods. A motion was made by Councilwoman Crenshaw, and seconded by Councilman Bowie, to appropriate \$3,500.00 from the Police Department Gas Account, to transfer said funds into the Drug Enforcement Account, as settlement for Mr. Jerry Woods Vehicle; namely, the Red Mustang. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were six affirmative votes, two nay votes, and one abstention. Councilman Williamson and Councilman Tucker each cast a nay vote. Councilwoman Keith abstained from voting.

Mayor Evans stated to Council, for the record, "let me just tell you how sorry I am that we had to go through all of this; I apologize for this. But, it is what it is, and we're trying to get through it. I just trust and hope that we get through it and move on to something else and hope that it never happens again but if it does happen again I trust and Pray that we will have enough documentation that those persons who are guilty for not doing things according to procedure, will be dealt with. And, that's basically all that I can do at this point, and asks that the Citizens please accept my apology on behalf of what has gone on with these matters".

T. **Update - Sgt. Jimmy Martin - Accident.** Mayor Evans stated this update deals with a car that Sgt. Jimmy Martin (former Chief of Police) was driving that was involved in an accident in Perry County on Highway 219. Mayor Evans stated he has given to Council a detailed report of what took place in this accident, which is a 1998 Ford that Sgt. Martin was driving. Mayor Evans further stated he has also included pictures of the car in this report. Mayor Evans stated the question of Sgt. Martin driving the car home in the evenings; on that particular evening that he had the accident, he was on call. Mayor Evans further stated since that time he will no longer be able to drive any City-owned vehicles except inside of the City limits. Mayor Evans stated he can not substantiate anything pertaining to the fact that Sgt. Martin lied to the State Troopers about anything. Mayor Evans further stated a copy of the State Troopers' Report is included within their packets, and that he has spoken with the State Trooper and verified everything that took place on the evening that Sgt. Martin had the accident. Mayor Evans stated he has received all kinds of information from various sources of people, about filing an illegal report, falsified report, etc., when in essence Trooper Rogers identified Sgt. Martin in his report, as a Police Officer, wearing a badge, and he does not know where people got the information that Sgt. Martin lied about something. Mayor Evans further stated if he did lie, it is not reflected in Trooper Rogers' report. Mayor Evans stated he wishes "we would do our due diligence and not beat up on anybody until we know all the facts". Mayor Evans further stated to Citizens and to the Council to, "let's do our homework; this is business". Sgt. Martin was asked to come forward and address the Council as it relates to this incident. Sgt. Martin came forward and explained what happened as it relates to the accident. Sgt. Martin stated he paid for gas while using the vehicle. Sgt. Martin further stated he paid for gas while using the vehicle even for City's business use; estimate of about six months that he paid for the gas himself for City's business use.

U. Update - Landfill. Mayor Evans stated to Council that they should have within their packets information on the Landfill in terms of what has already been completed, and what still needs to be done by November 1, 2009. Mayor Evans stated he is not necessarily asking the Council to take any action tonight, that it is more for informational purposes, but that they are going to have to hire somebody to move forward on these things. Mayor Evans further stated he has met with Ms. Debra Love, as well as, Mr. Tommy Smith, as to who they will have to get, to do these things to get the Landfill completed. Mayor Evans stated Mr. Smith is on vacation this week, and that Ms. Love does not work for us, but has agreed to work with us on finding individuals who can help get these things done. Councilwoman Crenshaw stated to Mayor Evans, if it was in order, she would like to make a motion, seconded by Councilman Randolph, to enter into a contract with Mrs. Debra Love in preparation of the new Landfill through completion of said Landfill, with a contract amount of \$14,000.00. During discussion, Councilwoman Crenshaw withdrew her motion, with the understanding that as soon as possible that he meet with Ms. Love and Mr. Smith, so that they define the responsibilities of each person and what they can bring to the "table". Councilman Randolph also withdrew his second. Mayor Evans stated he would get with Mr. Smith and Mrs. Love, and get a report to the Council, hopefully prior to the next Council meeting, as to the completion of the new Landfill.

V. Stewart King-McKenzie Building - Cost Estimates for Demolition. Mayor Evans stated the owner of the Stewart King-McKenzie Building wants to give this building to the City. Mayor Evans further stated he, Mrs. Patti Sexton and Attorney Nunn have gone out and looked at this building which is going to be free to the City, at no cost, and as far as he knows, it has no contaminants. Mayor Evans stated there is nothing we can do with it at this point but there are some offers there of some demolition companies who can demolish the building. Mayor Evans further stated that he needs to let the owner know by the first of next month whether we want to take it over. Mayor Evans stated he has been approached by a company in Selma who is willing to take on the building, tear it down completely, but they would like to use and sell all of the materials at their price, to still be owned by the City, and the building can be used by for a program that *Sunrise Selma* is trying to promote, via a lease agreement. Mayor Evans further stated he is not asking for a decision tonight, but would like Council to review, and discuss at the next Council meeting.

W. Bridge Inspection - Proposal. Mayor Evans stated by Law we must have our Bridges inspected. Mayor Evans further stated Khafra Engineering had been doing them in the past but that they are not doing them now. Mayor Evans stated he has met with someone locally who does the County bridges to try and get some assistance with this, and they have proposed that they will do the inspections for us, at an amount of \$25,000.00 to do them for 3 years, or they will charge us \$10,000.00 a year for 3 years. Mayor Evans further stated he is not asking the Council to make a decision tonight, but that he wants them to review this and discuss at the next Council meeting.

X. Reports of Value, Income and Expenses - Public Buildings. Mayor Evans stated, per Council's request, Council should have within their packets a report that includes the appraisal value, income and expenses of Public Buildings owned by the City which includes Vaughan-Smitherman Museum Building, Larry D. Striplin Performing Arts Center, and the Carl C. Morgan Convention Center.

Y. Employee Courtesy Fund Bank Account. Mayor Evans stated he may have mentioned this at the last Council meeting, but that he just wanted to make Council aware that he is asking City Employees to participate in an Employee Courtesy Fund for sickness that require hospitalizations and bereavement, in and contribute \$5.00 or whatever they desire. Mayor Evans stated this is an optional item.

Z. Update - Heating/Cooling System. Mayor Evans stated they are making progress, and that they are checking this week on all of the thermostats and making sure that they are working properly. Mayor Evans further stated he thinks Mr. Finis Harris approached him about approving a Purchase Order in the amount of \$1,500.00 in order to move forward with this but he is not sure, that he would be bringing that statement back before the Council once he has received it. Mayor Evans stated he did feel "coolness" in the building today.

(AA.) Change of Date - Council Meeting. Mayor Evans stated the last Tuesday in this month will be the Special Election date for the School Board, which is also a Council meeting night. Mayor Evans further stated he is sure the Council will be coming back to this item later in the meeting.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

A. Resolution #R194-08/09 - Condemnation of Properties. Attorney Nunn stated to Council that Resolution #R194-08/09 represents condemned properties and the Wards which the properties are located in. Attorney Nunn asked Council's approval of the same. A motion was made by Councilman Bowie, and seconded by Councilwoman Newton, to approve said Resolution #R194-08/09 Condemnation of Properties. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

B. Kindaka Sanders v. City of Selma - Invoice - Attorney Rick Howard. Attorney Nunn stated to Council that they should have before them a copy of Invoice from Attorney Rick Howard as it relates to the *Kindaka Sanders v. City of Selma* case, which is still pending. Attorney Nunn further stated that said Invoice represents fees in the amount of \$2,045.00, and asked Council's favorable approval of the same. A motion was made by Councilman Randolph, and seconded by Councilman Tucker, to approve said Invoice in the amount of \$2,045.00. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

C. Satisfaction of Lien - 119 S. Mechanic Street. Attorney Nunn stated this is the process in which we send notices out to the property owners, after we have demolished the property, asking the owners to pay the lien off. Attorney Nunn further stated said property owner did come in and pay the lien off, and as can be seen on attached letter from Mr. Roosevelt Goldsby indicates this particular lien was paid in full in the amount of \$1,750.00. Attorney Nunn stated at this point in time the legal process is to file a "Full Satisfaction of the Recorded Lien" to free the property of the same. Therefore, a motion was made by Councilwoman Crenshaw, and seconded by Councilman Tucker, to approve the Full Satisfaction of Recorded Lien as it relates to 117 S. Mechanic Street. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

D. Election - Update. Attorney Nunn stated to Council to please be reminded that the Special Election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28th, which is 2 weeks from tonight. Attorney Nunn further stated the polls will open up at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. Attorney Nunn stated, per Mrs. Ivy Harrison, City Clerk, the last day for voting by an Absentee Ballot is Thursday, April 23rd at 5:00 p.m. Attorney Nunn further stated, as it relates to the precinct changes, we have gone out to the sites, and signs are being made to direct the different sites. Attorney Nunn also stated the City Clerk has sent out over 6,000 letters to all of the residents that live within the 3 Wards that are going to be affected by the voting precinct change; part of Ward 2, Part of Ward 3, and both precincts within Councilman Tucker's Ward, Ward 6. Attorney Nunn stated it is his hope that this will be a smooth election, and that everybody is working hard to make sure that the same is done.

E. Alcoholic Beverage License - Rothia Johnson WJ's Social Club - 1317 Voeglin Avenue. Attorney Nunn stated the Council has been given a lounge retail liquor license application on behalf of Ms. Rothia Johnson, WJ's Social Club, located at 1317 Voeglin Avenue, to be placed on 1st Reading. A motion was made by Councilman Tucker, and seconded by Councilman Randolph, to place the said application on 1st Reading. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

F. Amnesty Period - 30 Days. Attorney Nunn stated to Council, if they recall, per the Council, we have an Amnesty Period for 30 days that started on April 1st, and is going through the month of April and ends on April 30th, for a 30% discount if the Citizens come in and pay the Garbage Bill in full for the year. Attorney Nunn asked all Citizens to come and receive this benefit of a 30% discount.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

I. BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Councilwoman Newton stated as part of the Community Development Committee they recommend that the Council form a Beautification Committee again, to promote assisting neighborhoods with keeping up their yards, and to promote the community gardens, re-painting of fire hydrants, etc., all in an effort to help with keeping up the neighborhoods. Councilwoman Newton further stated they are hoping to have at least 2 (or more) volunteers from each Ward to assist in this effort. President Allen stated she would pass the Sign-Up Sheet around to the Council members for them to share with individuals in their Wards for volunteers to sign.

II. SAFE ROUTE-TO-SCHOOL

Councilwoman Newton stated after meeting with the Group, they are trying to encourage young people to "walk and bike to school", and as our tax revenue and, gas and oil lease monies decrease, as people travel less, we will have less money to spend for infrastructure. Councilwoman Newton further stated this is an exciting program that helps pay the way for infrastructure around our schools. Councilwoman Newton stated it has Four Components: Education, Encouragement, Enforcement and Engineering, and the program helps provide grant money to the schools and municipalities that want to encourage kids to ride their bikes to school. Councilwoman Newton stated the grant application process will begin in August, and is due in mid-November, and encourages the Council members to work on to make sure that we are strategic when they ask for funds for this. Councilwoman Newton further stated she thinks it is an exciting venture, and is happy to share the information she has gotten.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

III. ADVERTISEMENT ON PUBLIC EASEMENT

This item is continued.

IV. SUNDAY LIQUOR SALE

Councilman Williamson stated this afternoon he put in everyone's mailbox a copy of a law that Senator Sanders is proposing to introduce in Alabama legislature to permit Sunday liquor sales in Selma and Dallas County, on-premise liquor sales. Councilman Williamson further stated aside from the moral issue, the bad thing about this bill is that it permits the County Commission to make that decision for the City of Selma, as well as, the County rather than the City Council making the decision for the City. Councilman Williamson stated he would like to make a motion that they as a Council ask their Council President to contact Senator Sanders and ask that he change that bill so that, as they do with all of their other liquor license applications in the City, that the Council will make that decision for the City, rather than the County Commission. During discussion, this issue will be continued until the next Council meeting, until Mayor Evans has had the opportunity to research this as to whether or not the Bill affects the City of Selma, and Mayor Evans will bring back a report to the Council.

V. SAVE THE BUTTERFLY DAY

Councilman Williamson stated this Thursday, April 16th, is "Save the Butterfly Day in Alabama", and since Selma was designated the "Butterfly Capital of Alabama" back in 1982 by a Resolution of the State Legislature, as a result of efforts of Mrs. Breeding, along with the help of the Selma Federation of Garden Clubs, Selma Beautification Council, Tourism Council, Cahaba Association of Girl Scouts, and Selma District Boy Scouts of America. A motion was made by Councilman Williamson, and seconded by Councilman Tucker, to designate Thursday, April 16th, as "Save the Butterfly Day" in Selma. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

VI. PAYMENT OF COUNCILMAN SAMUEL RANDOLPH'S LEGAL FEES

This item is continued.

VII. ANNUAL PALS CLEAN-UP DATE

President Allen stated just as a reminder "Don't Drop It On Alabama Spring Clean-Up", is April 18 - 25, 2009, and she did receive from PALS boxes of trash bags and equipment for those of them who would like to be a part of the clean-up from April 18th - April 25th. President Allen further stated the School System has agreed to be a part of it, and each one of the schools has received trash bags and a packet, and they are going to do a Poster Presentation at each school. President Allen asked for a "Show of Hands" of those who will be participating with the Spring Clean-Up, so that she could make sure that the Council's Secretary will get each of them a box of trash bags. President Allen stated that there are seven; Councilman Bowie, Councilwoman Keith, Councilman Randolph, Councilwoman Newton, Councilwoman Benjamin, Councilman Tucker, and Councilman Williamson, plus herself, making a total of eight. Mayor Evans stated he would like to also be a part of this Clean-Up, making a total of nine. President Allen stated she appreciates the members of the Council and Mayor Evans for being a part of this.

VIII. SPECIAL ELECTION

President Allen stated as has been stated by Attorney Nunn, April 28th is the date of the Special Election, and that is a Council meeting date. A motion was made by Councilman Bowie, and seconded by Councilwoman Newton, to schedule the Council meeting for Tuesday, April 21, 2009, instead of April 28th at 5:00 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

IX. FY 2008-2009 CITY BUDGET

Councilman Williamson stated if he is not mistaken, he thought Mayor Evans stated he would be forwarding the Council a bound copy of the City's Budget, and asked if his understanding was correct. Mayor Evans stated that is correct, and that he will be forwarding a Bound Copy of the City's Budget to the Council.

X. GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL BUILDING

This item is continued.

XI. ENVIRONMENTAL COURT

Councilwoman Keith stated that there is no report at this time.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

XII. LETTER FROM MRS. BARBARA HIOUAS - SELMA CITY SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT

President Allen stated she is in receipt of a letter from Mrs. Barbara Hiouas, President of the Selma City School Board. President Allen further stated Mrs. Hiouas asked that she forward a copy to each member of the Council, and that it be read in its entirety during the Council meeting, and she read it in its entirety.

XIII. REPORT ON ORIENTATION OF COUNCIL

President Allen stated the Orientation of Council was well attended, and thanked all of the Council members for their participation. President Allen stated they want to especially thank Alabama Power Company because they did an excellent job of going through the analysis of "Team Building" and "Conflict Resolution". President Allen further stated they want to thank Ms. Alise Sommerville because she was very instrumental in getting a Speaker from Alabama Power. President Allen stated Alabama Power, along with Mayor Evans and herself, paid for the dinner, and it was an excellent dinner. President Allen also thanked the Department Heads for their participation, and stated that they were very thorough in their presentations.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

RECREATION COMMITTEE - Councilman Samuel Randolph, Chairman

Councilman Randolph made a report.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE - Councilwoman Monica Newton, Chairman

No report.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE - Councilman Corey Bowie, Chairman

Councilman Bowie made a report. During his report, Councilman Bowie made a report on the Committee's recommendation as it relates to the speed breakers on L. L. Anderson Avenue. Councilman Bowie stated that he and Councilman Tucker canvassed the citizens of L.L. Anderson Avenue and received an overwhelming consensus of the citizens to place the speed breakers on the street. Councilman Bowie stated he spoke with Chief Riley and that his recommendation to the committee was to place two sets of speed breakers on three blocks of the street to slow the traffic down. Councilman Bowie stated after talking with Chief Riley, he would like to put his recommendation in the form of a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Newton, to place two sets of speed breakers on three blocks of the street. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - Councilwoman Angela Benjamin, Chairperson

Councilwoman Benjamin made a report.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE - Councilman Benny Tucker, Chairperson

No report.

DISCRETIONARY COMMITTEE - President Geraldine Allen, Chairperson

President Allen reported for Selma High School a total of \$750.00, and for Relay for Life, a total of \$1,050.00. President Allen asked Mayor Evans if he would also give \$250.00, and that would make the total of \$1,250.00.

Mayor Evans asked President Allen if he could come forward and make an additional report: Mayor Evans reminded the Council that on every second Monday in the Month, of the Prayer Vigil, at the Convention Center, from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Mayor Evans stated on Thursday of this week there will be a "Youth Forum" at 5:30 p.m., at the Convention Center, and he is asking all of them to come and be a part of it. Mayor Evans also invited Parents of the Youth to come. Mayor Evans stated that on the first Saturday in May, it will be the "1st Annual May Day", Statewide Youthfest '09, and that he is asking for their support.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - Councilwoman Angela Benjamin, Chairperson

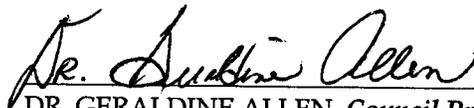
Councilwoman Benjamin made a report.

CLOSING REMARKS BY EACH COUNCIL MEMBER.

Following closing remarks by each Council Member, Mayor Evans stated to Council that on the Tuesday following the Special Election, the Council must have a meeting to canvass the Election, and to certify the results of the election. Mayor Evans further stated this was no disrespect to Councilman Bowie's recommendation to have the meeting on April 21st, but if some of the Council members would recall from past experience, they have moved the Council meeting to the same day that the Election is certified on that Tuesday. Mayor Evans stated the question now is whether or not the Council wants to go ahead and have the meeting on next week, or have it to follow the Certification of the Election on that Tuesday. President Allen concurred with Mayor Evans, and stated that they have done that in the past, and if Council wanted to amend the motion, that they could and that would be the date of Tuesday, May 5th. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Crenshaw, and seconded by Councilman Tucker, to schedule the Council meeting on Tuesday, May 5th, at 12 o'clock noon, following the Certification of the Special Election results. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were eight affirmative votes and one nay vote. Councilman Bowie cast a nay vote.

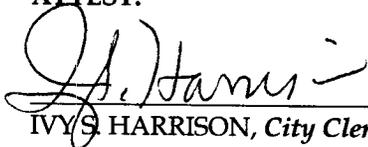
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Councilwoman Crenshaw, and seconded by Councilman Tucker, to adjourn, and by unanimous consent of the Council, this meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.



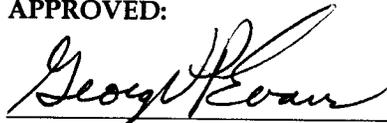
DR. GERALDINE ALLEN, *Council President*

ATTEST:



IVYS HARRISON, *City Clerk*

APPROVED:



GEORGE PATRICK EVANS, *Mayor*