

MINUTES OF THE RECONVENED SELMA CITY COUNCIL
MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2003

The Selma City Council met in a reconvened session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Wednesday, February 26, 2003 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, Benny L. Tucker, Bennie Ruth Crenshaw, and Councilman James Durry. Councilman Samuel Randolph was absent at roll call; however, he was in attendance at 5:15 p.m. Others present were Mayor James Perkins, Jr., City Attorney Jimmy Nunn, Interim City Clerk/Treasurer Sequita R. Oliver, and the Mayor's Administrative Assistant Sherri James. Councilman Benny L. Tucker gave the invocation.

President Evans stated the Council on Monday, February 24, 2003 was recessed for various business items that warranted additional time to prepare.

President Evans opened with a brief statement to the citizens and Council members. He stated at no time would he permit any disruptive actions or comments during the Council meeting. President Evans stated he would not tolerate any name-calling or personal attack against Council members or any citizen's present. He further stated this also includes a non-tolerance of Council members against each other. President Evans stated if any person or person(s) display such behavior they would be escorted out of the Council Chambers.

I. RESOLUTION/ANNEXATION

President Evans asked Council members for discussion on the resolution for Annexation. Councilman Tucker opened with the statement that the resolution needs to be discussed. Councilwoman Sewell stated she did not attend either of Mr. Meyer's presentations concerning the annexation and asked Mayor Perkins to give the highlights of his presentation. Mayor Perkins asked for questions concerning the annexation. President Evans asked Mayor Perkins to address the citizen's concerns. Mayor Perkins yielded to President Evans request to allow the citizens to speak.

Commissioner Towns and Mrs. Richardson from Selmont appeared before City Council to express their concerns. Commissioner Towns stated he had met with the Community of Selmont and the community shared their concerns. He then introduced Mrs. Richardson to Council to share the concerns of the Selmont Community. Mrs. Richardson stated that the Selmont Community had been meeting for nine months in an effort to seek awareness about how government operates. One reason for seeking the awareness was to search out the possibility of how the government could lend support to the community in an effort to improve the quality of life. She stated that the community held a meeting in which they invited City leaders and ministers to engage in conversation; after which, the community asked for time to digest the information obtained at the meeting, and make an informal decision as to what the community wanted to do. Mrs. Richardson stated she heard about the annexation plan and was disturbed at what she had learned. The community had a meeting to share what the annexation plan would include. Mrs. Richardson stated that whether the citizens of

I. RESOLUTION/ANNEXATION

Councilman Sexton asked Mrs. Richardson what did the Community of Selmont favor most, incorporation or annexation. Mrs. Richardson was concerned about the community tax base and whether it would be sufficient to sustain the community if they incorporated; however, she felt the residents would favor incorporation. President Evans asked Mrs. Richardson if the businesses in the Selmont area wanted incorporation, she replied that some businesses would prefer to incorporate and help bring industry to the Selmont Community. She expressed their concern about taxes being raised and what benefits would be offered to them if Selmont were annexed to the City of Selma. Mrs. Richardson stated that Fire and Police protection was a concern for the businesses. The business owners were concerned that if they annexed, the residents who supported their business would no longer have the same Fire and Police benefits.

Councilwoman Sewell stated she supported annexation; however, she was really concerned about the residents not having Fire and Police protection. Mayor Perkins stated that of the businesses he spoke with, all favor annexation. Councilwoman Franklin asked if the City annexes would the annexation cause a split of the community. Mrs. Richardson stated there was some concern about this issue. If annexation occurs, first there would be no need to incorporate. Councilman Sexton asked Mrs. Richardson what services would Selmont want if they annexed. Mrs. Richardson replied, all the services Selma community used. Councilman Sexton stated he felt that Mayor Perkins had not been truthful with the citizens, and that his goal is to divide the community in an effort to force them to annex by withholding Fire and Police Protection. President Evans reminded Council members about his opening statement.

Councilman Martin stated she attended both presentations done by Mr. Meyer and her suggestion to Council was to vote on the annexation plan in an effort to clean up the gateways and corridors to the City. She feels this is essential if Selma is to attract industries and businesses. Councilwoman Franklin made the suggestion that ISO be contacted and the City inquire about the traveling distance as it relates to Fire Protection. She was concerned about the City remaining a class Five. Councilwoman Franklin asked Attorney Nunn if "meters and bands" are the same as parcel, and which had the most land.

Council members thanked Commissioner Towns and Mrs. Richardson for their informal presentations. After a short discussion from Council members, a motion was made by Councilman Sexton and seconded by Councilwoman Franklin to table the vote of the resolution until dialogue between other governing bodies could take place. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of Council. Mayor Perkins and President Evans both argued that open dialogues between the Council and Mayor would be needed to address this issue. Mayor Perkins thanked Council and the citizens for their open mind and willingness to talk.

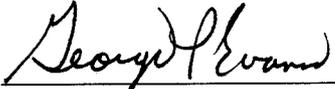
Mrs. Richardson stated a meeting would be held at Tipton School, Monday, March 3, 2003 at 5:00 p.m. and invited the Mayor and Council members to attend.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Franklin and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw to request a study from ISO in regards to the cost of annexation. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of Council.

II. CITY CLERK/FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY TREASURER APPOINTMENT

After a brief discussion concerning the City Clerk, Finance Director, and City Treasurer positions, a motion was made by Councilman Sexton and seconded by Councilwoman Sewell to table the vote until the audit report. The motion did not pass. A motion was made by Councilwoman Franklin and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw to make an offer to hire candidates' number two (2) for Finance Director and candidate number four (4) for City Clerk/Treasurer. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with majority vote of Council. There were six (6) affirmative votes and (3) negative votes. Councilman Durry, Councilman Tucker, and Councilman Sexton cast the negative votes. A motion was made by Councilwoman Franklin and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw to set the salary for Finance Director at \$55,000.00/year. The motion passed with a majority vote of Council. There were five (5) affirmative votes and one (1) abstention vote. Councilman Sexton abstained from voting. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sewell and seconded by Councilman Durry to set the salary for City Clerk/ Treasurer at \$ 55,000.00/year. A roll call vote was taken and the motion did not pass. There were three (3) affirmative vote and four (4) negative votes. Councilman Sexton, Councilman Tucker, Councilwoman Franklin, and Councilwoman Crenshaw cast the negative votes. A motion was made by Councilwoman Franklin and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw to set the salary for City Clerk/ Treasurer at \$58,500.00/year. A roll call vote was taken the motion did not pass. There were two (2) affirmative votes and five (5) negative votes. Councilman Sexton, Councilman Tucker, Councilman Durry, President Evans, and Councilwoman Sewell cast the negative votes. A motion was made by Councilwoman Crenshaw to set the salary for City Clerk/Treasurer at \$58,000.00/year. The motion did not get a second. A motion was made by Councilwoman Franklin and seconded by Councilman Durry to set the salary for City Clerk/ Treasurer at \$55,000.00/year. The motion passed with a majority vote of Council. There were six (6) six affirmative votes and (1) one negative vote. Councilwoman Crenshaw cast the negative vote.

There being no other business to come before the Council, on motion made, the Council voted to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.


George P. Evans, President

ATTEST:


Sequita R. Oliver, Interim City Clerk

APPROVED:


James Perkins, Jr., Mayor