

**MINUTES OF THE  
SELMA CITY COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 24, 2009  
5:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

Invocation: Father Carroll Ploude,  
Queen of Peace Catholic Church

Pledge of Allegiance

The Selma City Council met in a regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Monday, February 24, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The following members were present during roll call: Council President Dr. Geraldine Allen and Council members Dr. Cecil Williamson, Susan Keith, Dr. Monica Newton, Angela Benjamin, Benny L. Tucker, Bennie R. Crenshaw 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. Councilman Randolph was absent during roll call, but arrived at 5:21 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

President Allen asked for the approval of the agenda items. A motion was made by Councilwoman Keith, and seconded by Councilman Bowie, 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 February 10, 2009 regular meeting minutes. A motion was made by Councilman Tucker, and seconded by Councilman Bowie, to approve the minutes of February 10, 2009. **The motion carried with a unanimous (show of hands) vote of the Council members present.**

**PUBLIC FORUM – MOVIE THEATER INCENTIVE**

**Resolution #R189-08/09 – Gaiter Ventures, Incorporated – Seventy-Five Cents (\$0.75) Incentive Payment.**

Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Crenshaw, and seconded by Councilman Randolph, to approve Resolution #R189-08/09, in the amount of Seventy-Five Cents (\$0.75) per ticket for every ticket sold at the Theater, as an incentive payment for locating the Theater within the City limits of the City of Selma. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed to approve said Resolution #R189-08/09 in the amount of Seventy-Five Cents (\$0.75) per ticket for every ticket sold at the Theater, with a majority vote of the Council, with the understanding of an amendment made to the agreement for a four (4) screen movie theater, and to include the authorization for Mayor Evans to proceed with executing the Gaiter Ventures, Incorporated Contract. There were eight affirmative votes and one abstention. Councilwoman Keith abstained from voting.**

**CITIZEN'S REQUEST**

Mrs. Mallieve Breeding and Mr. Spencer Ryan

Re: PALS (*People Against a Littered State*)

Application for Adopt-A-Mile Program - "Don't Drop It On Alabama" - April 18 - 25, 2009

Following discussion, the Council concurred that they will participate and be a part of this Program.

Ms. Ashley Adams and Mr. Torrence Towns (Ms. Claire Compton)

Re: Selma Middle C.H.A.T. Academy (*School Newspaper and School Yearbook*)

Mr. Henry Hicks and Mr. Joe Peterson

Re: Edgewood Elementary School (*Letter of Recommendation in Support of an Overpass*)

During discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Williamson, and seconded by Councilwoman Benjamin, to approve a Letter of Recommendation in support of an overpass for Edgewood Elementary School. A motion was made by Councilman Williamson, and seconded by Councilwoman Benjamin, to authorize President Allen to write a Letter of Recommendation on behalf of the Council in support of an overpass for Edgewood Elementary School. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.**

Ms. Joyce Kendrick

Re: Jonathan Daniels Community Development Corporation (CDC)

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

A. **Prichard Trip.** Mayor Evans gave a report on the trip to Prichard, Alabama, which is just outside of Mobile. Mayor Evans stated he, along with some staff persons, went to the City of Prichard to explore to see if it had any potential to help us in getting our program up and running here. Mayor Evans stated, to their surprise, it is an excellent program in place in terms of Code Enforcement. Mayor Evans further stated it was a great visit; the Mayor of Prichard made himself available to them, along with his Staff. Mayor Evans stated they have sustained their program to the extent that it basically pays for itself. Mayor Evans further stated the Mayor of Prichard is willing to come to Selma, to assist us in this endeavor. Mayor Evans stated the Code Enforcement staff is working now, trying to put the Program in place for our City. Mayor Evans stated the Code Enforcement that they have there involves all City Employees; all of the Departments are a part of Code Enforcement. Mayor Evans further stated he was real impressed to see that in operation, and to spend time with the Mayor of Prichard and the Staff, to see what an outstanding job they have done to clean up their City.

B. **Mayor's Charity Ball.** Mayor Evans gave a brief report on the Mayor's Charity Ball, stating it was a wonderful affair. Mayor Evans stated he was very happy about the "turn out"; the facility was beautifully decorated, and the food, Band, and the fellowship, turned out to be great! Mayor Evans thanked the Council, as well as, Citizens for supporting the Mayor's Charity Ball. President Allen and Councilwoman Keith both concurred with Mayor Evans, stating that it was a beautiful and wonderful Gala Affair!

C. **Selma-Dallas Prevention Collaborative Contract Agreement - Amendment.** Mayor Evans stated to Council that they should have within their packets a copy of the Selma-Dallas Prevention Collaborative Contract. Mayor Evans further stated this is a program which was initially handled via Mental Health, and they in turn gave it to the City to administer, which the City gets about 10% for doing so. Mayor Evans stated currently there is \$10,000.00 that is outstanding from the standpoint of reimbursement to the program, and the Program is \$70,000.00 that they are going to give for the program to be managed. Mayor Evans further stated the Council approved this program some years ago and this is just a follow-up to that. Mayor Evans stated President Allen wanted the Council to have a copy as it relates to the strategic plan and related documents, in the event that the Council may have some questions. Councilman Williamson asked the question as to how the City can be brought out of being the fiscal agent for this program? Mayor Evans stated the City could actually relinquish its relationship with the program in April of this year, 2009. During discussion, Mayor Evans asked Ms. Charlotte Griffeth to come forward and address the Council to answer questions the Council may have. During further discussion, President Allen asked if the Council would not take any action at this time, and asked the Administrative Committee to review the Contract, and bring back a recommendation to the Council.

D. **Good Samaritan Building.** Mayor Evans stated he has been in contact with our Legislative Body trying to find additional funds to keep the Good Samaritan Building open for the benefit of Rural Health mainly. Mayor Evans further stated he and President Allen met with Senator Sanders and he assured them that he is doing everything in his power to get that money for us to "seal" this program. Mayor Evans stated Dr. Edgar Brown, Medical Director of Rural Health, Incorporated, is present and he would like to ask him to come forward and address the Council, as it relates to what this means to our City and Citizens, to have Rural Health Services in Selma at the Good Samaritan Hospital Building under his management. Dr. Brown stated Rural Health Services, a non-profit organization, has 30 years of experience in providing health care, and that he and Mayor Evans have been in communication with each other about his efforts to secure funds for such an endeavor. Dr. Brown further stated if Mayor Evans is successful in receiving those funds they, as a program, would like to enter into a collaborative agreement with the City of Selma in order to operate a community health center out of the Good Samaritan Building. Mayor Evans further stated about \$250,000.00 is needed as "seed money". Mayor Evans stated he sees it as beneficial to our Citizens if we can get Rural Health in place. Mayor Evans further stated to Council that he thinks at this point in time, the facility needs to be shut down, and the lights disconnected. Mayor Evans stated he should have a report as to whether they will or will not, be able to assist the City with funds as it relates to the Good Samaritan Building by the last Council meeting in March, in an effort for the Council to make a decision as to renewing or not renewing the lease in April, 2009. A motion was made by Councilwoman Keith, and seconded by Councilman Williamson, to turn off the lights at the Good Samaritan Hospital Building at this time, and await an update from Mayor Evans at the last Council meeting in March. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present. Councilwoman Crenshaw was absent during the vote.**

E. **Budget Cuts.** Mayor Evans stated as a matter of trying to make some budget cuts he is planning to cut his Staff in his office to some days less than what they are doing now in order to save money to help defray expenses; beginning mid-March one of his Staff persons will only be allowed to work two (2) days of the week. Mayor Evans further stated he has met with the Battalion Chiefs on several occasions; initially they met with the understanding that they will be a part of the cut because they were actually exempt employees, and that they met about the potential for their salaries to be cut by 12.5%, as well as, along with the Fire Chief and the Assistant Fire Chief. Mayor Evans stated after meeting and researching this matter with Ms. Mitchell and Ms. Jones, it would cause somewhat of a "domino" effect, and he is recommending, unless the Council has a better idea, that everything remains as it is, and not take any action on it as of now.

F. **Alabama League of Municipalities Annual Convention.** Mayor Evans stated to Council that they should have within their packets a copy of the Voting Delegate Designation Form as it relates to the Annual Convention - Business Meeting, of the Alabama League of Municipalities, which will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> - May 5<sup>th</sup> in Montgomery, at the Renaissance Hotel. Mayor Evans further stated the Council has to stipulate who their voting delegate for our Municipality will be during the business session of the Convention, which has to be completed and returned to the League by April 17<sup>th</sup>. President Allen stated to Council that she would like for them to review this, and if anyone is interested in being a Delegate at the Convention, to contact her.

G. **Elite Check System.** Mayor Evans stated to Council that Ms. Mitchell has come to him and asked for his help as it relates to a check signing machine; namely, *eliteCHECK* Program, which possibly may be eliminated from the budget. Mayor Evans stated at the present time checks are being hand-stamped, as opposed to a check signing machine in place to do the stamping for them. Mayor Evans further stated he is in receipt of a Memorandum from the Finance Department, and asked Ms. Cynthia Mitchell to come forward and address the Council as it relates to this new check stamping program. Ms. Mitchell stated this system is a laser check-writing system, and explained basically how the program functions and the efficiency of it, and asked the Council to reconsider this item, and place it back into the budget in the amount of \$9,467.50.

H. **Resolution #R187-08/09 - Retirement of 1975 Special Revenue Bond.** Mayor Evans stated Resolution #R187-08/09 hopefully is going to help balance our budget, and that the funds are estimated at \$515,000.00 and is roughly what is in the bond at Regions Bank, and designated for that purpose. Mayor Evans further stated we can pay it off and save \$90,000.00 in the future. Mayor Evans stated he has been in communication with the Auditors, and they stated that we can retire this bond that has been outstanding through 1975, but that we can not do anything else with it but pay off the bond, which would reduce our debt by \$90,000.00 in the next fiscal year. Mayor Evans asked Council favorable consideration of said Resolution #R187-08/09, as it relates to the 1975 Special Revenue Bond of \$515,000.00. A motion was made by Councilman Bowie, and seconded by Councilman Tucker, to approve said Resolution #R187-08/09, which is Retirement of the 1975 Special Revenue Bond. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present. Councilwoman Crenshaw was absent during the vote.**

I. **Length of Service Recognition Awards.** Mayor Evans stated he would like to present a Certificate of Service in recognition of the following employees: Mr. Aeneas Pettaway, Selma Fire Department, *Ten Years of Dedicated Service* to the City of Selma, and Mrs. Delois Smith, Public Works Department, *Fifteen Years of Dedicated Service* to the City of Selma. Mayor Evans stated he would like to thank them for their years of dedicated service to the City of Selma. They were also presented with Longevity Pins.

#### **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

A. **Ordinance #O114-07/08 and #O115-07/08 - Justice Department.** Attorney Nunn stated to Council that these were the two (2) annexations that were submitted to the U. S. Justice Department, and as can be seen on the letter, that the "Attorney General does not interpose any objection to the specified changes" to annexing both of these properties into the City of Selma. Attorney Nunn further stated he will proceed with filing the same with the Probate Judge of Dallas County, and closing out the file.

B. **Ordinance #O110-08/09 - Prohibition of Graffiti.** Attorney Nunn stated to Council that they should also have before them a copy of Ordinance #O110-08/09, which is the Prohibition of Graffiti, Providing for Eradication, Enforcement, and Penalties of the same, which said Ordinance #O110-08/09 is being sponsored by Councilman Bowie. Attorney Nunn further stated that he has been in communication with Officer Fitts, who stated at this point in time there is an overall umbrella in which if anyone does any type of graffiti on buildings it comes up under Criminal Mischief, which applies to any type of damage to property or buildings of any sort. Attorney Nunn also stated said Graffiti Ordinance would come within Municipal Court jurisdiction, and that it would be the choice of the Officer to place offence under the graffiti ordinance violation or criminal mischief, but that the criminal mischief offense does go up to a Class C Felony, which would be 1<sup>st</sup> degree Criminal Mischief for any type of damage. Attorney Nunn stated this is a draft and asked Council consideration to review for any changes that need to be made to it, while placing on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading. A motion was made by Councilman Randolph, and seconded by Councilman Bowie, to place Ordinance #O110-08/09, Prohibition of Graffiti, and Provisions for Eradication, Enforcement and Penalties, on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present. Councilwoman Crenshaw was absent during the vote.**

C. **Ordinance #O108-08/09 - Mr. Michael Byrd.** Attorney Nunn stated to Council they should have before them Ordinance #O108-08/09, an Ordinance Assenting to the Annexation of Certain Property into the Corporate Limits of the City of Selma. Attorney Nunn further stated if Council recalls the Justice Department just approved two (2) parcels of land down the hill from Golden Ranch, and these are the next two (2) properties that were brought before the Council, that will be between the two that were just annexed and Marion Bank. Attorney Nunn stated Ordinance #O108-08/09 was placed on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading at the last Council meeting, and asked Council's consideration of the same. A motion was made by Councilman Bowie, and seconded by Councilman Randolph, to approve said Ordinance #O108-08/09. **A roll call vote was taken**

and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present. Councilwoman Keith and Councilwoman Crenshaw were absent during the vote.

D. **Ordinance #O109-08/09 – Mr. Michael Motes.** Attorney Nunn stated Ordinance #O109-08/09 is identical to Ordinance #O108-08/09, with the exception that it is right beside property that was just annexed, in the same vicinity of the others. Attorney Nunn stated Ordinance #O109-08/09 was placed on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading at the last Council meeting, and asked Council's favorable consideration of said Ordinance #O109-08/09. A motion was made by Councilman Randolph, and seconded by Councilman Williamson, to approve said Ordinance #O109-08/09. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present. Councilwoman Crenshaw was absent during the vote.**

E. **Resolution #R184-08/09 – Condemned Structures – City of Selma.** Attorney Nunn stated Resolution #R184-08/09 was discussed during Thursday's Work Session, and that the Council requested that the Ward Numbers be added on each piece of property listed, which has been classified as a "dangerous building" and/or a "nuisance" under the Selma City Code. Attorney Nunn further stated Resolution #R184-08/09 authorizes the City Clerk to proceed with forwarding certified letters to the property owners, advising them that they have thirty-one (31) days to rectify the condition of their property, and that if they do not rectify the condition, then the City will move forward, and most likely that would mean proceeding with demolition. A motion was made by Councilwoman Newton, and seconded by Councilman Williamson, to approve said Resolution #R184-08/09. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present. Councilman Randolph abstained from voting. Councilwoman Keith and Councilwoman Crenshaw were absent during the vote.**

F. **Permit Fees – 1.5 Million Dollar Projects.** Attorney Nunn stated he just handed a copy of information to them that he thinks Councilman Williamson had requested, as it relates to the permit cost of construction projects of 1.5 Million Dollars. Attorney Nunn further stated this was discussed at the Work Session, and that the fee waived in the Theater Project was in the amount of \$1,800.00, and that Council should have a copy of the same.

G. **Liquor License Application – Danny Huett - Bottoms Up – 2519 Alabama Highway 14, East.** Attorney Nunn stated to Council that they should already have copies of the alcoholic beverage license application on behalf of Mr. Danny Huett, Bottoms Up, located at 2519 Alabama Highway 14, East. Attorney Nunn further stated the Council took a vote at the last Council meeting, but that it died due to lack of a second to the motion. Attorney Nunn stated Mr. Huett was present during the Work Session, and did speak to Council, per the request of Councilwoman Benjamin. Attorney Nunn further stated there was a discussion as it relates to this matter, and it is being brought before the Council to ascertain further action on said alcoholic beverage license application. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Benjamin, and seconded by Councilman Tucker, to approve said alcoholic beverage license application on behalf of Mr. Danny Huett, d/b/a Bottoms Up. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present. Councilwoman Newton and Councilman Williamson abstained from voting. Councilwoman Crenshaw was absent during the vote.**

H. **Resolution #R185-08/09 – Notice of Special Election.** Attorney Nunn stated to Council that they should have within their packets a copy of Resolution #R185-08/09. Attorney Nunn further stated on December 30, 2008, with a unanimous vote, the Council approved April 28, 2009, as the date to hold the Special Election for the Citizens to determine whether they want to change the method of selecting school board members from an appointed to an elected board. Attorney Nunn stated Resolution #R185-08/09 represents the approved date of April 28, 2009 for the Special Election, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Attorney Nunn further stated the notice of said Special Election ran in the newspaper on today, February 24<sup>th</sup>. Attorney Nunn also stated the location of voting places is listed in said Resolution #R185-08/09, with the respective voting precinct changes for Ward 2-S, Ward 3-S, and Ward 6-E and Ward 6-W. Attorney Nunn stated the City Clerk is also making preparation to send notices of the precinct changes to the voters in those respective Wards, about 2 – 3 weeks prior to the Special Election. Attorney Nunn asked Council's favorable consideration of Resolution #R185-08/09. A motion was made by Councilwoman Newton, and seconded by Councilwoman Keith, to approve said Resolution #R185-08/09, Notice of Special Election, on April 28, 2009. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present. Councilwoman Crenshaw was absent during the vote.**

I. **Resolution #R215-07/08 - Election Officials' List – General Municipal Election, August 2008.** Attorney Nunn stated to Council that they should also have within their packets an old resolution, Resolution #R215-07/08, for the election date of August, 2008. Attorney Nunn further stated said resolution represents the election officials for that election. Attorney Nunn stated just as in the past, an election officials' list is made available to the Council for their review, and modification. Attorney Nunn further stated he spoke with the City Clerk who forwarded a copy of this resolution to him, and that he is passing it on to the Council for them to review the names for their wards, and to get back with the City Clerk, or be prepared to make recommendations or suggestions at the next Council meeting, so that she can place the election officials' names in resolution form. President Allen asked Council members to be prepared to give recommendations of names to our City Clerk at the next Council meeting.

**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

J. **Resolution #R188-08/09 - Public Building Fees -** Attorney Nunn stated to Council that they should have before them Resolution #R188-08/09, which is a resolution establishing fees for the public use of the Carl C. Morgan Convention, Larry Striplin Performing Arts Center, Vaughan Smitherman Museum, and the Dallas Academy Building. Attorney Nunn further stated in the resolution are recommendations, which have come back from the sub-committee, and it was per the Council to go forward in preparing a resolution of the same. Attorney Nunn stated that there are some changes in the fees for all of the facilities, and the proposed effective date for the resolution to go into effect is June, 2009. During discussion, President Allen asked Council to review Resolution #R188-08/09, and forward any changes and/or omissions to Attorney Nunn, and be prepared to vote on it at the next Council meeting.

K. **Resolution #R190-08/09 - Establishing An Amnesty Period for Unpaid Garbage Fees.** Attorney Nunn stated Resolution #R190-08/09 is being sponsored by Councilwoman Keith. Attorney Nunn further stated Councilwoman Keith stated the result of her sub-committee meeting is Resolution #R190-08/09, which is Establishing An Amnesty Period from April 1, 2009 through April 30, 2009 for the Payment of Unpaid Garbage Fees Owed to the City of Selma. Attorney Nunn stated if someone is more than 90 days delinquent in paying their garbage fees, this resolution would grant an individual and/or entity a 30% discount waiver during the month of April, of any fee, penalty, interest and/or further collection efforts. Councilwoman Keith stated she would like for the Council members to go to the radio station, and do a 30-second P.S.A., as it relate to the delinquent garbage fees, and the Amnesty Period for Unpaid Garbage Fees. Mayor Evans stated he would also like to be a part of that. President Allen stated she agrees that they need to go and do the P.S.A. to announce this, and to notify citizens if they are moving, so as to not receive a double bill. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Newton, and seconded by Councilman Tucker, to approve Resolution #R190-08/09, which Establishes an Amnesty Period for Unpaid Garbage Fees during the month of April, 2009. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present. Councilwoman Crenshaw was absent during the vote.**

L. **A.M.I.C. Invoice - Statement.** Attorney Nunn stated the Council should have before them an invoice from Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation as it relates to claims, and the reimbursement of the deductible. A motion was made by Councilman Bowie, and seconded by Councilman Randolph, to approve said A.M.I.C. Invoice in the amount of \$7,551.51. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present. Councilwoman Crenshaw was absent during the vote.**

M. **Resolution #R186-08/09 - Appointment of Alternate Person to Perform Election Duties.** Attorney Nunn stated to Council that they should have before them Resolution #R186-08/09, concerning Appointing a Disinterested Person or an Alternate Person to Perform the Election Duties. Attorney Nunn further stated this is standard when the City has an election even though it is not required, and that the only time that it is required is when the Mayor is a candidate for an elected office. Attorney Nunn stated at this point in time this is a special election for the school board, but just to avoid any type of an appearance of the same, after he and the Mayor spoke about this, they are requesting the Council to appoint Mrs. Ivy Harrison, City Clerk, to perform the functions of getting the Voter's List from the Courthouse, and sub-dividing it by Wards, and performing other election duties. A motion was made by Councilwoman Newton, and seconded by Councilwoman Benjamin, to approve said Resolution #R186-08/09, Appointment of Alternate Person to Perform Election Duties. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present. Councilwoman Crenshaw was absent during the vote.**

N. **Check Signing Signatures.** Attorney Nunn stated to Council that they should have before them a copy of the minutes of October 27, 2003. Attorney Nunn further stated whenever the appointment is made for the City Clerk and/or the City Treasurer, it is also put in the resolution the bond amount, which is set at \$100,000.00 each. Attorney Nunn stated at about line 3 or 4 of the "Item D. Surety Bonds", of the minutes, Tate, Heinz, Ellis & Sexton via the bonding agent is requiring two signatures on all checks, and that this has been done since 2003. Attorney Nunn stated Ms. Lois Williams, former City Clerk, and Ms. Cynthia Mitchell, City Treasurer, names had both been placed on the checks, and the Council took a roll call vote on this in 2003 to allow the City Clerk and the City Treasurer to sign all checks. Attorney Nunn further stated at this point in time we do have a different City Clerk, and he is asking Council to take a vote and approve the new City Clerk's signature being placed on the checks. A motion was made by Councilman Bowie, and seconded by Councilman Tucker, to approve the new City Clerk's signature to be placed on the checks. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present. Councilman Williamson and Councilwoman Crenshaw were absent during the vote.**

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

I. **BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS**

President Allen stated to Council that they should all have received a copy of documentation as it

relates to review of possible options for Budget cuts. President Allen further stated to Council that they have heard from the Finance Department, and the request made from them, the Elite Check Program, and that she needs to hear from them as it relates to that Line Item, which is #1.6016 530-4. President Allen stated she has also received from Attorney Nunn, the Legal Department, his request for the WestLaw Library whereby he does all of his research of cases and opinions, in the amount of \$2,000.00 per month, Line Item #1.6004 129-0, and he is also requesting that his travel be cut down from \$3,800.00 to \$2,800.00, in an effort for him to continue receiving his CLE credit hours that are required of him in compliance with the State Bar. President Allen stated she has a request from the Mayor's office, and that the Mayor is correct in that she had already taken \$5,000 from the Special Projects, Line Item #1.6001 100-70, and he is requesting that the \$4,000.00 be placed back. President Allen further stated Mayor Evans is requesting that they allow him to have his vehicle allowance, Line Item #1.6001 104-6. President Allen asked Council to refer to the last page of the Possible Options for Budget Cuts, the Selma-Dallas County Inert Trashfill Travel, Training, Conferences, Line Item #6.6303 176-0, and that it was noted by the Finance Department that this does not affect General Fund Totals. President Allen stated she did not hear a statement about the \$35,000.00 Workman's Compensation, and asked Ms. Cynthia Mitchell to come forward and address the Council as it relates to this. During discussion, Ms. Mitchell stated the City received a bill from the Workman's Compensation whereby they did an audit about 30-60 days ago, and that for the last three years we have had a refund, but that this year they sent us an additional bill of \$35,000.00, and at this time we are in the process of disputing that bill. Mayor Evans addressed the Council and asked that they consider two items; Line Item #1.6000 0-112, Audit/Professional Services. Mayor Evans stated he has gone back and checked, and in the past we run approximately \$80,000.00 per year for audit, and with the new team, they have been here before and has charged as much as \$100,000.00 to perform the audit. Mayor Evans further stated that he feels that we will probably spend at least \$90,000.00 for the audit and that we should probably keep it at that to be on the safe side. Mayor Evans stated the other item he is asking Council to consider is, as it relates to Line Item #1.6115 100-10, Other/Professional Services (IT) that has been cut, and an estimate of \$745.00 is left in that line item. Mayor Evans further stated his concern on this is that IT basically has to provide for all of the departments in terms of supplies and equipment, and he is considering whether or not it can be cut in half, as opposed to all of it. President Allen asked if they put \$4,500.00 back in, would that be substantial, and Mayor Evans stated he felt it would.

President Allen asked Council for their consideration as to the budget line items mentioned above, along with taking action on the EliteCheck Suite.

1. Line Item #1.6016 530-4: A motion was made by Councilman Williamson, and seconded by Councilwoman Newton, to not take out the EliteCheck Suite (Finance Department). **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council members present. There were six affirmative votes and two nay votes. Councilwoman Benjamin and Councilman Randolph each cast a nay vote. Councilwoman Crenshaw was absent during the vote.**
2. Line Item #1.6001 100-70 - Special Projects (Mayor): A motion was made by Councilwoman Keith, and seconded by Councilwoman Benjamin, to take said Line Item #1.6001 100-70 out. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present. Councilwoman Crenshaw was absent during the vote.**
3. Line Item #1.6001 104-6 - Vehicle Allowance (Mayor): A motion was made by Councilwoman Newton, and seconded by Councilman Bowie, to take said Line Item #1.6001 104-6 out. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present. Councilwoman Crenshaw was absent during the vote.**
4. Line Item #1.6004 129-0 - Miscellaneous Expense (Legal Office): A motion was made by Councilwoman Keith, and seconded by Councilman Bowie, to take said Line Item #1.6004 129-0 out. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present. Councilwoman Crenshaw was absent during the vote.**
5. Line Item #1.6004 170-0 Travel, Training, Conferences (Legal Office): A motion was made by Councilman Randolph, and seconded by Councilman Tucker, to cut said Line Item #1.6004 170-0 down to \$2,800.00. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present. Councilwoman Crenshaw was absent during the vote.**
6. Line Item #1.6115 100-10 - Other/Professional Services (IT): A motion was made by Councilman Tucker, and seconded by Councilman Randolph, to cut said Line Item #1.6115 100-10 down to \$4,500.00. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present. Councilwoman Crenshaw was absent during the vote.**

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

President Allen asked if Council would take action on the other possible options for the budget cuts including what was stated previously about the freezing of all of the travel, monitoring of fuel use, along with a tracking system as it relates to gas, the gas cards, and the appropriation of the fuel that is being utilized. During discussion, President Allen stated that they would place a contingency on Line Item #1.6000 0-33 (General Government) – Lease Public Works/Parking Lot based upon the lease agreement. A motion was made by Councilman Williamson, and seconded by Councilman Tucker, to accept the possible options for budget cuts including the items that they have already discussed. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present. Councilwoman Crenshaw was absent during the vote.** President Allen stated the option for the Selma-Dallas County Public Library was a cut of 12.5%, which was discussed at the Work Session. President Allen further stated to Mayor Evans that these are the budget cuts, and that they, as Council, are asking the City Treasurer that the individuals who have these line items not go over what has been appropriated. President Allen stated she is asking the Treasurer to look closely at what is being spent, and when they get close to the near-end, they are asking the Treasurer to inform them when they are getting close. Mayor Evans stated to President Allen and the Council that it will be monitored based upon the financial request of the Council, and a monthly update will be given to the Council.

**II. ENVIRONMENTAL COURT**

Councilwoman Keith stated they had a very good meeting on yesterday, and that she was very delighted to learn that our Mayor is real supportive of this. Councilwoman Keith further stated that they have Officer Reginald Fitts who has been working in Litter Control and Environmental issues, and that Chief Riley is really supportive of this venture as well. Councilwoman Keith stated a written report will be forthcoming, but provided the Council with an overview, and stated that they are ready to move forward with this very quickly. Councilwoman Keith further stated that they are real ambitious, and that they have selected June 1<sup>st</sup> as their target date to begin implementing this Program.

**III. SELMA WATER WORKS & SEWER BOARD APPOINTMENT**

President Allen stated she did attend the last Selma Water Works & Sewer Board meeting, and was welcomed to the table by the Chairman, Reverend Goodwin. President Allen stated she was "seated" to her Chair on the Water Board.

**IV. NOISE ORDINANCE**

President Allen stated at the end of this month they will be given another Noise Ordinance Report as it relates to citations. President Allen further stated that they are asking for as many citations as possible to be given for those who violate the Noise Ordinance.

**V. CITY COUNCIL PHOTO**

Councilwoman Benjamin stated at the last Council meeting she volunteered to get estimates on what it would cost them to get a picture taken. Councilwoman Benjamin stated to Council that they should have before them an estimate from Neely's Photography, in the amount of \$125.00 for a 16 x 10, and that she had received an estimate via E-Mail from Mrs. Angelita Moore Simmons, in the amount of \$75.00 for a 16 x 20. President Allen stated that there was left an amount of \$1,000.00 in the Council's Special Projects Line Item, if they were considering taking the money out of that fund for the photo. A motion was made by Councilman Tucker, and seconded by Councilwoman Keith, to use \$1,000.00 out of the Council's Special Projects fund to purchase the Council photo, which will be taken along with Mayor Evans and City Attorney Jimmy Nunn. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present. Councilwoman Crenshaw was absent during the vote.**

**VI. BUSH HOG**

Councilman Williamson stated he had received a call from a constituent who actually works at Bush Hog who has been on furlough, and stated that he really could not find out anything, but wanted to know does anybody know if Bush Hog has completed all of their lay-offs? President Allen stated she has not heard anything, and Mayor Evans stated his understanding is that they had laid out a number of employees in preparation for a "buyer" possibly, and that there would probably not be any more at this time, as far as he knows.

**VII. POLICE JURISDICTION**

President Allen stated that this item is being tabled at this time.

**VIII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PROJECTS FOR THE STIMULUS PACKAGE**

Councilman Williamson stated that he had seen on the internet that a lot of cities had a lot of projects that they had turned in, maybe to the State and he asked Mayor Evans or if someone else knows, whether we have a list of some kind. Mayor Evans stated he does have a list, and will provide a copy of the Stimulus List of Projects to the Council. Mayor Evans further stated to President Allen that he would also be forwarding a copy of the list of all of the Boards, their appointment dates, and the dates their terms expire, to the Council as well.

**IX. APPOINTMENTS TO THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE**

President Allen stated she is placing Councilwoman Keith and Councilman Bowie onto the Children and Families Committee to assist Councilwoman Benjamin with said Committee.

**X. SELMA-DALLAS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY MONTHLY UTILITY BILL**

President Allen stated to Council, in the meeting that she and Councilman Bowie had with Ms. Becky Nichols, it was identified that the County is not going to pay any of the utilities so the Library stated to her that they have been paying the utilities and have exhausted a tremendous amount of money. President Allen further stated that they are asking if the Council can pay for February, April, June, and August. President Allen stated in our budget the Library already had a line item, and that she confirmed again this morning with Ms. Mitchell that there was a line item for utilities for the Library, and the amount of \$21,000.00 was appropriated for utilities. President Allen asked Council to take action on this request, and a motion was made by Councilwoman Keith, and seconded by Councilman Williamson, to pay the Library's utilities for the months of February, April, June, and August. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council members present. Councilwoman Crenshaw and Councilman Bowie were absent during the vote.**

**XI. BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Councilwoman Benjamin stated to Council that they have already been invited to attend the Black History Celebration on tomorrow at 5:00 p.m., at the Performing Arts Centre, and she hopes that they will come out and bring their families and children. Councilwoman Benjamin stated this is just a reminder to everyone, and all are encouraged to attend which will be a free event; there will be "good food, good fun, and good fellowship, so please come".

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**RECREATION COMMITTEE – Councilman Samuel Randolph, Chairman**

Councilman Randolph made a report.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE – Councilwoman Dr. Monica Newton, Chairperson**

No report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – Councilman Corey Bowie, Chairman**

No report.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – Councilwoman Angela Benjamin, Chairperson**

Councilwoman Benjamin made a report. Councilwoman Benjamin also reported on the recommendations which came from the Committee. A motion was made by Councilman Tucker, and seconded by Councilman Randolph, to accept said recommendations coming from the Community Development Committee. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council members present. Councilwoman Crenshaw was absent during the vote.**

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE – Councilman Benny Tucker, Chairperson**

No report.

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - Councilwoman Angela Benjamin, Chairperson**

No report.

**DISCRETIONARY FUNDS COMMITTEE – Council President Dr. Geraldine Allen, Chairperson**

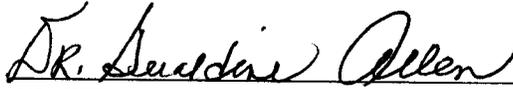
President Allen stated they have \$1,025.00 in discretionary funds that are going to be given to C.H.A.T. Academy, Jonathan Daniels CDC, and Church Street United Methodist Church (Parenting Group).

Mayor Evans addressed the Council and reminded them about the Jubilee which will be weekend after next (March 4 – 7, 2009), and that we will have a lot of visitors in our City; Tourism is very important. Mayor Evans further stated he is encouraging everyone to hopefully be supportive, as he is asking for all of the events held in our City. President Allen stated she "ditto" that of the Mayor, that we need to support the Jubilee; we need the sales tax dollars that it does bring into the City, and with all of the visitors that we do have, and that we, as a Council, welcome all of the visitors that will be coming for the Jubilee.

**CLOSING REMARKS BY EACH COUNCIL MEMBER.**

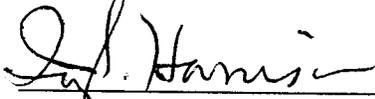
**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Councilman Williamson, and seconded by Councilwoman Benjamin, to adjourn, and by unanimous consent of the Council, this meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.



DR. GERALDINE ALLEN, *Council President*

**ATTEST:**



IVY S. HARRISON, *City Clerk*

**APPROVED:**



GEORGE PATRICK EVANS, *Mayor*