

MINUTES OF THE
RECONVENED SELMA CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 4, 2008
11:00 A.M.

Call to Order

Invocation: Councilman Cecil Williamson

The Selma City Council met in a reconvened session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Tuesday, February 18, 2008 at 8:00 a.m.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Martin and seconded by Councilwoman Venter to reconvene the council meeting adjourned on Monday, February 25, 2008, to certify the results of the Bond Election. **The motion carried with a unanimous (show of hands) vote of the Council members present.**

The following members were present: Council President George Evans and Council members Cecil Williamson, Reid Cain, Jean T. Martin, Geraldine Allen, Johnnie M. Leashore, Bennie R. Crenshaw and Jannie M. Venter. Others present were City Clerk Lois Williams and City Attorney Jimmy Nunn.

President Evans asked if an agenda item could also be added to discuss the rescheduling of the next Council meeting. A motion was made by Councilwoman Martin and seconded by Councilman Cain to add this item to the agenda. **The motion carried with a unanimous (show of hands) vote of the Council members present.**

BUSINESS ITEMS:

I. RESOLUTION-FORMER COUNCIL MEMBER BILL KING

During discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Leashore and seconded by Councilwoman Martin to prepare a resolution to be presented to the King family for the memorial services of former Council member Bill King. **The motion carried with a unanimous (show of hands) vote of Council members present.**

II. RESOLUTION #R174-07/08-CERTIFICATION OF BOND ELECTION

Attorney Nunn stated that the Council has been given a copy of the resolution #R174-07/08 to canvass and declare the results of a Special Municipal Election held in the City of Selma on Tuesday, February 26, 2008. Attorney Nunn stated that there are some blanks that need to be filled in after City Clerk Lois Williams addresses the parts she has to discuss regarding the provisional ballots. Attorney Nunn read excerpts of said resolution. City Clerk Lois Williams addressed the Council stating that the results of the election were announced on election night and verified the following day, and that President Evans was also given the Council's (Canvassing Board) envelop to verify the results as well. Ms. Williams stated that as a formality of provisional voting, a letter has been presented to the City of Selma from the Board of Registrars Office certifying that 15 provisional ballots were accepted and 11 were rejected. Ms. Williams further stated that she would now open the sealed envelopes, in the presence of the City Council, which contains the ballots to be counted for provisional voting. Ms. Williams read aloud each provisional ballot result and forwarded each ballot to the City Council for canvassing. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Crenshaw and seconded by Councilman Leashore to approve the said resolution certifying the results of the Special Municipal Election held on February 26, 2008. **The motion carried with a unanimous (show of hands) vote of the Council.**

Precinct No.	Name of Precinct	Votes For	Votes Against	Total Votes
1-W	Old Nat'l Guard Armory	48	453	501
1-E	Memorial Stadium	23	376	399
2-N	Old KFC	88	41	129
2-S	Cahaba Road Fire Station	65	282	347
3-N	Byrd School	91	244	335
3-S	Dallas County Courthouse	54	95	149
4-W	Woodrow Avenue Fire Station	143	107	250
4-E	Selma Mall	100	42	142
5-W	Selma High School	92	49	141
5-E	Rangedale Community Center	130	30	160
6-W	Northern Heights Pres. Church	118	20	138
6-E	Ford's Grocery	138	39	177
7-N	Queen of Peace	148	109	257
7-S	West Trinity Baptist Church	125	27	152
8-W	GWC-Carver Community Center	75	30	105
8-E	East End Fire Station	149	46	195
	Absentee	19	19	38
	Provisional Ballots	14	1	15
	Totals	1620	2010	3630

III. RATIFY ADDITIONAL PAY FOR POLL OFFICIALS

Attorney Nunn stated that a vote is also needed to ratify the additional pay for poll officials as a result of the one-hour extension of the hours of the polling places. A motion was made by Councilman Leashore and seconded by Councilwoman Martin to ratify the additional pay for poll officials from \$73.00 to \$100.00. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

IV. VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FOR CITY CLERK LOIS WILLIAMS

Following a statement read by City Clerk Lois Williams and discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Leashore and seconded by Councilwoman Crenshaw to provide a "vote of confidence" for City Clerk Lois Williams for the job she does as Municipal Clerk. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council members present and voting. There were three affirmative votes, one nay vote and three abstentions. Councilman Williamson cast a nay vote. President Evans, Councilwoman Martin and Councilwoman Allen abstained from voting at this time. Councilman Cain was absent from the chambers when this vote was taken and Councilman Randolph was absent from the meeting.**

The comments commenced as follows: "Thank you, President Evans and the City Council for this opportunity to speak, and I want to also take this opportunity to thank the Council for my appointment as Municipal Clerk...in doing so, I trust that your vote meant that you are confident in my ability to do the job at hand.

But since my name was called last week with such bludgeon regarding some issues surrounding the Bond Election, I felt the need to address the Council on my own behalf, as I am very capable of speaking for myself. I am neither ignorant nor uneducated, and I am fully aware that some circumstances were very much beyond my control, in one particular case, as Mayor Perkins stated: it was an "act of God."

Mayor Perkins did a very good job of making sure the media was informed of what happened during that morning and I appreciate him for doing so.

As Municipal Clerk, as a Certified Municipal Clerk, I took a personal and professional Oath of Office to uphold the Code of Ethics which requires me to, among a few, uphold constitutional government and the laws of my community; and to strive constantly to improve the administration of the affairs of my office consistent with applicable laws and through sound management practices to produce continued progress and to fulfill my responsibilities to my community and others.

Having said that...with all due respect to this Council...I just want to say, especially to Dr. Williamson, to please be mindful that when you say things to discredit me, that I do have a mother, a father, a daughter, sisters and brothers, other family members and many friends who care very much about what is said about me, and they *know* how hard I work to represent my position. I was told that Dr. Williamson stated on the radio that he has five votes of the Council to strip me of the duty as Elections Manager, so to me that mean that there are others on the Council who feel the way he does. I am not frightened, neither am I intimidated or threatened, for my job, nor am I going to cease doing what I know to be the right thing to do and I will continue to perform my job to the best of my ability.

I received numerous comments and calls from citizens, family and friends who expressed their concern and support for me, and I *did not* receive, not even, one call from anyone with disrespect to me or my position. Not saying that there wasn't anyone who feels like Dr. Williamson, but I cannot control what is said behind my back, I cannot control what is said—period-- I can only pray that the persons, who do follow Dr. Williamson and disrespect the "position", would stop and think about it and do what he/she expects to be done to them in return and to them...I say "God Bless You."

Further, after carefully examining the duties of elections in the elections manual for municipalities, it should be noted that about 70 percent of what is performed by me...is performed as the Municipal Clerk...and not as the Elections Manager. While it *is* the duty of the Council to appoint a "qualified person" to perform the election duties which are normally that of the Mayor, "when he is a candidate", *I* do not intend on relinquishing any duty that has been prescribed upon me as Municipal Clerk during my appointment. I stand before this Council to assure you that I will continue to try to do my job to the best of my ability, and I would appreciate it if the Council would give the "position" the same *"respect"* of doing so.

I do acknowledge that some members of the Council may want to strip me of my duties for many of the same reasons you oppose most other issues surrounding Mayor Perkins, whom *I* feel does a great job to insure a better quality of living for all citizens of Selma, and I stand here proud to be a part of this team.

IV. VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FOR CITY CLERK LOIS WILLIAMS (cont.)

I *do not* stand before you to make any excuses or to place blame. Yes it was unfortunate that some problems arose during the election and some will probably arise in other elections, but just know that diligent efforts were made to avoid them and to correct them, and the same efforts will continue to be made in the future to make the election process as smooth as possible.

I'd like to thank the Municipal Clerk's Office staff, who worked very hard, and other employees, the polling officials who did show up, and all who helped during the election. We work as a team and we will continue to do so.

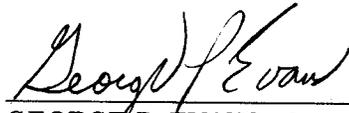
Please know that I mean no disrespect to any member of this Council, but these are some things I felt needed to be said...by me...at this time, and again, thank you for your support and thank you for the opportunity to speak."

V. RESCHEDULE OF THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

A motion was made by Councilman Leashore and seconded by Councilwoman Martin to reschedule the next regular Council meeting on March 17, 2008 due to a majority of the Council attending NLC Conference in Washington, DC. The motion carried with a unanimous (show of hands) vote of the Council members present.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilwoman Martin, to adjourn, and by unanimous consent of the Council, this meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.



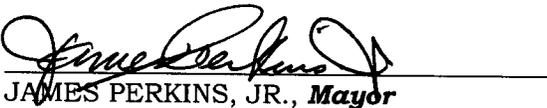
GEORGE P. EVANS, *Council President*

ATTEST:



LOIS WILLIAMS, *City Clerk*

APPROVED:



JAMES PERKINS, JR., *Mayor*