

TOM WILLIAMS COUNCIL  
MAYOR RANDY LITTLE,  
PLACE 1  
VICKI MILLER CITY CLERK  
MIKE BUTLER, PLACE 2



MEMBERS

CLINT E. HARRELL JASON  
CHIEF OF POLICE ALLISON  
REESE, PLACE 4  
KENNETH WAITES FIRE CHIEF  
BILL BLACK, PLACE 5

SKELTON, PLACE 3

## **Minutes of July 21, 2020**

### **Pre-Council**

The City Council of the City of Satsuma, Alabama, convened in the Pre-Council Session at City Hall in said city at 6:00 P.M. the 21<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2020. Those present were: Mayor Williams, Councilmembers: Randy Little, Mike Butler, Jason Skelton, Allison Reese, and Bill Black

Due to COVID-19 and the directive from Governor Ivey, the Council met in the Council chambers with a safe distance of 6'.

Mayor Williams discussed the 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 21<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2020.

**Invocation** Councilmember Skelton gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Roll Call**

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

P.O. Box 517, Satsuma, Alabama 36572~Phone (251) 675-1440~Fax: (251) 675-1442 Police: (251) 675-0151~Fire: (251) 679-1640

Also present were: Jay Minus, City Attorney; Vicki Miller, City Clerk; Tom Briand, Building Inspector, James Elmore, Public Works Supervisor, Heather Davis, Assistant City Clerk, Kenneth Waites, Fire Chief and Chief Harrell, Police Chief.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Williams presented the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on July 7, 2020. Councilmember Skelton made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Reese seconded the motion and it carried.

### **Special Recognition: NONE**

### **Visitors-**

- **Judy Callan Satsuma Women's Club- Union Chapel proposal Ms.**  
Callan came before Council to report the Women's Club has raised over \$117,000 for the construction of the Union Chapel. She stated that based on the current construction cost they are short about \$68,000. She stated that after concurrence of all the members, they are requesting a partnership with the City and asking the City for the additional funds. Louvenia Spotswood spoke and stated that the club has received donations of \$50,000 from Gary West and \$10,000 from Mobile County Commissioner Merceria Ludgood. Mayor Williams stated the Council is favorable to the project and believes that once the chapel is completed it will be revenue source for the City. Ms. Spotswood also said the club is selling bricks for the walkway going to the chapel. Councilmember Little stated that it seems that the construction costs have not been confirmed and suggested that the women's club get a more definite construction cost and then come back to the Council.
- Jim Stewart approached the Council and asked if there was any progress on the noise ordinance that was discussed at the last meeting. Mayor Williams stated that Jay Minds has the draft and had a few issues, but should have it ready by the next meeting.

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

#### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Williams reported that the qualifying period for the municipal election ended at 5:00 p.m. today and asked the City Clerk to read off the list of qualifying candidates. Vicki Miller read the following:

Mayor: Mark Barlow  
Tom Williams.

Place 1- Randy Little -no opposition  
Place 2: Mike Butler  
Norman Pierce, Jr.  
Place 3- Jason Skelton- no opposition  
Place 4- Allison Reese- no opposition  
Place 5: Bill Black  
E.L. "Bubba" Phillips,

Mayor Williams reported the election will be August 25, 2020. He also noted that the City is in need of poll workers and to contact Ms. Miller if you are interested in serving.

Mayor Williams reported he will be in Montgomery on July 22<sup>nd</sup> for an Alabama League of Municipalities Executive meeting and a Municipal Workers Comp meeting.

Mayor Williams reported .at the request of a resident, the Police Department will now have available face masks for senior citizens.

Mayor Williams reported that he approved the emergency removal of a large and very old Live Oak tree on Old Highway 43. He asked James Elmore to explain. Mr. Elmore stated that the tree split and a portion of the tree fell in a citizen's yard and after looking at what was left standing, he determined that the tree was an immediate threat. He stated that he reported it to the Mayor and immediately proceeded to get two quotes. One was Hammco at \$3500 and the other was Reed's Tree Service at \$4500.00. Based on the estimated, Hammco to remove the tree

Mayor Williams stated that Attorney Jay Minus has been reviewing a new abatement ordinance. He asked Mr. Minus to discuss. Jay Minus stated that the City has an abatement ordinance however it does not have a procedure to tax the property owner. The amended ordinance will address that issue. He stated he is still working on it and will have something by the next meeting.

Mayor Williams noted that the June financials were distributed and there is some reduction in revenues. Mayor Williams noted that up to this point the city has refunded over \$23,000 in deposits on Steele Creek Lodge and the Community Center. He stated that this does not account for the lost revenue all because of COVID19.

**Municipal Services- Councilmember Little** reported that at the last meeting there was a complaint from a resident on Hummingbird about the garbage truck leaking a liquid on the road. He stated that the matter was addressed after the meeting and there should not be any further issues.

**Public Safety- Councilmember Butler** reported the following:

- Several fire fighters will be attending training locally. Jonathan Moss will be attending hazmat training in Orange Beach. Will Davis will be attending a pumper training class in Saraland and Doug Cranford will begin EMT school in September. Most are at no cost to the City except meals.
- Fire department is still in need of additional fire fighters and would like to hire 3- part time firefighters.
- Received a call from a resident thanking the fire department for their quick and professional response to a fire.
- Chief Waites will be having a dinner and a meeting on August 11<sup>th</sup> for any interested volunteers
- Chief Harrell is looking into a grant to purchase body cams.
- Reported that the fire department responded to a near drowning of a small child. The child made a full recovery.

Administration-Councilmember Skelton reported that employees and visitors are required to wear mask if coming into City Hall. Councilmember Skelton announced that the Library will be having a “Meet the Candidates” on August 13<sup>th</sup> and will be live-streaming the event on Facebook beginning at 6:00 P.M.

**Parks- Councilmember Reese** reported the following:

- She will be attending the Alabama League of Municipalities annual convention in Montgomery and that she will be the voting delegate in the Mayor’s absence.
- Reminded everyone to complete 2020 Census.
- Reported the Mobile County Municipal Association dinner hosted by Prichard has been cancelled. She said that the future meetings are still under advisement.
- Football registration is continuing at Lions Park
- The location of the flag poles is having to be reconfigured due to some utility issues.
- Reported that the plaques to be placed on the concession stands at Wright and Lions Parks are being worked on and stated she would like to honor those who contributed to the project at a council meeting.

**Public Works- Councilmember Black** reported that public works is still short employees but continuing working getting the grass cut and weed eating done despite the rain.

### **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

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

On motion by Councilmember Skelton and seconded by Councilmember Butler with all voting “aye”, Council unanimously approved paying the bills in the amount of \$48,235.52.

## **2 Opening and discussion of bids received to remove the tree in the drainage easement at 5281 Hartley Road.**

Mayor Williams stated that this matter has been discussed at two previous meetings and at the last meeting Mr. Elmore was asked to get another bid for removal of the tree. Mr. Elmore stated that another bid was received. Mayor Williams noted that

Mr. Maherg has also gotten a bid, from Clancy Tree Service, in the amount of \$1600.00. The quote was not sealed and was distributed to each Councilmember. Jay Minus advised to open the other quotes and if they were not in alignment with the one from Clancy Tree Service, the other bids could be rejected and then a decision would be made. Councilmember Cross opened the two quotes and read as follows:

Hammco	\$2750.00
Tree King	\$2680.00

Councilmember Black made a motion to reject the bids. Councilmember Little seconded the motion and it carried.

Mayor Williams asked Mr. Maherg to confirm that he is willing to pay ½ of the bill. He agreed. With that, Councilmember Black made a motion to pay ½ of the \$1600 bid from Clancy Tree Service and noting that the City will not be responsible for any damages. Councilmember Little seconded the motion and it carried.

## **3. Consideration of purchasing an Satsuma Football ad in the special edition of the Call News.**

Councilmember Reese made a motion to purchase the ad in an amount not to exceed \$259.00. Councilmember Skelton seconded the motion and it carried.

## **4. Consideration of request from Fire Chief Waites to repair Engine #4 in an amount of approximately \$5,000.00.**

On motion by Councilmember Butler and seconded by Councilmember Reese with all voting "aye", Council unanimously approved the repairs to Engine #4 in an approximate amount of \$5,000.00

## **5. Consideration of request from Chief Harrell to purchase two new police vehicles- funds to be disbursed out of the court fund.**

On motion by Councilmember Butler and seconded by Councilmember Little with all voting "aye", Council unanimously approved the purchase of two new SUV patrol vehicles.

## **6. Consideration for fire department to purchase a lawnmower, edger, trimmer and blower to be used to maintain the grounds at the public safety building for an amount of \$5,769.61.**

On motion by Councilmember Butler and seconded by Councilmember Skelton with all voting "aye", Council unanimously approved the purchase of the lawn equipment in the amount of \$5,769.61.

## **7. Consideration of the resignation of Rachele Willcutt, Public Works Laborer effective July 27, 2020.**

On motion by Councilmember Black and seconded by Councilmember Reese with all voting "aye", Council unanimously approved the resignation in good standing.

## **RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCE, ORDERS AND OTHER BUSINESS**

### **1. Consideration of Resolution 2020-07-01- A Resolution to amend the agreement with Nationwide 457(b) Deferred Compensation plan to allow for participant loans. -**

Councilmember Skelton noted that this is a supplemental insurance for employees and the City does not pay any toward the costs, however the City is the administrator. He then made a motion to suspend the rules and put Resolution 2020-07-01 up for immediate adoption. Councilmember Reese seconded the motion and on roll call the following answered:

Councilmember Little	Yes
Councilmember Butler	Yes
Councilmember Skelton	Yes
Councilmember Reese	Yes
Councilmember Black	Yes
Mayor Williams	Yes

Mayor Williams stated that the motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Councilmember Skelton and seconded by Councilmember Reese with all voting "aye", Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2020-07-01

With no further business to come before Council, Councilmember Reese made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Skelton seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

/s/ Tom Williams  
Mayor Tom Williams

/s/ Randy Little  
Councilmember Randy Little

/s/ Mike Butler  
Councilmember Mike Butler

/s/ Jason Skelton  
Councilmember Jason Skelton

/s/ Allison Reese  
Councilmember Allison Reese

/s/ Bill Black  
Councilmember Bill Black

ATTEST: /s Vicki Miller  
City Clerk