

MINUTES

September 15, 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 15th day of September, 2009.

Councilmember Black gave the invocation

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Williams.

On roll call, the following answered present:

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

Vicki Miller, City Clerk; Jay Minus, City Attorney; 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 beginning at 6:00 P.M. prior to the regular meeting and Mayor Stewart discussed with Council agenda items coming before Council.

Mayor Stewart presented the minutes of the regular meeting of September 1, 2009 for approval. Councilmember Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes of September 1, 2009. Councilmember Monk seconded the motion and it carried.

VISITORS

1. Dan Todd-Satsuma Sharks

Mr. Todd came before Council to report that the Sharks finished their regular season with a 13-0 record and will be hosting the national championship game on September 19, 2009. He thanked Council for their support and invited all to attend.

Mr. Todd also addressed the issue of fireworks at the 50th anniversary. He stated that if the city was interested in his company doing the fireworks, the cost would run approximately \$10,000 and that he needed to know soon in order to get all the required permits. Mayor Stewart stated that the council has given the 50th committee the authority and a budget to handle all the events. He stated that the city is not in a financial position to sponsor the event. Mayor Stewart suggested that Mr. Todd contact the committee.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Stewart read a letter of accommodation from a representative with the Alabama Department of Transportation for James Elmore and the Public Works Department.

Mayor Stewart reported that the city has been working on a disaster debris, disposal and reduction contract that is required by FEMA. He requested that Jay Minus explain further. Mr. Minus stated that after the last two hurricanes, Katrina and Ivan, FEMA issued a directive that all municipalities need a debris, disposal and reduction contract to handle debris removal after disasters. The contract is required in order to get federal funding. The city was responsible for preparing the contract, getting approval from Alabama Emergency Management and FEMA. Mr. Minus stated that the contract has been approved and is now ready to be bid out.

Councilmember Williams made a motion to put the contract out for bids.
Councilmember O'Gwynn seconded the motion and it carried.

Mayor Stewart reported that at the last meeting, Council put a moratorium on issuing a business license to pawn/title shops pending an ordinance regulating the same. Mayor Stewart stated that Mr. Minus has prepared a draft of an ordinance. He asked that Mr. Minus explain what he has drafted. Mr. Minus stated that the ordinance does not preclude this type of businesses from locating in the city, but it does give the city the right to monitor the activities, minimize the receipt of stolen property and check for proper ownership. Mr. Williams questioned if the ordinance covered title shops. Mr. Minus stated that the ordinance is only for pawn shops; however he could revise to add title shops. Mayor Stewart stated that he would like the ordinance to cover any predatory lenders. Mr. Minus stated that he would revise.

Mayor Stewart reported that a request was received from Bill Beasley to renew the beer/wine license for his business, Ala-Tex d/b/a Satsuma Chevron. Council agreed that Mr. Beasley has operated in good standing. Mr. Jackson made a motion to agree to the

renewal of the beer/wine business license. Councilmember Black seconded the motion and it carried.

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES

Parks and Recreation:

Councilmember Jackson reported that his business was taken care of with Dan Todd and he had no further business to discuss.

Administration and Finance:

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

Councilmember O’Gwynn made a motion authorizing Councilmember Williams as a signee on checks, drafts and /or notes which may be written on city accounts. Councilmember Jackson seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilmember O’Gwynn reported that the Planning Board has been working on a revision to the sign ordinance which is part of the zoning ordinance. She stated that the Planning Board has made a recommendation to Council to amend the Section 6.6-Signs of the Satsuma Zoning Ordinance 303. She stated that Council will need to hold a public hearing before making a decision. She then made a motion to hold a public hearing for comments on the amendments to Section 6.6 –Signs of Zoning Ordinance 303 on October 6, 2009 at 6:45. Councilmember Jackson seconded the motion and it carried.

Municipal Services:

Councilmember Monk reported that he has received a request for discontinuance of garbage on 8550-I Boyds Lane but would like to table the matter until the next meeting.

Councilmember Monk expressed condolence on behalf of the Mayor and Council to the families of Riley McWilliams and Joan Vaughan (mother of Officer Mike Smith).

Public Safety:

Councilmember Williams reported that at the last meeting council received a request from a citizen to look into several traffic situations at Pennsylvania and Old Highway 43 and Thomas Road and Old Highway 43. Councilmember Williams stated that Chief Benefield and James Elmore has looked into the matter and recommended placing a three-way stop at Thomas Road and Old Highway 43, removing the stop sign at Powers Road and Old Highway 43 and placing a yield sign for traffic continuing south on Old 43 at Pennsylvania. James Elmore stated that the intersection of Pennsylvania and Old

Highway 43 is in the County. Mr. Elmore stated that he would have the county engineer come out, look at the situation and make a recommendation. Councilmember Monk stated that he is opposed to putting a three-way stop at Thomas/Old Highway 43 since he believes it will cause traffic to back up across the railroad. Mayor Stewart stated that he thought the city should err on the safety side since there have been reports of several near misses. Mr. Williams asked James Elmore about the distance between the turn onto Thomas and the railroad. Mr. Elmore replied "400 to 500 feet". Mr. Elmore stated that he did not think putting a three-way stop at Thomas would cause any problems. With no further discussion, Councilmember Williams made a motion for Jay Minus to create an ordinance for a three-way stop sign at Thomas Road and Old Highway 43 and removal of the stop sign at Powers Road and Old Highway 43. Councilmember Jackson seconded the motion and it carried with the exception of Councilmember Monk who voted no.

Councilmember Williams reported that the fire department is requesting permission to hold a bucket drop for Muscular Dystrophy on November 14. With no further discussion, Councilmember Williams made a motion to permit the bucket drop for the fire department. Councilmember Monk seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilmember Williams reported that he has received a request from Chief Miller to replace the gas heater in the fire bay at a cost of \$1800. He stated that the heater does not have a thermostat causing it to run all the time and it is beginning to leak gas creating a safety hazard. Councilmember Williams made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$1800 to replace the gas heater in the fire bay. Councilmember Jackson seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilmember Williams reported that Fire Prevention Week is October 4-7 and the fire department is scheduling school visitations on the 7th.

Councilmember Williams reported that the fire department received \$9,650.84 in grant funds from the county.

Councilmember Williams reported that the fire department has been notified by Alabama Forestry Department that they have a Chevrolet van with 18,000 miles, which they would like to donate to the city. Councilmember Williams stated that the van will be used as a service truck which will help with the ISO ratings. He stated that all that will be needed is for the city for to purchase two batteries. With no further discussion, Councilmember Williams made a motion to accept the donation of a 1991 Chevrolet Van from Alabama Forestry Department to put into service in the fire department. Councilmember Monk seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilmember Williams reported that the police department is in need of purchasing two police cruisers. He stated that one vehicle has been dead lined and the other is approaching the point of needing extensive repairs. He reported that the Fy2010 budget has a line item for this purchase by financing the vehicles over 1 to 3 years. Councilmember Monk asked if purchase could be delayed until the budget was approved.

Mayor Stewart stated with interest rates low, financing the vehicles is a progressive move for the city. Councilmember Williams agreed to wait until the budget is approved.

Public Works

Councilmember Black reported that a tree at 6th and Maple needs removing and two quotes were gotten: Lunn's Tree Service \$580.00 and Reed's Tree Service at \$950.00. Councilmember Black then made a motion to accept the proposal from Lunn's Tree Service at \$580.00. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilmember Black reported that the rain is causing a delay in the grass cutting.

AGENDA

1. *Resolution 2009-09-01- A resolution to approve the agreement with Alabama Department of Transportation for Landscaping, pedestrian lighting and signs along USD43.*

Mayor Stewart stated that this grant was made possible through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and is being administered by the Alabama Department of Transportation-Transportation Enhancement Program. The grant is 80/20 with the city's match being \$80,090.00.

Councilmember Jackson made a motion to introduce Resolution 2009-09-01. Councilmember O'Gwynn seconded the motion and it carried.

2. *Resolution 2009-09-02- A resolution to award bid to Bay South LTD for construction of an emergency shelter.*

Mayor Stewart requested that the resolution be tabled until more information could be obtained.

3. *Resolution 2009-09-03- A resolution to approve execution of an agreement with Regions bank for a \$500,000. 00 line of credit.*

After reviewing the resolution, council discussed correcting the resolution to state that 2 signatures are required to make an advance on the line of credit. With that change, Councilmember Williams made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2009-03-03. Councilmember Monk seconded the motion and it carried.

4. *Resolution 2009-09-04- A resolution adopting the standards, fees and specifications for the memorial benches.*

Councilmember Black made a motion to introduce Resolution 2009-09-04.
Councilmember Williams seconded the motion and it carried.

With no further business to discuss, Councilmember Monk made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:55. P.M.

Mayor William F. Stewart III

Councilmember Billy Jackson

Councilmember Pam O’Gwynn

Councilmember Pratt Monk

Councilmember Tom Williams

Councilmember Bill Black

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk