

MINUTES

January 19, 2010
The Regular Meeting of the Satsuma City Council

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 19th of January 2010.

Councilmember Jackson gave the invocation.

Councilmember Black led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On roll call the following answered present:

Mayor	William F. Stewart, III
Council Members	Billy Jackson
	Pamela O’Gwynn
	Pratt Monk
	Tom Williams
	Bill Black

Jay Minus, City Attorney; Vicki Miller, City Clerk; James Elmore, Public Works Supervisor; Tom Briand, Building Inspector and Lt. Jana Dukes, Police Department were present. A quorum was present and Mayor Stewart opened the meeting for the transaction of business.

A workshop was held beginning at 5:30 to hear comments from Bud Ratliff of the Mobile County Sports Authority and Randy Gould, manager of La Quinta Inn regarding the economic impact of building a sports complex.

A pre-council meeting was held beginning at 6:00 P.M. prior to the regular meeting and Mayor Stewart discussed with Council agenda items coming before Council.

Mayor Stewart presented the minutes of the regular meeting on January 5, 2010 for approval. Councilmember Black stated that he would like to make a correction on the

last page, paragraph 4, to the total yards needed of dirt for the construction of the emergency shelter. Councilmember Black stated that he misstated the number of yards and the correct amount is approximately 1000 yards. He stated that the price of \$6.50 a yard remains correct. With that correction, Councilmember Black made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilmember Jackson seconded the motion and it carried.

VISITORS

1. Mr. McKinley –One Meal

Mr. McKinley came before Council to ask if a decision was made regarding his request to hold a flea market at Wright Park to benefit the One Meal program. Councilmember Jackson stated that he would need to contact the director of Girls Softball and see if there would be a conflict with parking. Jay Minus stated that he was not sure if the city could legally lease the park to an individual or group whose intention is to make a profit. Council agreed to the event pending the legal decision and agreement with the girls softball league.

2. *Eddie Minton-Mobile County Racing Commissioner*

Mr. Minton came before Council to state that he is up for reappointment as commissioner of the Mobile County Racing Commission. He stated that he is appointed by the municipalities and asked council for their vote. Mayor Stewart asked if he had any opposition and he stated “No”. With no further questions or comments, Councilmember Black made a motion to reappoint Edward Minton as Mobile County Racing Commissioner. Councilmember Monk seconded the motion and it carried.

3. Robin Stewart- discussion of fund raiser “Satsuma to Haiti”

Ms. Stewart came before Council and stated that she and the mayor have been discussing how the city could join in the efforts of raising funds for the people of Haiti. She stated that there are many orphanages which were destroyed and the children have nothing. She stated that she is asking for support of the Council to use city workers to help with the fund raising efforts. She stated that she also would like to coordinate the efforts with the schools. The funds will be used to purchase goods and prepare care packages for the children. Council agreed.

MAYOR’S REPORT

1. Mayor Stewart stated that two council members have expressed an interest in attending the National League of Cities convention held in Washington D.C. on March 13-17. He stated that the funds are budgeted.

With no further discussion, Councilmember Monk made a motion to approve the expenditure for Councilmember Jackson and Councilmember Williams to attend the NLC conference in Washington D.C. in March. Councilmember O’Gwynn seconded the motion and it carried.

2. Mayor Stewart stated that there are still some outstanding sewer assessments due to the city. He stated that the city needs to be careful not to exceed the statute of limitations regarding these collections. Jay was asked to give a current list to the Council with explanations what has been done in the past and why the accounts have not paid.

3. Mayor Stewart advised the council that the Water Board approved a phone tree system and would like the city split the cost of the system, which should not exceed \$1500 per year. He stated that this system will benefit the city by using it to notify the public during emergency situations or any other situations which affects the general public. Mayor Stewart stated that the Water Board will be responsible for handling the set-up. Also before going into service, there will need to be rules and regulations established.

With no further questions or comments, Councilmember Williams made a motion to go into a joint venture with Satsuma Water and Sewer Board on a phone tree system not to exceed \$1500.00. Councilmember Monk seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. Dan Simmons commented that while the council was discussing the phone system, he wanted to complain about the city's answering service when city hall is closed. He stated that he was unable to get through and the system instructed him to hang up. Mayor Stewart apologized to Mr. Simmons and requested that the city clerk check out to see if there is a problem.

4. Mayor Stewart stated that Youngblood-Barrett Construction Company, the contractor on the emergency shelter, has asked that the city execute a tax agreement. He stated that the agreement is for the city to purchase the materials for the buildings and get a credit against the invoice from Youngblood-Barrett. Mayor Stewart stated that he was concerned that this does not affect the bid process. Jay Minus stated that the city can negotiate the terms of the contract as long as the scope of work does not change. Mr. Minus stated that he has reviewed the agreement and the advantage will be a cost savings to the city.

With no further comments or questions, Councilmember Jackson made a motion to approve the mayor to execute the tax agreement with Youngblood-Barrett. Councilmember O'Gwynn seconded the motion and it carried.

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES

Parks and Recreation:

Councilmember Jackson reported that softball registration is beginning and the parks will be active soon.

Administration and Finance:

Councilmember O'Gwynn made a motion to pay the bills as presented. Councilmember Jackson seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilmember O'Gwynn reported that the city's insurance policy with Alabama Municipal Insurance Company is up for renewal and by renewing the policy for three years; the city will receive a 2% discount each year.

With no comments or questions, Councilmember O'Gwynn made a motion to renew the contract for three years in order to receive a 2% discount. Councilmember Jackson seconded the motion and it carried.

Municipal Services:

Councilmember Monk expressed condolences on behalf of the Mayor and Council to the families of Mary Weaver and Peggy Lassiter. Mayor Stewart also expressed condolences to Jana Dukes on the death of her uncle.

Councilmember Monk discussed waiving the permit fees for the contractor on the shelter project. He stated that the fees will be used as part of the in-kind services that is required of the city. He then made a motion to approve waiving the permit fees on the construction of the emergency shelter. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion and it carried

Public Safety:

Councilmember Williams reported that a fire fighter list was received from the Personnel Board and there was one new applicant. He stated that he and Chief Miller interviewed and determined that the applicant is well qualified for the position. The applicant's name is Justin Jarvis and is already certified as a fire fighter. However, the city will have to provide him with EMT training. With no comments or question, Councilmember Williams made a motion to hire Justin Jarvis effective January 23, 2010. Councilmember Monk seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilmember Williams reported that he has a request from Lisa Cooper, Court Magistrate, to attend the 2010 Regional Seminar for Municipal Court Officials to be held May 20-21 in Mobile. He stated that the costs should be approximate \$200 and Ms. Cooper needs the course to retain her certification. With no comments or questions, Councilmember Williams made a motion to approve the request for Lisa Cooper to attend the certification class as stated above. Councilmember Monk seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilmember Williams reported there have been discussions recently regarding the reimbursement of educational expenses with police and firefighters. He then deferred the discussion to Jay Minus. Mr. Minus stated that the State of Alabama has a law that states

that if a police officer or fire fighter leaves the city for another state, county or local jurisdiction within two years, the employee will be responsible for repaying any education and associated expenses. The city currently has an additional agreement in place that offers the same protection should a police officer go to private industry or to another region within three years. Mr. Minus explained that he has made amendments to that policy by including fire fighters, reducing the term to 2 years to agree with the state regulation and including reimbursement of legal fees should the matter have to go to court.

With no comments or concerns, Councilmember Williams made a motion to amend the current policy as stated by Mr. Minus. Councilmember Jackson seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilmember Williams reported that he attend the strategic meeting sponsored by the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission. He stated that the conference was informative especially regarding the "safe streets" programs. He stated that the safe streets program is where the city makes streets friendly to bikers and walkers.

Councilmember Williams gave congratulations to the Satsuma Chorus group who was chosen to sing the National Anthem at this year's Senior Bowl. He stated that he would like to ask the group to come and sing at a council meeting.

Councilmember Williams reported that the gas line broke at the fire/police station and the line was replaced at a cost of \$700.00.

Public Works:

Councilmember Black reported that he has received a resignation letter from Jeremy Mosley a part-time public service worker. Councilmember Black then made a motion to accept the resignation in good standing. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilmember Black reported that he has a request from James Elmore for the city to become a member of Alabama 1-Call. He explained that this is a service that will provide the location of utility lines in the city right of way. He stated that by being a member if someone calls to dig, then they are informed of where the city's utilities are located. Councilmember Black stated that the cost will be approximately \$500 a year and recommended that the city split the cost with the water board.

With no comments or questions, Councilmember Black made a motion for the city to become a member of Alabama 1-Call and split the cost with the Water Board. Councilmember Monk seconded the motion and it carried.

AGENDA **NO ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

With no further business to discuss, Councilmember Monk made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Jackson seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

/s/ William F. Stewart, III
Mayor William F. Stewart III

/s/ Billy Jackson
Councilmember Billy Jackson

/s/ Pam O’Gwynn
Councilmember Pam O’Gwynn

/s/ Pratt Monk
Councilmember Pratt Monk

/s/ Tom Williams
Councilmember Tom Williams

/s/ Bill Black
Councilmember Bill Black

ATTEST: /s/ Vicki Miller
City Clerk