

**Minutes of the Selma City Council Meeting
Held on Monday, October 29, 2001**

The Selma City Council met in a regular session on Monday, October 29, 2001 in the Council Chambers with the following members present: President George P. Evans and Council members Glenn Sexton, Rita S. Franklin, Jean T. Martin, Nancy G. Sewell, Samuel Randolph, Benny L. Tucker, Bennie Ruth Crenshaw, and James Durry. Others present were Mayor James Perkins, Jr., City Attorney Jimmy Nunn, City Clerk Jacqueline T. Smith, and the Mayor's Administrative Assistant Sherri James.

After roll call, President Evans declared a quorum present and the meeting was opened for the transaction of business. President Evans stated this meeting is reconvened from the October 22, 2001 Council meeting.

President Evans stated the first order of business would be discussion and a vote on the budget for fiscal year 2001-2002.

I. FISCAL YEAR 2001-2002 BUDGET

President Evans stated the purpose of this meeting is to iron out details of the fiscal 2001-2002 budget. President Evans stated the Council would like to give employees a three-percent pay increase but they are also concerned with the possible decline in revenue. President Evans further stated it might be necessary to amend the budget after March 1, 2002 retroactive to January 1, 2002 to allow for pay increases.

Councilwoman Sewell stated she is concerned about contractual services being cut twenty percent. President Evans stated if funds are available additional funds could be appropriated to the agencies.

Mayor Perkins stated the budget is calculated with current salaries through December 31, 2001 and a three percent pay increase to be effective January 1, 2002 for all employees who earn less than \$25,000 with the exception of department heads, elected officials and employees who are currently under a pay plan.

Councilwoman Martin voiced her concern with the library being cut and possibly having to close an additional day each week. Mayor Perkins stated he has talked with Probate Judge Johnny Jones about the Dallas County Commission providing approximately \$18,000 to the library to assist with the deficit. The Mayor stated there was an error in calculating the library appropriation and the correct amount should be \$212,000 rather than \$201,300. Councilwoman Crenshaw reminded Council members that they are responsible for the city's finances and it is their duty to prioritize the needs of the city.

Mayor Perkins stated the revenue picture is very unclear and he is committed to spending less than budgeted. Mayor Perkins stated the current amount unappropriated is \$205,263 and recommended passing the budget with the pay increases.

I. FISCAL YEAR 2001-2002 BUDGET

President Evans stated he would like to see the budget reflect the correct employees and their salaries in those departments where employees have retired. Mayor Perkins stated City Treasurer Jimmie Abbott would be retiring soon and he is working to consolidate the positions of City Clerk and Treasurer. The Mayor also stated Otto Benford has retired and he consolidated the City Hall Maintenance Supervisor with the Convention Center Director for a huge savings. President Evans asked each Council member to openly voice his or her concerns about the budget for discussion.

Councilwoman Crenshaw stated she is satisfied with the budget and the Council's involvement in the budget process. She pledged her full support to adopt the budget as presented.

Councilman Sexton stated he felt the following budget items were excessive and asked for an explanation on each:

1. Personnel Department Exams and Advertising.
2. General Government Data Processing.
3. Elevator Maintenance.
4. Special Projects/Schools.

Mayor Perkins provided Councilman Sexton an explanation as to why each of the mentioned line items had noticeably increased.

Councilman Tucker asked that Council members be provided a list of all employees who will receive the three percent pay increase and the amount. Councilman Tucker also stated he would like to see the correct salaries of the consolidated departments.

Councilwoman Sewell stated it was prudent of Mayor Perkins to consolidate the City Clerk and City Treasurer and the Convention Center Director and City Hall Maintenance. She also thanked the Mayor for helping all schools with special funding. Councilwoman Sewell stated she would like to see the budget include funding for the new pump station and the Bell Road sewer project.

Councilwoman Martin stated she would like to see funds transferred from General Government – Other Professional Services and Unpaid Prior Year and Professional Services in the Building Inspector's Office to make the Library's appropriation equal \$230,000.

Councilman Randolph stated his only concern is to allow the three percent pay increase remain in the budget.

Councilwoman Franklin stated she felt the following budget items should be cut:

1. Professional Services – General Government and Building Inspector Office
2. Liability Insurance
3. Special Projects/Schools
4. Historic Trail
5. Family Resource Center
6. Perry Varner Boot Camp

I. FISCAL YEAR 2001-2002 BUDGET

Councilwoman Franklin also stated the Grant Matching Funds in Community Development should be \$171,500. Councilwoman Franklin further stated she is concerned about the projected revenue for next fiscal year.

Councilman Durry stated his only concern is to allow the three percent pay increase remain in the budget.

After each Council member was allowed to speak of his or her budget concerns, several department heads were allowed to address the Council.

Mrs. Becky Nichols, Library Director, stated she cannot operate with an appropriation less than \$230,000 or she will be forced to close for one day. Mrs. Nichols also stated she has not budgeted for property insurance for which she has received a \$6,900 invoice. Mayor Perkins stated he is committed to increasing the library's appropriation another \$18,000.

Mrs. Elizabeth Driggers, Community Development Director, asked the Council to change Grant Matching Funds back to \$171,500 because it will be needed this fiscal year. Mrs. Driggers also asked for permission to rearrange budget line item amounts.

Assistant Police Chief Robert Green stated the Police Department would be able to get by with grant funds to make capital purchases, so long as grant-matching funds are available.

Mr. Elton Reece, Recreation Director, stated he has not had a capital budget in the last two years and he may have to request additional appropriations in the spring for lawn mowers and other equipment.

Mr. Jim Stallings, General Services Director and Tommy Smith, Public Works Director stated they support the three- percent pay increase for their employees.

The consensus of the Council is to adopt the fiscal budget for 2001-2002 with the following changes included:

1. Include \$25,000 for Park Place pump station.
2. Include \$50,000 for Bell Road sewer improvements.
3. Define correct salaries and employees involved in consolidated departments.
4. Increase Library appropriation to \$230,000 plus pay \$6,900 insurance premium.
5. Increase Community Development Matching Grant Funds to \$171,500.
6. Decrease Tourism Budget to \$237,000 or the same as last year.
7. Include a 3% salary increase for all employees making under \$25,000 to be effective January 1, 2002.

Other information requested by the Council include:

1. Itemized list of employees who will be eligible for pay increase.
2. Contract agencies are made aware that contracts are contingent upon funds being available.
3. Dialog before salary increases are disbursed.

I. FISCAL YEAR 2001-2002 BUDGET

Councilwoman Crenshaw made a motion to adopt the fiscal budget for 2001-2002 with the changes as outlined above. President Evans requested the Council be provided a copy of the budget after the changes have been made. Councilwoman Sewell seconded the motion and on roll call vote, the motion to adopt the budget passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were six affirmative votes and three negative votes. Council members Sexton, Tucker and Franklin cast the negative votes.

II. CONTRACT – WILLIAMS PAINTING AND CONSTRUCTION

Attorney Nunn presented Council with copies of a contract between Williams Painting and Construction and the City of Selma for repairs to the Wilson Building on Franklin Street. The contract states Mr. Williams is to replace plaster and ceiling tiles, clean vents, replace lighting and insulate ducts. The total amount of the contract is \$3,250. Councilwoman Franklin made a motion to enter into the contract with Williams Painting and Construction for repairs at the Wilson Building. Councilman Sexton seconded the motion and on roll call vote the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council. There were seven affirmative votes. Council members Randolph and Tucker had left the Council Chamber.

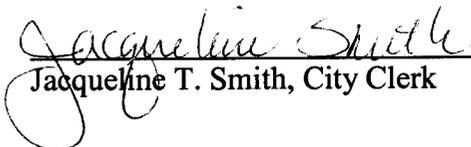
III. RENAMING CLARK STREET

Mrs. Sylvia Robertson appeared before Council to request Clark Street be renamed to honor Mrs. Leolla Robertson who is now deceased. Mrs. Sylvia Robertson stated her deceased mother was a well-known Selman and a civil rights activist. There is only one house on the street and current building code regulations would not allow for new construction. Councilwoman Martin briefed the Council on the history Clark Street. President Evans asked that this matter be deferred until the next Council meeting to allow for more research and discussion.

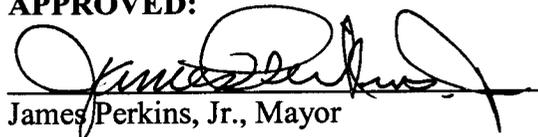
There being no further business to come before the Council, on motion made and duly seconded the Council voted by a unanimous consent to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.


George P. Evans, President

ATTEST:


Jacqueline T. Smith, City Clerk

APPROVED:


James Perkins, Jr., Mayor