

TOM WILLIAMS  
MAYOR

VICKI MILLER  
CITY CLERK

SHANE STRINGER  
CHIEF OF POLICE

CLYDE MILLER  
FIRE CHIEF



COUNCIL MEMBERS

RANDY LITTLE, PLACE 1

MIKE BUTLER, PLACE 2

JASON SKELTON, PLACE 3

ALLISON CROSS, PLACE 4

BILL BLACK, PLACE 5

## **MINUTES OF February 20, 2018**

### **Public Hearing:**

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing at 5:30 p.m. and stated that the purpose of the public hearing is to hear public comments regarding options presented to the Mayor and Council by Norfolk Southern Railroad and Alabama Department of Transportation to install crossing arms at Bayou Avenue. Mayor Williams then turned the meeting over to Councilmember Skelton.

Councilmember Skelton reported that the representatives from Norfolk Southern and ALDOT had presented the following options to the City:

- 1) Close Bayou Avenue crossing. This option would require that traffic be rerouted to other crossings and the consensus is that this would not be feasible due to the traffic that crosses in that area.
- 2) Wait to see if Bayou Avenue crossing will make the list of crossings that will receive arms. This list is evaluated every year and the City will not know if Bayou Avenue makes the list since it is not made public. There is no guarantee that the crossing will fall within the number of projects that they will schedule for that year. With this option the city will be required to pay 10% of the project which could cost up to \$340,000 and the timeline is unknown.
- 3) City pays for the whole project. The estimated cost is \$340,000. This option could take up to 1 ½ to 2 years due to contract having to be negotiated with the railroad. This would also entail a three way agreement that would involve lawyers.
- 4) Close Baldwin Street and relocate the equipment to the Bayou Avenue crossing. The cost would be approximately \$150,000 of which the city will have to pay 10%. With this option, Norfolk Southern has stated that if this option is chosen, they will pay the 10%. This option could take

approximately 9 months. Norfolk Southern RR would also clean up the area and make beautification enhancements.

Mayor Williams then opened the floor for public comments.

- Jack Presnall, 540 Maria Drive, thanked the Council especially Councilmember Skelton for at least getting the railroad representatives to the table for negotiations. He stated that City has had two fatalities at the Bayou Avenue crossing. Mr. Presnall stated that he would be for closing Baldwin Street crossing if it would mean that arms were installed at Bayou Avenue crossing
- Lavenia Spotswood, 150 Bayou Avenue, questioned if a traffic count was done at Baldwin Street. Mayor Williams stated that the City asked for one at the meeting but at this time one has not been provided. Ms. Spotswood stated that based on the options given, she would be in favor of closing Baldwin Street,
- Susan Dixon- 3<sup>rd</sup> Street- In favor of closing Baldwin Street crossing
- Tony Dunn- 223 East Bayou- In favor of closing Baldwin Street crossing
- Van Sowell- 620 Maria Avenue- Not in favor of closing either crossing. . He recommended putting barriers up at Bayou Avenue until a decision could be made.
- Bob Knizley- 279 Magnolia. He stated to put the crossing arms where they will do the most good.
- Larry Landrum- 5826 Chattanooga. He stated he would not change Baldwin Street crossing and would continue to negotiate with Norfolk Southern and ALDOT.

With no further comments or questions, Mayor Williams closed the public hearing AT 6:16 P.M. Mayor Williams thanked everyone for their comments and stated that the Council to go over the comments and continue to work with Norfolk Southern RR and ALDOT to get crossing arms at Bayou Avenue.

### **Pre-Council**

The City Council of the City of Satsuma, Alabama, convened in the Pre-Council Session at City Hall in said city at 6:20 P.M. the 20th day of February, 2018. Those present were: Mayor Tom Williams; Councilmembers: Randy Little, Mike Butler, Jason Skelton, Allison Cross and Bill Black.

Mayor Williams discussed Agenda items.

### **Regular Meeting**

The City Council of the City of Satsuma, Alabama, convened in the regular public session at City Hall in said city at 7:00 P.M. the 20th day of February, 2018

**Invocation**

Councilmember Little gave the invocation. Cohen Taylor, Key Student, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

On roll call the following answered present: Mayor Tom Williams  
Councilmembers: Randy Little, Mike Butler, Jason Skelton, Allison Cross, and Bill Black.

Also present were Jay Minus, City Attorney; Vicki Miller, City Clerk; Tom Briand, City Inspector, Fire Chief Clyde Miller and Police Chief Shane Stringer and Captain Jana Dukes.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Williams presented the minutes from the Regular Meeting of February 6, 2018. Councilmember Skelton made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Butler seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilmember Skelton requested to make two public announcements before the recognitions. He announced again that the fire department has received a grant for smoke alarms. He stated that if a resident is in need of a smoke alarm or replacement of one to contact Satsuma Fire Rescue and as part of the grant the firemen on duty will come out and install for free.

Councilmember Skelton announced that the ground breaking for the Public Safety Building will be on Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. at the location site.

**Special Recognition:**

1. Key Students –Robert E. Lee Elementary School  
Students were presented a certificate and city pins by the mayor and congratulated by the city council.

Council recessed at 7:25 p.m.  
Council reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

**Visitors:**

1. Tabby Honeycutt came before the Council to request permission to have a fishing tournament at Steele Creek Lodge to benefit Listen 17 ministries on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Mayor Williams stated that the launch is public and council granted the request.

2. Jack Presnall requested to speak and came before Council. Mr. Presnall stated that the Fire Department has been responsible for lowering and raising the flags. He stated that the flag at the Pilot Travel Center was stolen. He said that he is still upset that the city could not place a flag in the quadrant south of I-65, but was made to put the flag in a location that the Fire Department cannot even get to. He requested that a letter be sent from the City complaining about the location and requesting permission to put the flag where it should have been placed originally.

### **Mayor's and Council's Reports:**

#### *1. Report on public safety building- Ground Breaking Ceremony*

Mayor Williams reported that public workers have worked diligently to get the site ready for the ground breaking. He stated that the City used two Mobile County workers, city workers and some inmates over the last two weeks which included one weekend to clear the site

#### *2. Update on Williams Avenue-Alabama Power*

Mayor Williams reported that the power company has moved the poles and now we are just waiting on Mediacom and AT&T to move their portion. Mayor Williams reported that the advertisement for bids will be in this Sunday's paper. Bids will be due by March 5<sup>th</sup> and presented to Council on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### *3 Update on the sidewalk project (Ryals to Powers)*

Mayor Williams reported the contractor did have to remove a portion of the sidewalk on Thomas and replace. He stated there are still some areas where the water meters were moved that have to be finished.

#### *4. Report on Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting.*

Mayor Williams reported that at the last MPO meeting, the discussion was on the River Bridge. He stated by the end of this year, teams will be in place to move forward with the project. Also at the meeting, he was informed that the interchange at Highway 43 at exit 19 has been delayed until November 2023.

#### *5. Distribution of the January financial reports.*

Mayor Williams distributed the reports.

#### *6. Report on the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program opportunity- Submission of a letter of intent.*

Mayor Williams reported that due to Hurricane Nate, Mobile County has been allocated \$763,000 to be appropriated through a grant process. He stated that he is recommending the City send a letter of intent to apply for \$80,000 for a new culvert behind the new football stadium. He stated that the grant is a 75/25; however the city can meet its match by doing in-kind services.

**Municipal Services-** Councilmember Little stated that he did not have any matters to report or items for discussion. .

**Public Safety- Councilmember Butler** reported that there was a kitchen fire on Hummingbird Drive. The fire department was quick to respond and kept the damage to a minimum.

**Administration-Councilmember Skelton** stated that he did not have any matters to report or items for discussion. .

**Parks- Councilmember Cross left the meeting at 6:40 and returned at 6:50 p.m.** During this time, Shirley Presnall asked to speak about the Swamp Fest. Ms. Presnall reminded everyone that the event will be held on March 3rd. There will be a car show, plenty of entertainment and food. She stated that last year, they raised over \$14,000 and they hope to exceed that amount this year.

Upon her return, Ms. Cross reported that the Library Foundation dinner will be held on Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. At 6:30 p.m.

**Public Works- Councilmember Black** stated that public works workers are doing routine work. . .

## **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **1. Payment of the bills.**

Councilmember Skelton made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$77,217.59. Councilmember Little seconded the motion and it carried.

### **2. Consideration of request from Chief Stringer to attend the Alabama Chief of Police Conference in Montgomery, February 26-March 1, 2018. Cost is approximately \$850.00.**

Councilmember Butler made a motion to approve the request.

Councilmember Black seconded the motion and it carried.

### **3. Consideration of accepting applications for a Satsuma City School Board member. Applications will be accepted until March 6, 2018.**

Councilmember Little made a motion to begin the process of accepting applications for a new school board member until March 6, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.. Councilmember Black seconded the motion and it carried.

### **4. Consideration of request to donate to the Satsuma High School Special Olympics.**

Councilmember Cross made a motion to approve donating the same amount as last year. Councilmember Skelton seconded the motion and it carried.

### **5. Consideration of Sworn Statement of Claim from John W. Browning at 450 Powers Road.**

Councilmember Skelton stated that this matter is tabled until the next meeting.

### **6. Discussion and consideration of the options from Norfolk Southern Railroad and ALDOT regarding the crossing at Bayou Avenue.**



Councilmember Butler	Yes
Councilmember Skelton	Yes
Councilmember Cross	Yes
Councilmember Black	Yes
Mayor Williams	Yes

Councilmember Butler made a motion to adopt Resolution 2018-02-02.  
Councilmember Skelton seconded the motion and it carried.

CITY OF SATSUMA  
RESOLUTION 2018-02-02

WHEREAS, Section 11-43-56 of the Alabama Code of 1975 authorizes the municipal governing body to dispose of unneeded personal property; and

WHEREAS, the City of Satsuma, Alabama no longer has a police officer trained to handle a Drug Enforcement Canine. and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF SATSUMA, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the following personal property owned by the City of Satsuma, Alabama is surplus and is not needed for public or municipal purposes:

- Drug Enforcement Canine known as "Rambo"

SECTION 2. That the Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to dispose of the Drug Enforcement Canine, Rambo, by selling said animal to another City at a price to be set by the Mayor of the City of Satsuma.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2018

\_\_\_\_\_  
/w/ Thomas Williams  
Mayor Thomas Williams

ATTEST:

/s/ Vicki Miller \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

**3. Introduction of Ordinance 520- An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 377  
Section 10 of the Satsuma Code of Ordinances (on Animals)**

Councilmember Little made a motion to introduce Ordinance 520.  
Councilmember Skelton seconded the motion and it carried.

**4. Introduction of Ordinance 521- An ordinance repealing Ordinance 454.**

Councilmember Little made a motion to introduce Ordinance 521.  
Councilmember Skelton seconded the motion and it carried.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to come before Council, Councilmember Skelton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Cross seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

/s/ Tom Williams  
Mayor Williams

/s/ Randy Little  
Councilmember Little

/s/ Mike Butler  
Councilmember Butler

/s/ Jason Skelton  
Councilmember Skelton

/s/ Allison Cross  
Councilmember Cross

/s/ Bill Black  
Councilmember Black

ATTEST: /s/ Vicki Miller  
City Clerk