

MINUTES

July 21, 2009

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 21st day of July 2009.

Councilmember Jackson gave the invocation

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Stewart.

On roll call, the following answered present:

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

Absent: Pratt Monk

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

A pre-council meeting was held prior to the regular meeting and Mayor Stewart discussed with Council agenda items coming before Council. Representatives from Wise Technology began a presentation on an emergency notification alert system. Ms. Sue Phillips and El Edmonds explained that the system uses landlines, cell phones, emails and text messages. The systems can be used for emergency or non-emergency messages. Mayor Stewart requested that Ms. Phillips continue the presentation during the Council meeting.

Mayor Stewart presented the minutes of the regular meeting of July 7, 2009 for approval. Councilmember O'Gwynn made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented. Councilmember Jackson seconded the motion and it carried.

VISITORS

1. *Michael Ingram- concerns with drainage- Was not present.*

2. *Representative from Wise Technology*

Ms. Phillips continued her presentation called rapid cast system. She stated that system is a dashboard system, which will allow citizens to give a contact number and choose what communications they would like to receive. Mayor Stewart asked for the cost. Ms. Phillips stated that the system cost \$1.50 per household annually. He questioned if they have the system in other municipalities. She stated that the City of Houston uses their system as does several universities. Mayor Stewart said that the council will discuss further and get back with them.

3. *Todd Culp- requesting an in-home business.*

Mr. Culp came before Council stating that he is requesting a business license to operate a commercial cleaning service at 5280 Daniel Drive. He stated that he does not have any employees. Council welcomed Mr. Culp.

4. *Representative from Volkert and Associates- NPDES Stormwater permitting*

Ray Miller and Melissa O'Sullivan came before Council with a proposal to prepare the 2009 annual report to meet the requirements of the ADEM for stormwater discharge. Ms. O'Sullivan stated that Volkert has preformed this service for the city since 2001 when it was mandated by ADEM. Mayor Stewart asked if other cities were involved. She stated that Satsuma is in a consortium with three other cities. She stated that the contract runs from October 1 to September 30. The proposal consists of sampling the major outfalls and stormwater systems for illicit discharge. Mayor Stewart stated that the city attorney has the contract for review and the city will be in contact once the contract has been reviewed.

5. *Melissa Hudson representing Stonewall subdivision residents.*

Ms. Hudson came before Council and stated that she has two issues she would like to discuss. 1) She stated that there are several houses in the subdivision, which seem to have more than one family living in the home. She stated the her covenants state that the subdivision is for single-family dwellings. She questioned the council for the definition of "Single Family". She stated that by having several people living in the homes, they are parking on the street causing a safety hazard. Jay Minus stated that the

city has no authority to enforce the covenants. They are private restrictions. He stated that the use of "single-family" is used by the city for zoning purposes. Mayor Stewart asked Tom Briand if there are any ordinances restricting parking on the street. Mr. Briand stated that he was not familiar with any. Lt. Dukes also stated that she was unaware of any street ordinances pertaining to that subdivision. Jay Minus stated that the city could look into the matter if parking is causing a safety hazard. Mayor Stewart requested that Mr. Briand look into situation. 2) Ms. Hudson stated that she appreciates what the city has done in the past to help with the drainage, however there is still a problem in the cul-de-sacs. She stated that the design of the subdivision does not allow for drainage of the water in the cul-de-sacs. She stated that she has gotten with the engineers of the subdivision, Hutcheson, Moore and Rauch, and they have looked at a solution of putting in a drainage ditch behind these homes which would provide a means for the water run-off. Tom Briand stated that the city does not have any easements. Ms. Hudson stated that the residents are willing to give the easements, if the city will fund the project and maintain the ditches.. Mayor Stewart requested that Ms. Hudson get some design plans and get with James Elmore.

6. An undefined citizen who was not on the agenda, came before Council and made a comment thanking Mayor Stewart and his wife for helping her locate business in Saraland. Mayor Stewart replied that this was a personal matter and she was not on the agenda. The citizen stated that it was personal and then left the room.

7. Mr. Paul Higgins of 559 Baker Road

Mr. Higgins, who was also not on the agenda, came before Council to inquire if the Mayor has gotten an answer to clearing the ditch behind his home. Mayor Stewart stated that it is his understanding that the property is privately owned and is considered wetlands. Mr. Higgins stated that he was told by the previous administration that even though it was wetlands, the city could trim the trees as long as the stumps remained. Mayor Stewart replied if the land is wetlands, then the city cannot do anything. Mr. Higgins also stated that the city has not cleaned any of the ditches in his area. Mayor Stewart requested that James Elmore check to see if the ditches near Mr. Higgins have been cleaned.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Stewart stated that the city has received a proposal from AlaTax for perform a cross check of business license. He stated that this is a service company, which will look for vendors that have not obtained a business license with the city. If they find one, they will split the license fee the first year and the city will keep the full fee the remainder of the year. He stated that the contract has been given to Jay Minus for review.

Mayor Stewart reported the Board of Adjustment has received a letter of resignation from one of its members, Michael Brewer. He stated that he has be memo from the Billy Reeve, chairperson of the board, requesting that the city accept the resignation, fill the vacancy with Thomas Walker and appoint William "Bubba" Hamblin as an alternate.

Mayor Stewart stated that Mr. Walker has been serving as an alternate and is familiar with how the board operates.

With no further discussions, Councilmember Williams made a motion to accept the resignation of Michael Brewer, appoint Thomas Walker as a member and appoint William "Bubba" Hamblin as an alternate. Councilmember Black seconded the motion and it carried.

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES

Parks and Recreation:

Councilmember Jackson reported that the city has received a request to purchase an ad in the special football edition of the Call News. Councilmember Jackson stated that due to the city's finances he would recommend not to purchase the ad. Instead, he would like to put the funds toward purchasing an ad in the Satsuma Football program. Council agreed.

Councilmember Jackson reported that the city has received a request from the Lee Primary School to hold an in-service meeting at Steele Creek Lodge and they are requesting that the fee be waived. With no further discussion, Councilmember Jackson made a motion to waive the fee for the Lee Primary teachers' in-service meeting to be held at Steel Creek Lodge on August 5, 2009. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilmember Jackson reported that the Girls 10 and under softball team won State. He stated that he would like to have the team come to a council meeting to be recognized.

Councilmember Jackson reported that the 12 year old boys baseball team went to State, but lost out. He stated that the 13 years old boys baseball are still playing in the State tournament at Lions Park. Councilmember Williams stated that the "Break the Ice" dinner for the all-stars was held at Satsuma Baptist Church and he would like to take the opportunity to thank the church for their graciousness.

Councilmember Jackson reported that he attended the Library Board meeting and was informed that the library will be hosting "The Big Read" which is a program that promotes literacy. He stated that the event will be held March 6, 2010 and further information will be forthcoming.

Councilmember Jackson reported that the Sharks have won all six of their games and are leading the division.

Administration and Finance:

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

Municipal Services:

Mayor Stewart stated that in Mr. Monk's absence, he would like to express condolences to the family of Donna Bankston. He stated that Ms. Bankston is the wife of James Bankston, a worker in the public works department, who lost a hard battle with cancer.

Public Safety:

Councilmember Williams stated that at the last meeting he failed to comment on the "Art in the Park" event, which was held at Baldwin Square. He stated that it was a great event for children and he would like for it to become an annual event. Mayor Stewart stated that a new organization, Satsuma Art Council, put on the event and it was a huge success.

Councilmember Williams reported that the fire department has been using Steriocycle to dispose of hazard waste and Chief Miller has re-negotiated the contract with a saving of a \$1000 to the city.

Councilmember Williams reported that he has received a report from Chief Miller regarding being NIMS compliant. Councilmember Williams stated there are a few administrative personnel, the mayor and council members who need to complete the test on line, which should occur shortly.

Councilmember Williams reported that as was stated at the last meeting, the fire department is having issues with the pagers and is looking at alternative communications. He stated that Chief Miller has made an agreement with Nextel to try and use the phones as pagers. Councilmember Williams stated that there is no contract and the department will continue to explore other avenues.

Councilmember Williams reported that the fire department has been notified that the Forestry Department is donating a 5K generator. The department will have to send someone to pick up. He stated that Chief Miller will be going Friday in a private truck and is requesting funds for gas and meals. Councilmember Williams made a motion to approve the trip and allocation of funds for gas and meals. Councilmember Jackson seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilmember Williams reported that he has a request from the volunteer fire department to hold a fundraiser. The fundraiser will be the selling of photo coupons for \$10.00. He then made a motion to allow the volunteer fire department to have a fundraiser at a time which they specify. Councilmember O'Gwynn seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilmember Williams stated that the police department is still short a police officer due to a recent resignation. He then made a motion to call for a certification list for Police Officer I. Councilmember O'Gwynn seconded the motion and it carried.

