

MINUTES OF THE RECONVENED SELMA CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 29, 2007
2:00 P.M.

Call to Order

Invocation: Reverend Curtis Williams,
Pastor, John the Baptist Church

Roll Call

The Selma City Council met in a reconvened session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Friday, June 29, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. with the following members present during roll call: Council President George Evans and Council members Cecil Williamson, Reid Cain, Jean T. Martin, Geraldine Allen, Johnnie M. Leashore, and Bennie R. Crenshaw. Others present were Assistant City Clerk Ivy S. Harrison, City Attorney Jimmy Nunn, City Treasurer Cynthia Mitchell, and the Mayor's Executive Assistant Darlene Rudolph. Councilman Samuel Randolph was absent due to military leave, and Councilwoman Jannie Venter was absent due to medical leave.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

A. **4th of July - Holiday.** During discussion, Councilman Leashore stated, for the record, he knows, as being a State employee, that there have been many occasions when a residing Governor has extended several days beyond the actual holiday itself, so we would not be setting a precedence here, and would not be opening up Pandora's Box, and he thinks it is just something that we need to afford to our employees. President Evans stated he "spins off" of what Councilman Leashore states, and he is reminded that the State gets so many days off that we do not get, and it balances out to be the same probably. President Evans further stated he had spoken with Mr. Hicks about the trash situation, and he indicated that they could work it out, and he thinks we are in good shape to go with Wednesday, July 4th, and the two days afterwards for the holiday. A motion was made by Councilwoman Crenshaw, and seconded by Councilwoman Allen, to allow employees to take the 4th of July, July 5th and July 6th, to celebrate the 4th of July holiday. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council members present. There were five ayes, one nay vote and one abstention. Councilman Williamson cast a nay vote, and Councilman Cain abstained. President Evans stated, for the record, he had spoken with Ms. Cynthia Mitchell, City Treasurer, who stated the reports for payroll for the employees who get paid next week, need to be in to her office no later than 8:30 a.m., on Monday, July 2nd.

B. **St. James Hotel - Lease Agreement.** Ms. Charlotte Griffeth and Mrs. Patti Sexton addressed the Council, as it relates to the St. James Hotel. Mrs. Griffeth asked Mrs. Patti Sexton to come forward and read a statement from the Office of Planning and Development, in reference to the St. James Hotel Lease (copy attached). Mrs. Sexton's statement included authorization for the City Attorney to negotiate the lease from Gourmet Services, Incorporated, on the proposed lease of the St. James Hotel, for the total operation of the hotel, restaurant and bar facilities of the St. James Hotel to be brought back before the Council to affirm and ratify said lease, at the next regular Council meeting on July 9th. During discussion, Councilwoman Allen stated, for the record, "this is not a stalling tactic; this is business, and it is my responsibility to vote for this, and I want to do what is responsible". Councilwoman Allen further stated she has never, and she is sure the Office of Planning and Development would say, she has never tried to do anything but support them because they have done a great job but this is the responsibility of her as a public servant, and she is going to that. Councilwoman Allen stated she thinks Friday, if the lease agreement is given to her, she should be ready by Monday; "however, I'm going to say it was not a "stalling tactic"; it's business". Attorney Nunn stated he would work his holidays in an effort to have the Lease Agreement prepared by Friday. Councilwoman Allen stated there are no "concerns"; it is just getting the information. President Evans stated Attorney Nunn has cleared it up for them, and he will have a copy of the lease for them to review by Friday, so that on Monday, they can get all the questions out in the "air". Following discussion, Ms. Griffeth addressed the Council with an introduction of Mr. Nathaniel Goldston, CEO of Gourmet Services, Incorporated, and she would like for him to further introduce members of the staff who are present with him today.

Mr. Goldston addressed the Council to introduce himself and members of his staff who were present, to answer any questions that they may have about them, or their plans for the St. James Hotel. Mr. Goldston gave a brief summary of the plans for the St. James Hotel, stating it was one of the most beautiful pieces of property he has ever seen. Mr. Goldston further stated he hopes to have all of the renovations complete in the next 30-60 days, and hopes the Grand Opening would be sometime in Mid-September.

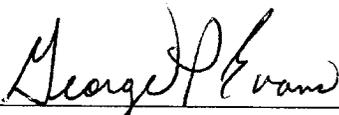
Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Cain, and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw, to proceed with negotiation of the lease of the St. James Hotel Operation, including the restaurant and bar with Gourmet Services, Incorporated, and bring it back to the Council to affirm and ratify the said lease. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present.**

C. **Liquor License Applications.** Attorney Nunn stated this is the liquor license application that we did not have a sign to place at his business by the last Council meeting, but a sign has been placed there now, and the Council decided that they would take action at this reconvened meeting on said liquor license application:

Brother's Convenient Store (Franks Cougar) 906 Washington Street - Mr. Bobby Wilkerson. President Evans stated it is his recommendation that the Council would go ahead and approve said liquor license application with the contingency upon no one coming before this Council before next meeting, and being in opposition to it. A motion was made by Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilwoman Martin, to approve said liquor license application, pending no public outcry at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting on Monday, July 9th. **A roll call was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council members present. There were 6 ayes and 1 nay vote. Councilman Williamson cast a nay vote.**

ADJOURNMENT

Following the above discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilwoman Martin, to adjourn the meeting at 3:14 p.m., and by unanimous consent of the Council.



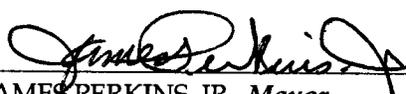
GEORGE P. EVANS, *Council President*

ATTEST:



LOIS WILLIAMS, *City Clerk*

APPROVED:



JAMES PERKINS, JR., *Mayor*