

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

Call to Order

Invocation: Reverend Glenn King, Sr., Pastor  
Grace Baptist Temple Church and New College Hill A.M.E. Zion Church

Pledge of Allegiance

The Selma City Council met in a regular session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Monday, March 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 Susan Keith, Angela Benjamin, Samuel Randolph, 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 Williamson was absent during roll call, but arrived at 5:46 p.m. Councilwoman Dr. Morica Newton was absent due to death in her family. Condolences were extended to Councilwoman Dr. Newton and her family.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**CITIZENS' REQUESTS**

Ms. Millie Dulaney  
Re: Good Samaritan Hospital Building

Mrs. Fran Pierce (*ArtsRevive*)  
Re: Landfill Tipping Fee

During the presentation, a motion was made by Councilwoman Keith, and seconded by Councilman Tucker, to waive the landfill tipping fees for the Carneal Building Renovation Project for ArtsRevive, in the amount of \$8.00 per cubic yard. During discussion, Councilwoman Crenshaw stated the Council needs to look into asking that any person moving to the downtown Business area of Selma progressively, that their fees would also be waived. President Allen stated that she concurs with Councilwoman Crenshaw, and that she will ask Attorney Nunn to look into this and come up with something as it relates to this for the Council. Councilwoman Crenshaw amended the motion, with the understanding that the Council will be putting something together to formulate every individual that comes before the Council asking to waive the tipping fees, that the individual will be upgrading and progressively improving the downtown Business area of Selma, and that they will have something in place in order to move forward with that. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

Mr. (Coach) Woodie Jackson (*Selma High School*)  
Re: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Butterflies and Bridges Run"-Walk - May 16, 2009, 7:00 a.m. (4 Mile Run)

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

A. **Length of Service Recognition Award.** Mayor Evans stated the Department of Health and Human Services for Children and Families is asking the Council to be supportive of a Proclamation, declaring the month of April, 2009, as *Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Month* in our Community, and to urge all Citizens and their Families to reflect on the importance of Family in our Communities. Following the reading of the Proclamation in its entirety by Mayor Evans, a motion was made by Councilman Randolph, and seconded by Councilman Bowie, to approve proclaiming the month of April, 2009, as *Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Month* in our Community. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

B. City's Website Revision - Completion of Phase I. Mayor Evans stated to Council that they should each have a copy of the Website Revision update. Mayor Evans further stated to Council that if they have any Website revisions and updates, that they should at this time be forwarded to Ms. B. J. Smothers, the Mayor's Executive Assistant. Mayor Evans stated he would like for the Council to look over the updates and revisions that have already been made to the Website, and if there are any questions or concerns, to bring those to either he or Ms. Smothers, and that they will continue to work to improve the Website.

C. Legal Matters - Missing Cars and Monies, Re. Drug Cases. Mayor Evans stated to Council that he forwarded to Council a letter and information pertaining to all of the dynamics of the Court case addressing the two (2) cars that are missing that were in the Police Department's custody, as it relates to a drug "bust", as well as, monies misplaced and unaccounted for, which actually took place in 2006. Mayor Evans further stated he does recall when he was on the Council that there was a lot of discussion about the money missing from the safe at the Police Department that was never found nor recovered. Mayor Evans stated at this point in time the City of Selma's Police Department has to come up with \$8,600.00 to pay the two (2) individuals whose cars were confiscated during that time, and no longer can be found, at a rate of \$2,500.00 per car, and \$3,600.00 for Attorney Fees that Judge Tommy Jones has ruled that the City of Selma must do, or else some other penalties will be levied against us as a City. Mayor Evans further stated he has met with every individual that he knows of, that has had some involvement with this matter during that time. Chief Martin and Sgt. Samuel Miller were asked to come forward to address the Council as it relates to questions surrounding this matter, and an overview of how drug condemnations are handled. Chief Riley was also asked to come forward to address the Council as it relates to the investigation of this matter being handled via the Attorney General's office, along with a status of the investigation as of now. During discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Crenshaw, and seconded by Councilman Bowie, to accept the recommendation coming from Mayor Evans, to pay the two (2) individuals whose cars were confiscated during the drug "bust" that can no longer be found, at a rate of \$2,500.00 per car, totaling \$5,000.00, along with the Attorney's Fees in the amount of \$3,600.00, for a grand total amount of \$8,600.00, to be paid out of line items of the Police Department's Drug Fund, #1.6100 122-0 and #1.6100 146-8. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council members present. There were seven affirmative votes and one nay vote. Councilman Williamson cast a nay vote.** Mayor Evans was asked by President Allen and the Council, to bring back a Summary Report to the Council as it relates to this matter.

D. Landfill Project - Update. Mayor Evans stated to Council that at the last Council meeting several Council members were concerned about the Landfill as it relates to the Landfill on Jeff Davis Avenue, and the new Landfill that is going to be behind the All-Lock Facility, now known as the Public Works Department. Mayor Evans further stated we have until November 1, 2009, to close the Landfill down, and be ready to move into the new Landfill, on November 2, 2009. Mayor Evans asked Mrs. Debra Love, who is not under contract with us but works with the Brownfields Project and the Grants, to come forward and address the Council with an update, as it relates to the Landfill. Mrs. Love gave a report, and stated her contract ended on September 30, 2008, as it relates to the Landfill but that prior to that all of the paperwork was submitted to A.D.E.M. to get the new Landfill Permitted, and the City of Selma has received a draft copy of that Permit. Mrs. Love further stated everything that is needed as far as Permitting for the new Landfill has been concluded. Mrs. Love stated an estimate of the cost for the Landfill, as it relates to clearing and the roads, and etc. will be \$162,792.00, and also the sediment pond, and the other parts that go along with the Landfill would take that total cost up to \$366,605.00. Mrs. Love further stated that A.D.E.M. gave a verbal report that the Jeff Davis Landfill would not be permitted to accept any material after November 1, 2009, so they have until that time to get their new Landfill constructed.

E. Stimulus Package - Update. Mayor Evans stated to Council that we did submit a package to the Stimulus Program, and at this point we have not gotten any feedback from it. Mrs. Love was asked to come forward to give an update as it relates to possibilities that the Landfill Project may receive from the Stimulus Package.

#### CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

A. Condemnation Cases. Attorney Nunn stated to Council that he wanted to bring clarification to the issue as it relates to the City Attorney's office, and condemnations. Attorney Nunn further stated the City Attorney's office does not handle condemnations, and do not go to Court and argue condemnations. Attorney Nunn stated to Council that they should have a copy before them of a Supreme Court case that he has presented to them, for information and reference as it relates to not having authority, jurisdiction, and does not have standing, and also that it shall be duty of the District Attorney in the County or the Attorney General of the State to institute or cause to be instituted a condemnation proceeding. Attorney Nunn stated we do not have jurisdiction as a City to handle condemnations, and that they have to go to the District Attorney's office.

**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

**B. Resolution #R193-08/09 - Election Officials.** Attorney Nunn stated to Council that they should have before them a copy of Resolution #R193-08/09, which represents Election Officials for the Special Election to be held on Tuesday, April 28, 2009. Attorney Nunn further stated that said Resolution should also reflect the changes for Councilwoman Benjamin, Ward 4, and Councilman Bowie, Ward 8. Attorney Nunn further stated that Councilwoman Newton also submitted names, but we do not have the addresses for the same. A motion was made by Councilman Williamson, and seconded by Councilman Randolph, to approve said Resolution #R193-08/09, naming the Election Officials in the Special Election, set for April 28, 2009. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

**C. Election - Update.** Attorney Nunn stated, per the City Clerk, the applications for Absentee Ballots started today, March 24<sup>th</sup>, for the Special Election, and will continue through Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Attorney Nunn further stated the "QA"s which he passed out at the last Council meeting are being revised with additions. Attorney Nunn stated he had spoken with Dr. Obasahon, and that there is a School Board meeting scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup>, and that he will be taking the "QA"s over to the meeting in the event there are any questions that they may have. Attorney Nunn further stated to Council that if they have any additions to add to please inform him, in an effort to get the notice out about the Special Election on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Attorney Nunn stated that the City Clerk has placed a "Sample" Ballot downstairs, along with the voting machine in the Lobby of City Hall, and the Absentee Election Site has been set up in the Office of the City Clerk, with the Absentee Ballot Box placed inside of the City Clerk's office, as well.

**D. Election Officials' Pay.** Attorney Nunn stated to Council that they should have a copy of a resolution in front of them which was used in the Municipal Election, August of 2008. Attorney Nunn further stated after the Special Bond Election, they had to seek permission from the Justice Department to stay open for an additional hour during the Special Bond Election in February of 2008. Attorney Nunn stated they ratified paying the officials from \$73.00 to \$100.00, and then during the Council meeting of August 11<sup>th</sup>, the Council increased the pay of Election Officials to \$100.00. Attorney Nunn asked Council's decision as to whether they want to keep it at the \$100.00, or what is their discretion as it relates to this matter. A motion was made by Councilman Randolph, and seconded by Councilman Bowie, to keep it at the same rate of \$100.00 for the Elected Officials' Pay. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council members present.

**E. Resolution #R188-08/09 - Public Buildings' Fees.** Attorney Nunn stated that Resolution #R188-08/09, sponsored by Councilman Bowie, is a resolution establishing fees for the public use of the Carl C. Morgan Convention Center, Larry Striplin Performing Arts Center, Vaughan Smitherman Museum, and the Dallas Academy. Attorney Nunn further stated if Council recalls, at the last Council meeting, there were several revisions to be made to it, and it was stated that the Council would take it and review for any necessary changes and/or revisions. Attorney Nunn stated said Resolution #R188-08/09 is being brought before Council tonight, for consideration. A motion was made by Councilman Bowie, and seconded by Councilman Tucker, to approve Resolution #R188-08/09, establishing fees for the public use of the Carl C. Morgan Convention Center, Larry Striplin Performing Arts Center, Vaughan Smitherman, and the Dallas Academy, with an effective date of June 1, 2009. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council members present. There were seven affirmative votes and one nay vote. Councilwoman Crenshaw cast a nay vote.

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

**I. INERT TRASHFILL**

This item is tabled.

**II. BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE**

This item is tabled.

**III. SAFE ROUTE-TO-SCHOOL**

This item is tabled.

**IV. ADVERTISEMENT ON PUBLIC EASEMENT**

This item is tabled.

V. FY 2008-2009 CITY BUDGET

Councilman Williamson asked if the Council had adopted a complete Budget for the 2008/2009 FY, and President Allen responded and stated that they had adopted a complete Budget with the Amendments. President Allen asked Ms. Mitchell to provide the Council with a copy of a complete Budget, with the Amendments.

VI. FY 2008-2009 CITY AUDIT

Councilman Williamson asked Mayor Evans about the status of the City's Audit. Mayor Evans addressed the Council and stated the City's Audit has to be complete by May 31<sup>st</sup>, and even though they started late, they are working diligently everyday and are on "target". Mayor Evans further stated he is still waiting on Mr. Ron Jones as to the status of the independent Audit from the State. Mayor Evans stated that he is hopeful that they will give us a "draft" of the City's Audit in April, in an effort for it to be approved by May 31<sup>st</sup>.

VII. GOOD SAMARITAN BUILDING

President Allen stated for the benefit of Councilman Williamson's absence at the time, that a Citizen, Ms. Millie Dulaney, brought a presentation to the Council that the Good Samaritan Building possibly could be identified as a Historic Building, and that the Council has placed that in the "hands" of the Community Development Department, with the assistance of the Community Development Committee of our City. Councilman Williamson stated that what the Council decided is fine with him. During discussion, Councilwoman Crenshaw asked what is the cost and data as it relates to the Smitherman Building, and the other Public Buildings as it relates to operating expenses, tourist information, and etc. Councilman Williamson stated Councilwoman Crenshaw asked a valid question, and stated he would like to know if the City would be interested in selling the Smitherman Building? President Allen asked Mayor Evans if he could research this, and bring back a report to the Council at the next Council meeting. Mayor Evans stated the electricity has been turned off at the Good Samaritan Building, and that he would bring all the information to report back at the next Council meeting.

VIII. DR. GERALDINE ALLEN'S LEGAL BILLS

Councilman Bowie stated he would like to make a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Tucker, to pay Dr. Geraldine Allen's legal bills as it relates to the Water Board. President Allen stated it has been motioned and seconded, and that she is passing the gavel to Councilwoman Benjamin. President Allen further stated as requested by the Council, she has given them copies of the bills submitted from 2007 up until 2009, and that the Court did dissolve the injunction. President Allen stated she has also given the Council a copy of the Agreement that was identified through the *Water Works vs. Allen and Randolph case*, which includes the injunction being dissolved immediately, and that she be allowed to serve on the Board, and be compensated for the meetings attended, all starting in January, 2009, when the Chairman asked her to be seated. President Allen further stated she abstained from any and all further issues regarding this case at the Water Board meeting that they just had, and that Mr. Samuel Randolph agreed to a sum of \$3,000.00 to resolve any issues or claims he may have or want to raise, and that she had no interest in this decision. President Allen stated in #5, that all parties agree that the above will resolve any and all claims regarding this case, and #6, that this is subject to affirmative approval of the Board, and that was only for #s 2, 3, and 5. President Allen further stated she has included a copy of the Ethics Commission's Report, and has highlighted the points under the Ethics Law, made by Mr. Hugh Evans stating, "...as there is no compensation, there is no personal gain, and therefore, no violation of the law", and further, "...I told her that she could not accept any type of compensation or reimbursement for her service on the Water Board, being that she voted for herself, and that she should notify all interested parties in writing of that decision, including, but not limited to, the Water Board members, Counsel for the Water Board, the Superintendent, etc., so that it was on the record that she was not accepting compensation." President Allen stated she did the "due diligence" and still was prevented from taking her rightful seat on the Board. President Allen further stated as it relates to the injunction that was given on February 16, 2007, it was immediately dissolved, *Done* on the 17<sup>th</sup> Day of March, 2009, and she has been functioning on the Water Board. Councilwoman Crenshaw stated, for the record, "first of all, let's get everything in order here as to how this really happened. On the vote that was taken to place Dr. Allen on the Board, there was a 3-4 vote, and by State Law you needed 5 votes; she voted for herself. Once she voted for herself, that was supposed to be a rollover from Mr. Randolph who was already serving; that never happened. Mr. Randolph was kept from the Board for 2 years. The lawsuit filed went all the way to the Supreme Court, and the Supreme Court put it back in the hands of Judge Jones to make a ruling on the rightful person who is to serve. At that time, an Injunction was put against both people; Mr. Randolph stayed away, Dr. Allen continued even though the Injunction was in effect. The Injunction just was lifted which means that every meeting she attended, and every vote she took was putting the Water Board's integrity in jeopardy because of those votes. Just as she voted for herself to make it 5 votes, she also decided that she would break the Injunction by attending the meetings. And if you would look at that, the Judge just ruled on relieving the Injunction which means that every meeting she attended was illegal. At the very last meeting when the Judge agreed with this, that we would go into an

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

agreement it stated #3 that Dr. Allen would abstain from any and all issues. Dr. Allen serving, giving the gavel at the last meeting, called for the vote to accept the agreement, which states in #3 that she was to abstain from any and all issues but when the gavel was passed to her she called for the vote on a lawsuit that was filed against her. So we have 3 issues here; first, you vote for yourself which is a violation, and Hugh Evans in no way can give a ruling from the Ethics Commission; he only gave his opinion. There was no ruling from the Ethics Commission as to whether she should've voted for herself which there is a law that you cannot vote yourself a salary, and at the time she voted, a salary was attached to the vote. So, that was a violation; then she violates the Injunction, then she comes over on the last meeting, and handled the vote of the agreement that was given to us by the Judge to sign. She 'chaired' the meeting and it's stated emphatically that Dr. Allen will abstain from any and further issues regarding this case. So, I just want to put that forward and I'm putting it forward really because I think the people need to know the real issues because first of all the Council has been looked at as if you would allow a person to vote for themselves and still put them back on the Water Board. The question of the integrity of the Council can become a question. We could've at least waited until the Judge ruled before she attended any meetings. We did not even do that; you all insisted that she attend meetings to even violate an Injunction. So, I would say, yes you stated it exactly; she stated hers; I have the facts of all of what I've stated, even in the minutes of the Water Board, so if anybody wants to see those. But I do think it's a travesty, that we would not go by the law. The only reason we did not attend meetings at the Water Board was because we (Mrs. Vick and I) would've been in violation, also. We were not doing it against Dr. Allen but we would've also been in violation if she had attended the meetings that said she was 'injunctioned' from. So, yes, we stayed away, not to protest her but to not be in violation ourselves and we did not want to put the integrity of the Water Board in jeopardy; that was the only reason, and yes, Mr. Randolph should be one of the ones to also receive and if you're going to pay Dr. Allen's based upon all the breaking of the laws, then I would like to amend the motion to include Mr. Randolph's fees to be paid, also." An amended motion was made by Councilwoman Crenshaw, that if President Allen's legal fees are to be paid, that they also pay the legal fees of Mr. Samuel Randolph, who also suffered damages by this situation. The amended motion failed for lack of a second. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a majority vote of the Council members present. There were five affirmative votes, one nay vote, and two abstentions. Councilwoman Crenshaw cast a nay vote. President Allen and Councilman Randolph abstained from voting. During roll call, Councilman Randolph stated he would like to state, for the record, that the Council is practicing "double standards".

**IX. SOLICITATION ON CITY'S RIGHT-OF-WAY**

Councilman Bowie stated this issue was just for informational purposes, and that it had been dealt with at the last Council meeting.

**X. ENVIRONMENTAL COURT**

Councilwoman Keith stated there is no report on this item at this time.

**XI. NOISE ORDINANCE**

President Allen stated the Council has not received another report yet. Councilman Bowie made a report and stated he had spoken with Mr. George Henry of WDXX and WJBB, about the PSA's, and he stated that the Council and Mayor can get with him beginning next week. Councilman Bowie further stated he would be getting back with the Council as to the time. Councilman Williamson stated he is still receiving complaints about noise, and asked Mayor Evans if he would speak with Chief Riley to ascertain what they are doing about the noise, particularly in Ward 8, and if he would follow-up and advise him that they are doing something. Mayor Evans stated to Council and Citizens, and that this question is being raised with Chief Riley, and that they are in dialogue presently about this matter, with a plan to address it, that they are working on this matter, and hopefully by the next Council meeting he will be able to present them with a Memorandum as it relates to this issue.

**XII. POLICE JURISDICTION**

President Allen asked Chief Riley to come forward and address the Council as it relates to this matter. Chief Riley addressed the Council as it relates to issues surrounding Police Jurisdiction, in terms of what can be dealt with, and what can not. It was the concurrence of President Allen and the Council, to place this matter in the "hands" of the Public Safety Committee, and ask them to come back with a recommendation as it relates to this issue.

**XIII. SPEED BREAKERS ON L. L. ANDERSON AVENUE**

President Allen asked Chief Riley if he would come forward and address the Council as it relates to the Speed Breakers on L. L. Anderson Avenue. Chief Riley stated he asked the Traffic Sergeant to go to this particular area, and provide an assessment back to him as to the "Pros" and "Cons" of Speed Breakers within that particular area, and that there were several issues to come to mind as a result of the assessment. (Please

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

see attached Memorandum.) Chief Riley stated it is the recommendation of the Police Department, to place a 3-Way Stop Sign at Legrande and L. L. Anderson, and a 4-Way Stop Sign at Maxey and L. L. Anderson to look at, as options for speed breakers on L. L. Anderson Avenue in that area, at this time. President Allen stated according to the procedures the Council adopted for the installation of Speed Breakers, the next step would be for this to go into the "hands" of the Public Safety Committee, and then they would come back with a recommendation to the Council.

**XIV. ORIENTATION OF COUNCIL**

President Allen stated she received a call today from Ms. Alise Sommerville and the Alabama Power Company, stating that they would like to supply an Orientation for the Council if they are in agreement, on this Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, at the St. James Hotel, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., for them to speak on "Team Building" and "Conflict Resolution" which will include a dinner, and from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m., there will be an Orientation related to the City Council, and the functioning of the City Council, free of charge to them. A motion was made by Councilwoman Keith, and seconded by Councilman Tucker, to accept the offer made to them by Ms. Alise Sommerville and the Alabama Power Company. **The motion passed with a majority (show of hands) vote of the Council members present. Councilwoman Crenshaw cast a nay vote, stating she would not be able to be there on that night.**

**XV. CONCORDIA COLLEGE**

Councilwoman Benjamin stated she has a discretionary fund request form from Concordia College asking for scholarship assistance for its students in the amount of \$500.00. Councilwoman Benjamin appealed to the Council to give to Concordia College, Scholarship Fund, for the students. President Allen stated she does have the Discretionary Fund request form, and will pass around so that they can give generously to Concordia College.

**XVI. CAREERSTART PROGRAM**

Councilwoman Benjamin made a report and stated a representative from Walt Disney was in town on last week, introducing us to the *Career*START Program, which runs for 4 months, between August 26<sup>th</sup> through January 8<sup>th</sup>, which is similar to an internship for students (high school graduates and GED recipients), who will be paid to come down to Walt Disney for a job opportunity there. Councilwoman Benjamin further stated for students interested in attending college, Walt Disney will pay for 2 courses. Councilwoman Benjamin stated there is a \$100.00 application fee, and she is asking Council consideration to sponsor at least one (1) student, in the amount of \$200.34 for the traveling expenses, plus the \$100.00 application fee, in the total amount of \$300.34.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilman Randolph made a Report, and stated during a Conference Call, the Recreation Committee made a recommendation to him that they take down the goals at Ronnie Sharpe Park until the City can provide supervision at that Park. Therefore, a motion was made by Councilman Randolph, and seconded by Councilman Tucker, that the goals at Ronnie Sharpe Park be taken down until the City can provide the necessary security for that Park. Mayor Evans stated he had spoken with Coach Reece as it relates to this matter, and the goals have been removed as of this morning at Ronnie Sharpe Park. During discussion, Councilman Randolph amended his motion, and the second by Councilman Tucker, to include any and all other problems related to the same, that the goals be removed in those instances as well. **The motion passed with a unanimous (show of hands) vote of the Council members present.**

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

No report.

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

No report.

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

No report.

DISCRETIONARY COMMITTEE - President Geraldine Allen, Chairperson

President Allen reported, in addition to the request made by Concordia College in the amount of \$500.00, she is in receipt of an additional request from Mrs. Latressa Woods, Selma High School Choir, to assist with the cost of their Concert Tour.

President Allen stated she is also in receipt of a letter in reference to "National Day of Prayer", to reserve the Council Chambers for the Community on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., in Observance of "National Day of Prayer". President Allen further stated said request is also made in addition to, a banner being placed on the front of City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, approximately the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, which will be removed and placed in the Council Chambers on May 7<sup>th</sup>. President Allen further stated it is their intent to get permission from the Mayor, Council President, and Council to recognize them at their Prayer Breakfast, at the Convention Center, starting at 6:45 a.m., and that this request is coming from Dr. Park Chittom. A motion was made by Councilwoman Keith, and seconded by Councilman Bowie, to approve for the "National Day of Prayer" Observance, to allow the Council Chambers to be reserved for May 7, 2009, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., and also for participation for the Mayor and Council Members at the Convention Center, Prayer Breakfast, which starts at 6:45 a.m. The motion passed with a unanimous (show of hands) vote of the Council members present.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - Councilwoman Angela Benjamin, Chairperson

Councilwoman Benjamin made a report.

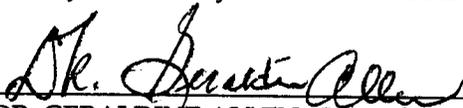
**CLOSING REMARKS BY EACH COUNCIL MEMBER.**

Councilwoman Crenshaw made comments, and requested that they be made a part of the record: Councilwoman Crenshaw stated she thinks a couple of mistakes have been made, and that the citizens of Selma need to be cognizant of what is going on basically with their tax dollars. "First of all, in terms of legal fees we had a Council person off City time assault a Police Officer and the legal fees were paid for that person. Now, they have a person that first of all voted for herself, and violated an injunction, and then violated the court agreement, and then they want to pay with their tax dollars; the Council has no regard for the law. I think the citizens should be very cognizant of that kind of behavior dealing with the Council, and I think the media plays a large role in a lot of things that the citizens are not getting, in that the media a lot of times will only give one side, and most times it's against the side that they choose not to deal with but I'm thinking that they should also make them accountable every day. I think that they need to, as a City, be cognizant of the amount of monies that are being spent when people have been laid off and fired; when we're talking about approximately more than \$20,000.00, that's a job for people who decided to handle things in the way that they wanted to do, and I think the Council should be held accountable. On Thursday, the Youth Ambassadors will be holding "Youth-In-Government Day", and I am hoping for a great turnout, and I want to thank the parents for all that they do for these children, and all of the support that they give me. Mayor, if you are available, I would like for you to give the "Welcome". This ends my statement."

President Allen requested that her comments be made a part of the record: "I would like to say to the Citizens of Selma, first of all, thank you for being active in Municipal Government, either in our Chambers or by Radio. I think it is very important that our Citizens do that. I would also like to say to our Citizens this was a 2-year litigation that did not have to occur with the Water Board. Since 2007, it has been just a frivolous case that has gone on when I as an individual would not have even taken a salary to be on that Water Board, and there would have been zero to have given. The Water Board has already spent over \$25,000.00 in legal fees; \$10,000.00 to one Lawyer, \$12,000.00 to another Lawyer, then \$3,000.00 to Mr. Randolph on a case that would not have even been there had I been allowed to just be on that Water Board. So, it has been 2 years of hard fault, listening to hardened hearts, instead of allowing me the right to be on that Board. Again, I say to the Citizens of Selma, I do agree, we have to be accountable for the money spent. Now, if I can have a 'motion for adjournment, and a second'. Good Night."

**ADJOURNMENT**

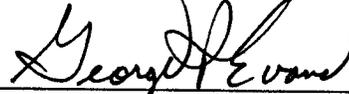
There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Councilwoman Crenshaw, and seconded by Councilman Bowie, to adjourn, and by unanimous consent of the Council, this meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

  
DR. GERALDINE ALLEN, *Council President*

ATTEST:

  
IVY S. HARRISON, *City Clerk*

APPROVED:

  
GEORGE PATRICK EVANS, *Mayor*