

TOM WILLIAMS
MAYOR

VICKI MILLER
CITY CLERK

CLINT E. HARRELL
CHIEF OF POLICE

KENNETH WAITES
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 of October 20, 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 20th day of October 2020. Those present were: Mayor Williams, Councilmembers: Randy Little, Mike Butler, Jason Skelton, Allison Reese, and Bill Black.

The City is still under COVID-19 directive from Governor Ivey and continues to meet in Council chambers with a safe distance of 6' and face masks.

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 20th day of October 2020.

Invocation

Mayor Williams 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.

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

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Approval of Minutes

Mayor Williams presented the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on October 6, 2020. Councilmember Skelton made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Reese seconded the motion and it carried.

Special Recognition:

Mayor Williams stated that there are several proclamations on the agenda and asked that the items be placed last after the resolutions. Council agreed.

Visitors:

1. Gavin Reeves, Life Scout with Troup 32, came before Council with a proposal as his Eagle Scout project. The project is to refurbish the caboos at Lions Park. He stated that he will repaint, replace the stickers and add the city seal, and the project with approval will begin October 31st and end November 21st. Mr. Reeves stated that the estimated costs is \$420.00 and he will be accepting donations. Council agreed to the project.

2. Zack Moore, Candidate for District Judge, Place 3. Mr. Moore came before Council and the citizens and stated that he is the Republican candidate running for District Judge, Place 3 seeking election to an open seat. Mr. Moore reminded everyone that there are other races on the ballot for the November 3rd elections and asked that everyone vote.

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

- Mayor Williams reported the following from his last meetings with the Alabama League Executive Board and the Municipal Workers Compensations Board.
 1. Representative Matt Stimpson will be introducing a bill that will give PTSD benefits through Workers Comp to first responders. Mayor Williams stated that while the league is for the benefits, they feel that adding this cost to the workers comp premiums for municipalities will create a reduction in revenues that could be used for other expenditures for first responders., The league will be following this and recommending another avenue to provide these benefits.
 2. The league believes that the legislation involving reducing or eliminating municipalities planning authority in police jurisdictions will be coming back again this next session.
 3. The League is looking at removing the municipal elections from the same election cycle as the Presidential Election. The proposal in discussion is adding a year to the term of this administration that is coming into office. This will mean these elected officials will serve a 5-year term instead of 4.

- Mayor Williams noted that a discussion was held in Pre-Council concerning allowing employees that are retiring and elected official not re-elected to purchase their city issued phones. He stated after discussing the matter, Jay Minus has suggested that the City Clerk get the current value of the phones or tablets and then the employee could purchase them if they choose.

Municipal Services- Councilmember Little reported that as of October 15th, the amount of debris collected is over 18,000 CY. He stated there will be another pass through the City. Councilmember Little thanked everyone for their patience.

Councilmember Little stated that it was an honor and pleasure serving with Bill and Tom and wished them well.

Public Safety- Councilmember Butler reported that the City has received a Bullet Proof Vest grant in the amount of \$3125.00. The grant can be spent between April 1st and August of 2021. He thanked Captain Dukes for her work on this grant. Councilmember Butler reported that Chief Harrell and Chris McLean will be attending the Chief's Conference in Florence November 5th and 6th. He stated that is their required annual training.

Administration-Councilmember Skelton expressed condolences to the family of Ed Beasley, father of Bill Beasley.

Councilmember Skelton reported that the organizational meeting for the new City Council will be held on November 2nd at 6:00 p.m. followed by a short regular meeting. Pre-Council will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Councilmember Skelton stated that he has been contacted by Elvin Pierce about a city right of way that splits his property in half. He is asking if the City would consider vacating the right of way so that he can expand his business. Councilmember Skelton noted there is a sewer main in the right of way. Mr. Pierce has stated that he will give the city a sewer easement and agree not to build anything in the easement. He distributed copies of the map showing the property and asked Councilmembers to look over and the matter could be discussed at a future meeting.

Parks- Councilmember Reese reported the following:

- The October Municipal Dinner was held in Semmes. She stated that there were approximately 35 persons in attendance. She stated that the City could use their meeting as guidance. She stated she did have the opportunity to meet two new persons from the League: Byran Parker and Baker Allen. She noted that she has set up a Facebook page for the Municipal Association for the distribution of information.

- The ribbon-cutting ceremony for North Mobile Nutrition is scheduled for Thursday, October 29th at 3:30 p.m.
- The Fall and Christmas banners and brackets have been received. She noted that Alabama Power has granted permission with guidelines. She and Trish have selected 25 poles and she will be notifying Alabama Power to give them the location.
- Reported the Census 2020 has ended as of October 15th.
- Howl-O-Weenie Pet Parade will be held Saturday October 24th beginning at 4:00 at Baldwin Square. She stated that her goal is to have 30 dogs entered. The application fee is \$10.00 which will be used for the Bark Park. Councilmember Reese stated the Azalea Trail Maids will be present and a local group that will have dogs for adoption.
- Requested permission to re-open the playground. She stated that the Merry-Go-Round has been installed along with the installation of new mulch. The slide is in the process of being installed. Council agreed with the stipulations that new signs be placed giving the CDC regulations due to COVID19.
- Reported the lights on the minor field at Lions Park are in need of replacement. She stated that she has reached out to a local electrician to give a scope of work and then the project will be bid out. She also stated she reached out to Commissioner Ludgood to see if Mobile County could give the City any assistance with the project.

Public Works- Councilmember Black took a moment to say that he has enjoyed being a Councilmember for 24 years. He stated that he enjoyed working with all the Mayors and Councilmembers, but he mostly enjoyed working all these years with James Elmore. He said "I did my best" for the citizens. Mayor Williams took the opportunity to mention that one of the most memorable and important decisions that was made during his tenure was voting to separate from Mobile County Public Schools and establish the City's own school system. He stated that Bill was part of that decision.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Payment of the bills.

On motion by Councilmember Skelton and seconded by Councilmember Little with all voting "aye", Council unanimously approved paying the bills in the amount of \$48,353.35.

2 Consideration of a 5% merit increase for Kenneth Waites, Fire Chief.

Councilmember Little questioned why now was this on the agenda. Mayor Williams explained that when Mr. Waites was hired, he took a big pay decrease to come to the City. Mayor Williams stated that he told Mr. Waites that when the funds were available in the budget, he would bring the matter to Council. Mayor Williams stated that the budget was approved at the last meeting and it had an increase for the Chief included in the salary line item. Councilmember Little stated that he would have liked to have had more notice. With no further discussion. On motion by

Councilmember Butler and seconded by Councilmember Skelton, Council unanimously approved the 5% merit increase.

3. Consideration for the City to host the November Municipal Association dinner on November 19th and approval for the Women's Club to provide the meal at \$15.00 per person.

On motion by Councilmember Reese and seconded by Councilmember Little with all voting "aye", Council unanimously approved hosting the dinner and approval for the Women's Club to provide the meal at \$15.00 per person.

5. Consideration to purchase additional tables and carts for Steele Creek Lodge for a price not to exceed \$1500.00.

On motion by Councilmember Reese and seconded by Councilmember Skelton with all voting "aye", Council unanimously approved the purchase not to exceed \$1500.00.

6. Consideration to purchase a 2009 and a 2011 Crown Vic police vehicle from Copcars online for \$17,990.00 (includes delivery). The insurance claim on the vehicle totaled during Hurricane Sally is \$19,149.00.

Councilmember Butler noted that there is a savings of \$1159.00 and the City will be getting two cars with low mileage. Councilmember Skelton stated that the City has purchased from this dealer and each time the cars have arrived just as described. He stated the dealer is reputable and dependable. On motion by Councilmember Butler and seconded by Councilmember Little with all voting "aye", Council unanimously approved the purchase using the insurance funds from the totaled vehicle.

7. Consideration to increase the library appropriation by \$759.00 a quarter to include a 5% increase for the employees. Funds will be moved from the park budget when the budget is amended.

Councilmember Reese explained that when there was discussion about a 5% pay increase for City employees, she was remiss in not including the library employees. On motion by Councilmember Reese and seconded by Councilmember Skelton with all voting "aye", except Councilmember Butler who abstained. Council approved the request.

RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCE, ORDERS AND OTHER BUSINESS

1. Introduction of Resolution 2020-10-06- A Resolution to surplus three police vehicles.

On motion by Councilmember Butler and seconded by Councilmember Little with all voting "aye", Council unanimously approved the introduction of Resolution 2020-10-06.

2. Introduction of Resolution 2020-10-07- A Resolution requesting the balance of the funds available through the CARES ACT. Approximately \$84,038.91.

On motion by Councilmember Skelton and seconded by Councilmember Reese with all voting "aye", Council unanimously approved the introduction of Resolution 2020-10-07.

Special Recognition:

Mayor Williams stated that before the presentation of the Proclamations, he would ask for time to make a few comments.

Mayor Williams stated that it was an honor to serve the City, working with all the department heads, employees and Councilmembers. He said that during his 12 years he only missed two meetings and they were due to deaths in his family. He stated that this Council had performed with a high level of activity resulting in the following:

- 1) The Construction of a new Public Safety Building. Mayor Williams noted that the process began with qualifying for a USDA loan, followed by locating, negotiating and purchasing of the property. He added that this was accomplished with a grant from Mobile County in the amount of \$210,000.00. Finally working on a revenue source to pay for the \$1.86M loan. He stated that the Council looked for a funding source that would have the least impact on the citizens and came up with a 1 cent gas and diesel tax. He stated that the gas stations at the north end provide the lion's share of fuel tax revenue and they are mostly generated by travelers. He commented that the site was made ready by the work of the Public Works Department and assistance from Mobile County operators and equipment at a great savings to the City.
- 2) In 2017 the City completed a drainage project which included the increase of the retention pond on Baker Road and the clearing of the ditches throughout the City; once again this project was completed with the assistance of Mobile County operators and equipment. Mayor Williams commented that if the project had been let out to a contractor the estimated cost would have been approximately \$500,000. As it ended the project was completed with no debt to the City.
- 3) The City completed the restoration of the walking bridge at H.P. Cain Bridge with no debt to the City.
- 4) A New Splash Pad was constructed. The City did apply and receive a grant, but after bids were received, it was determined that the project could be done in house with less expense. With the oversight of Tom Briand, the project was completed with no debt to the City.
- 5) The 2019 Maple Street/ Cedar Street Drainage Project was completed. The project consisted of improving the drainage from Maple Street South, crossing Cedar Avenue to the Holcomb Ditch and then east to the floodplain. The project was completed with an estimated expense of \$50,000 using City Employees and Mobile County equipment and operators. The estimated costs if the City had used a contractor was

- approximately \$500,000. The project was completed with no debt to the City.
- 6) Through the attendance of many public meetings and a five-year wait, the City was able to get funding for a water and sewer project for the residents on the west side of the interstate. This \$1.8M project is currently in the design stage.
 - 7) The hiring of a new police chief and fire chief. The police chief has been instrumental in getting over \$400,000 in grants and also saved the city by completing all the IT work at the new public safety building. He also outfits all the newly purchased police vehicles saving the city again.
 - 8) Completing another sidewalk project on 7th Street with no debt to the City.
 - 9) Negotiating and finally obtaining RR crossing arms at Bayou Avenue at a minimum cost of \$50,000.
 - 10) Construction of new concession/restrooms at Lions Park and Wright Park using grant funds from Mobile County, oversight by Tom Briand and labor assistance from Public Works Department. Again, no debt to the City.
 - 11) Applying for and receiving a \$1M GOMESA grant to rebuild the piers and boardwalk, create a new kayak launch, and a new playground at Steele Creek Lodge and Park. This grant is 100%. When completed there will not be any cost to the City.

The Total amount of grants received by this administration exceeds \$4.2M

Finally, Mayor Williams stated that after many negative remarks and misunderstandings, the Arbours of Satsuma, a Senior Citizen Apartment Complex, was completed. He stated that currently there are 74 Senior Citizens living in a safe and wonderful environment.

His final comment was that he operated always putting God first and wished the upcoming administration well.

Mayor Williams presented proclamations to James Elmore, Tom Briand and Vicki Miller on the occasion of their retirement and Bill Black for his service as Councilmember for 24 years. Councilmember Little presented Mayor Williams a proclamation for his service as Councilmember for 8 years and Mayor for the last 4 years.

*PROCLAMATION
HONORING JAMES ELMORE
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT*

WHEREAS, while elected officials come and go, the consistency and knowledge of employees offer continuity of service and the smooth functions of the City. Every day, residents of Satsuma and people throughout the city directly benefit from the dedication and commitment of the City employees, those public servants and unsung heroes that keep Satsuma running; and

WHEREAS, James Elmore exemplifies this to the fullest. He has taught, led, guided us through many storms, shown his wisdom, worked many tireless hours and has been a constant source of stability through it all; and

WHEREAS, James has announced his decision to retire after 32 years as a public servant; and

WHEREAS, James leaves a stamp, an impression that will stay; hard work, integrity, compassion, enthusiasm, thoughtfulness and dedication.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tom Williams, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor, and speaking on behalf of the entire City Council of the City of Satsuma, take great pleasure in recognizing the significant achievements of James Elmore, and herewith express our sincere gratitude for the invaluable contributions he has made to the City of Satsuma. Best Wishes James, you have our respect – respect you achieved the old-fashioned way... YOU EARNED IT!

PROCLAIMED this 20th day of October, 2020.

/s/ Tom Williams

Tom Williams, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Vicki Miller

Vicki Miller, City Clerk

*PROCLAMATION
HONORING TOM BRIAND
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT*

WHEREAS, Tom began his career with the City of Satsuma in 1999 as Building Inspector; and

WHEREAS, over time the position evolved to include not only inspecting all construction in the City and reviewing plans for the new subdivisions but overseeing all new projects as well; and

WHEREAS, during his service, he managed to successfully convert ideas and visions of improvements to Steele Creek Lodge and Park adding a new entrance and parking areas, renovations to concessions stands and restroom at Wright Park and Lions Park, construction of a splash pad; overseeing the construction of a new City Hall and Public Safety Building and many sidewalks and drainage projects, and

WHEREAS, Building Inspectors are not always loved and adored when out on the job site when they tell contractors they can't do something. There was an occasion where a contractor disagreed with his determination and proceeded to pull him out of his truck! There were also times where many choice words were spoken. But through it all, he maintained his integrity and fairness to all; and

WHEREAS, after all his successes Tom has decided to retire from his position as Building Inspector to enjoy a well-earned retirement that will be marked by more time spent working on old trucks, riding his motorcycle and enjoying his grandchildren.

NOW, THEREFORE I, Tom Williams and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor, and speaking on behalf of the entire City Council of the City of Satsuma extend to him our most heartfelt appreciation for a job very well done and wish him well in whatever the future holds

PROCLAIMED this 20th day of October, 2020.

/s/ Tom Williams

Tom Williams, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Vicki Miller

Vicki Miller, City Clerk

*PROCLAMATION
HONORING Vicki Miller
ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT*

WHEREAS, On October 15, 2001, Vicki Miller began her employment as City Clerk with the City of Satsuma; and

WHEREAS, after 19 years, Vicki Miller has announced her decision to retire and spend her valuable time with her family; and

WHEREAS, Vicki Miller, through her tireless efforts, has provided faithful and professional service to 4 mayors and 4 city councils in the performance of their duties; and

WHEREAS, Vicki Miller has witnessed and been a part of unprecedented growth under the leadership of progressive Mayors and City Councils. She has witnessed and been an instrumental part of helping to secure millions of dollars in grants awarded to the City during her 19 exciting years. Some of which include the opening of a new City Hall in 2007, the inaugural Satsuma City School System in 2012; as well as the opening of the Public Safety Complex in 2019; and

WHEREAS, Vicki Miller, has demonstrated her commitment to and knowledge of the office of City Clerk by receiving her certification as a Certified Municipal Clerk on the state level; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Tom Williams, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor, and speaking on behalf of the entire City Council of the City of Satsuma, take great pleasure in recognizing her well-earned retirement, and herewith express our sincere gratitude for the invaluable contributions she has made to the City of Satsuma. We wish her a happy, healthy and restful retirement with family and friends.

/s/ Tom Williams
Tom Williams, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Heather Davis
Heather R. Davis, Assistant City Clerk

*PROCLAMATION
HONORING BILL BLACK
For His Service to Citizens of the City of
Satsuma*

WHEREAS, today we express our appreciation to Bill Black and honor him for his distinguished 24- year service as a Council Member for the City of Satsuma; and

WHEREAS, Bill first became a Councilmember in 1992. He served 4 years. In 2000, he was elected again as a Councilmember and has served faithfully for 5 terms; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure on the Council, he has been a champion of infrastructure improvements needed by the City, among them over 7 miles of sidewalks, Baker Road Retention Pond and Cedar Street Drainage project. and;

WHEREAS, he has served as an important influence on the many projects being undertaken by the City of Satsuma. One very important project was the purchase of the Scott Paper Company Supervisors Club which was renamed Steele Creek Lodge and Park; which has since become a vital asset to the City. Others include the construction of a new City Hall and after many years finally the construction of a new Public Safety Building, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tom Williams Mayor of the City of Satsuma, do hereby proclaim Saturday, October 31, 2020, as:

“BILL BLACK DAY”

in the City of Satsuma, and urge all residents and employees to join me and the City Council in congratulating Bill as always being ready to help others and his dedication to the citizens of the City of Satsuma.

PROCLAIMED this 20th day of October, 2020.

/s/ Tom Williams
Tom Williams, Mayor

ATTEST: /v/ Vicki Miller
Vicki Miller, City Clerk

*PROCLAMATION
HONORING TOM WILLIAMS
For His Service to the Citizens of The City of
Satsuma*

WHEREAS, today we express our appreciation to Tom Williams and honor him for his distinguished service, 8 years as a Council Member and 4 years as Mayor for the City of Satsuma; and

ATTEST: /s/ Vicki Miller
City Clerk