

TOM WILLIAMS
MAYOR

VICKI MILLER
CITY CLERK

CLINT E. HARRELL
CHIEF OF POLICE

CLYDE MILLER
FIRE CHIEF



COUNCIL MEMBERS:

RANDY LITTLE, PLACE 1

MIKE BUTLER, PLACE 2

JASON SKELTON, PLACE 3

ALLISON REESE, PLACE 4

BILL BLACK, PLACE 5

MINUTES

March 26, 2020

The Special Called Meeting of the Satsuma City Council

The City Council of the City of Satsuma, Alabama, convened in a special called meeting at City Hall in said city at 5:00 P.M. on the 26th day of March, 2020.

Mayor Williams gave the invocation.

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

Also present were Heather Davis, Assistant City Clerk, Tom Briand, Inspector; James Elmore, Public Works Supervisor and Clint Harrell, Police Chief.

Alan Killen was present representing Civil Southeast, Engineering Firm on the 7th Street Sidewalk project.

Mayor William noted that the meeting was posted and everyone was practicing their 6' distance. He stated that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss a few issues that arose after the last meeting of March 17th.

1. Discussion and consideration of the final payment to Parten Smith for the 7th Street Sidewalk project (TAPAA-TA17(935) in the amount of \$31,284.00 and the final payment to Civil Southeast for \$5,068.09.

Mayor Williams began by stating that Parten Smith has completed the project. James Elmore and Tom Briand have inspected the project and confirmed that all the punch list items were completed. He stated that it is his recommendation that Council authorize the final draw to Parten Smith and Civil Southeast. Councilmember Little questioned whether they were done with the

asphalt work that was damaged by putting in the sidewalk. James Elmore stated that all that was damaged by the contractor has been repaired. Councilmember Reese questioned about the overruns that were discussed at the last meeting specifically the \$10,000 for additional concrete. Mr. Killen explained that this was done due to the complaints from a few of the residents that were affected by the project. He stated that in the past, if there was any minor changes (increase/decrease of quantities) and they do not cause the project to exceed the grant, then the practice has been to go ahead and do what is necessary to make the project complete. Mr. Elmore also stated that additional concrete was needed to make a cross walk that was not in the original plan. With no further discussion, Councilmember Little made a motion to pay the final payment to Parten Smith in the amount of \$31,294.00 and \$5,068.09 to Civil Southeast. Mayor Williams noted that after this the City will have to formally accept the sidewalk and any future maintenance will be on the City. With no further discussion, Mayor Williams called for a vote and all answered "aye".

2. Discussion to post the Fire Chief position as a contract position and with the Mobile County Personnel Board.

Mayor Williams stated that this matter was discussed at the previous meeting, and he believes that posting in two places will cause confusion. He recommended just placing the position with the MCPB. He stated the starting salary will be a little over \$53,000 and then there is an automatic 5% for a certification which will bring the pay to over \$55,000 and the position also allows for a take home vehicle which could represent a 25% increase. Councilmember Butler stated that he only wants the job to be advertised through the MCPB. Vicki Miller stated that as part of the qualifying for this position, the MCPB does do an oral pre-interview with other fire chiefs. She stated that Council has an option to approve the interview or forego the interview process and rely solely on education and experience. After discussing the matter, Council agreed to forego the pre-interview process and to qualify strictly on education and experience.

- 3 Discussion of COVID-19 issues
 - 1, Governor issues a shelter in place order;
 - a) If given, then only essential employees will be allowed to work. Continue to pay for non-essential workers and pay time and ½ to essential employees- Cost to City
 - b) Teleconferencing for Council meetings- System that will allow the public to listen to meetings
 - c) Employee Rights- paid leave entitlements and qualifying reasons for leave and the amount of pay.

Mayor Williams discussed all items with Council and explained that if the shelter in place is given, and the city has to select essential workers to come in to work, the additional cost of pay to the City could exceed \$70,000 for a two-week period. He stated that Governor Ivey has given a directive on the Open Meeting Act and teleconferencing has been approved if the matters discussed are COVID-19 related and the matters discussed are necessary to perform essential minimum functions of the City and the communications allow for persons to hear one another at

the same time. He stated that the staff will begin working on a means should it come to that. Lastly Council was given a handout that explains the employee rights during the pandemic time. He asked Councilmember Skelton to expound. Councilmember Skelton stated that basically, employees who meet the guidelines specified by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) are entitled to certain pay benefits. He stated that the handout is explanatory. Mayor Williams stated that these are unprecedented times, and he is working with employees and citizens to continue to provide the necessary services and keep the employees safe.

4. Discussion of small cell tower legislation

Mayor Williams noted that this item may come before the legislation again. He stated that the Council may need to do another resolution opposing this legislation before April 30th. He stated that something will be drafted for the next meeting.

Before adjourning, Councilmember Reese asked again for a discussion on burning in the City. She stated that because more residents are at home and working in their yards, more burning is taking place. It was discussed that a message would go out on phone tree and other social media means to remind citizens that the city has a no burn ordinance. Chief Harrell stated that he would get with the fire chief and work out where if the firemen are called to a scene a second time, the firemen can write a violation of ordinance ticket. He stated that the police cannot write the ticket since they do not see the offense.

With no further business, Councilmember Little made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Butler seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

/s/ Tom Williams
Mayor Williams

/s/ Randy Little
Councilmember Little

/s/ Mike Butler
Councilmember Butler

/s/ Jason Skelton
Councilmember Skelton

/s/ Allison Reese
Councilmember Reese

/s/ Bill Black
Councilmember Black

ATTEST: /s/ Vicki Miller
City Clerk