

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED
SELMA CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 29, 2006
5:30 P.M.**

The Selma City Council met in a special called session in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Friday, September 29, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present: Council President George P. Evans and Council members Cecil Williamson, Jean T. Martin, Geraldine Allen, Samuel L. Randolph, Johnnie M. Leashore, Bennie R. Crenshaw and Jannie M. Venter. Others present were City Clerk Lois Williams, Assistant City Clerk Ivy Harrison, City Treasurer Cynthia Mitchell and the Mayor's Executive Assistant Darlene Rudolph. Councilman Cain was absent from the meeting. Both Mayor James Perkins, Jr., and City Attorney Jimmy Nunn were also absent from the meeting.

Invocation: President George P. Evans

President Evans stated the purpose of this special called meeting is to discuss the acquisition of the Striplin property.

I. RATIFY THE ACQUISITION OF THE STRIPLIN PROPERTY

President Evans stated Attorney Gamble is present as well as Mr. Ed McCurdy for the purpose of sharing some information with the Council pertaining to this matter. President Evans stated Attorney Nunn is in court and possibly will make it to the meeting later; however, Mrs. Rudolph indicated there may be a dilemma, which she would also share with the Council. President Evans stated the Mayor was unable to attend the meeting and asked Mrs. Rudolph if she would address the Council at this time. Mrs. Rudolph addressed the Council as per the following:

"Statement From The Mayor"

"Several months ago the council and I agreed to investigate the possibility of purchasing the property behind the old Wal-Mart facility. At that time, the original public purpose included community development related projects such as: housing, commercial, education, as well as cemetery and parks. Since the original decision to purchase the property was made, there has been a lot of public discussion about the need for a new high school. I approached the chairman of the Selma City School Board, superintendent and the chairman of the facility committee about the possibility of building a new high school at the targeted property location. During the time I spoke to each one of them, no one expressed concerns about the location at that time. However, on today, approximately between 2:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. while communicating with Mr. Givan, he expressed some possible concerns about the location and suggested that it is time to have a conversation with the entire school board. I have asked to be placed on the board's agenda at the next board meeting to discuss the possibility of utilizing the target site for public education facilities." "Even though utilizing the property for the school would be my priority, my secondary use is also justification to continue the transaction. Therefore, I remain committed to giving the school system the first choice and alternately utilizing the property for the other previous mention purposes." "The reason for wanting to do the transaction for this fiscal year, was/is to save the city money on the transaction by utilizing cash that is available in this fiscal year for a substantial portion of the cost. However, because of uncertainties expressed by some members of the council I'm willing to forgo the savings by closing the transaction at a later date."

Following this statement, a motion was made by Councilman Leashore stating that after hearing the Mayor's statement, his recommendation would be to table this item until the Mayor returns and gives the Council more information concerning this matter, the motion was seconded by Councilman Williamson and Councilwoman Crenshaw. President Evans stated he concurs; however, he would like to ask Attorney Gamble and Mr. McCurdy if they would like to address the Council. **The motion passed with a unanimous vote (show of hands) of the Council members present.**

Attorney Gamble addressed the Council stating he has comments on the potential validity of some existing contracts and asked if an executive session should or could be held to discuss further details of this matter. A motion was made by Councilwoman Martin and seconded by Councilman Randolph to recess into executive session for the purpose of discussing further details of the acquisition of the Striplin property for a period of about five minutes. **The motion passed with a unanimous vote (show of hands) of the Council members present.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Following executive session, a motion was made by Councilman Leashore, and seconded by Councilwoman Venter, to reconvene the meeting into regular session at 6:56 p.m. **The motion passed with a unanimous (show of hands) of the Council members present.**

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, immediately following reconvening from executive session, a motion was made by Councilman Leashore and seconded by Councilwoman Martin to adjourn this meeting, the Council voted by unanimous consent to adjourn this meeting at 6:57 p.m.



GEORGE P. EVANS, *COUNCIL PRESIDENT*

ATTEST:

APPROVED:



LOIS WILLIAMS, *CITY CLERK*



JAMES PERKINS, JR., *MAYOR*