

MINUTES

December 16, 2008
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 16th day of December , 2008. The invocation was given by Councilmember Jackson

On roll call, the following answered present:

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

Absent:

Council Member	Pam O’Gwynn
----------------	-------------

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 to discuss issues coming before Council.

Mayor Stewart presented the minutes of the Special Called Meeting of November 13, 2008 for approval. Councilmember Monk made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion and it carried.

Mayor Stewart presented the minutes of the regular meeting of December 2, 2008 for approval. Councilmember Monk made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented. Councilmember Black seconded the motion and it carried.

VISITORS

Mayor Stewart presented the key kids with pens and certificates.

Council recessed at 7:10

Council reconvened at 7:15

1. Satsuma Azalea Trails Maids requesting sponsorship for Presidential Inauguration.

Haley Fulmer came before Council as an ambassador representing the Satsuma Azalea Trails Maids. She stated that all fifty of the maids have been asked to attend the Presidential Inauguration at a cost of \$700 each. She asked the Council if they would consider sponsoring each girl.

Jay Minus stated that the city could purchase advertising. After discussing the matter, Councilmember Black made a motion to contribute \$100.00 each for a total of \$400 contingent upon Jay Minus determining the legality. Councilmember Jackson seconded the motion and it carried.

2. Satsuma Jr. ROTC requesting use of Steele Creek Lodge and the fee waived.

April Croom and Stacey Tyler came before Council to request use of Steele Creek Lodge for their annual dinner on January 23, 2008 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and the fee be waived. Council discussed the matter.

Councilmember Jackson made a motion to approve the use of Steele Creek Lodge by the SHS Jr. ROTC and waiver of the fee. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion and it carried.

Mayor Stewart stated that Major Holt has agreed to let the ROTC come before the Council meeting to present the colors.

3. Melvin Horton- follow up on fence issue on 3rd Street.

Mr. Horton came before Council to state that he came to the last council meeting to state that the fence, which was put up by Studio 114, was placed on the city right of way and he was told that Council would look into the issue. He questioned if the Council has looked into the issue. Mayor Stewart stated that the matter was researched and the fence is in the easement; however, the fence was put back at the same location that it has been for years. Jay Minus stated that the city does lose any right by being encroached

by the fence and city property cannot be adversely acquired. However, if there is an accident caused by the obstruction, then the city could be liable. Mayor Stewart stated that if there were an urgent need to remove the fence, then the property owners would be required to do so. Tom Briand pointed out the fence is not the only encroachment; he stated there is a concrete building and the church parking. Mr. Horton also questioned why the city has a lease on property, which is already owned by the City. He requested a copy of the lease. Councilmember Black stated that the lease was to give the park more parking area. Mayor Stewart stated that the city needed to review this matter further since there were other issues beside the fence.

4. Ron Verkouille representing the Vaughan Palisades Community Club- requesting new street signs.

Mr. Verkouille of 617 Vaughan Drive N. came before Council as President of the Vaughan's Palisades Community Club. Mr. Verkouille stated that the purpose of his attendance tonight was to inform Council that the organization has completed the entrance projects and are getting ready to start a new project. He stated that the organization would like to purchase new modern signs. He stated that this will be done over a three (3) year period. He asked that the City join in with them on this project by 1) allowing public works to install the signposts and 2) the city to purchase the street signs, which are black with reflective white lettering. He stated that the club would purchase the decorative posts.

Councilmember Williams inquired about the additional costs versus what the city is paying now for street signs. James Elmore stated that he thought the city is paying \$24.00 for traditional signs. He stated that he would need to look into the DOT guidelines to make sure the requested signs (black with white lettering) will meet the DOT standards. Councilmember Jackson inquired who would be responsible if the posts are damaged. Mr. Verkouille stated that the club would accept the responsibility. Councilmember Williams expressed concerns over giving the same quality of signage to other parts of the city. Mayor Stewart requested that James Elmore look at the cost of upgrading the signs.

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES

Councilmember Jackson reported that the Alabama Bass Federation has contacted him regarding the usage of Steele Creek Lodge and Park for a bass tournament on February 26-28, 2008. He stated that they have prepared a contract for the city to review which

request that the city sponsor the event with a contribution of \$3000. These funds will be used to pay the officials. He stated that they will contact local businesses to participate and if they contribute, it will be noted on their official web page. Councilmember Jackson stated that this tournament will bring in additional revenue with the purchase of gas and lodging tax (if the hotel is complete by that time). If this tournament goes well, the federation will have a larger tournament in October. Mayor Stewart requested that Jay look at the contract and make sure the city could assist with the sponsorship of the event.

Mayor Stewart stated that Councilmember O'Gwynn was absent due to having surgery.

Councilmember Monk stated that he is asking the Council to consider opening up the trash ramp on Wednesday from the last of December through January to aid with the disposal of additional trash created during the holidays. Council discussed.

Councilmember Monk made a motion to open the trash ramp on the last Wednesday of December (December 31) and all Wednesdays in January. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilmember Monk expressed condolences on behalf of the Mayor and Council to the family of Shirley Babb, a long time resident of Satsuma.

Councilmember Williams reported that Chief Benefield has requested use of Steele Creek Lodge and the fee waived for the annual Mobile County Chiefs Association meeting on February 4, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Councilmember Williams made a motion to allow usage of Steele Creek Lodge and the fee waived for the annual MCCA meeting to be held February 4, 2009. Councilmember Jackson seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilmember Williams reported that there was an article in the paper regarding irregularities in the accounting of court funds of several municipalities. He stated that the city's auditor has audited the court accounts and he found no irregularities and everything is being done, as it should be.

Councilmember Black reported that he has received complaints about the stripping on Baker and Thomas Road and he would like to discuss in the next workshop about getting prices to do the project. Mayor Stewart suggested that Councilmember Black get with his committee and make a recommendation to the Council.

Councilmember Black reported that he attended a meeting with Gulf Coast Regional Sewer Supply regarding several municipalities in the northern part of the county going to one sewer system which will discharge in the Mobile River. He stated that the

discussions are just beginning, but suggested that a representative from the city should attend.

AGENDA

1- Motion to adopt Ordinance 440- Right of way permit and fee schedule.

Mayor Stewart asked for any discussion. Jay Minus stated there is was one word that needs to be corrected. Councilmember Jackson made a motion to adopt Ordinance 440 with the one correction. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion and it carried. Mayor Stewart stated that the Ordinance will be effective December 31.

2- Discussion of Ordinance regarding exemption of garbage

Jay Minus explained that the current ordinance has some discrepancies, which the Council needs to review. He stated that exemption of garbage is based on a percentage of the poverty level. Since the passage of the current ordinance, the poverty level has changed. He also stated that the law states that if someone's only income is social security, then they are exempt from garbage fees.

Mayor Stewart suggested that Council review this further and requested that Jay get more information about what changes need to be made.

3- Call for a public hearing on amending the zoning ordinance to allow for in home day cares in R1 districts.

Mayor Stewart stated that the Planning Board has held a public hearing and is making a recommendation to the Council to amend the zoning ordinance to allow for in home day cares in R1 district with special requirements. He requested that everyone review the changes and then ask for a motion to set a public hearing for Council.

Councilmember Monk made a motion to hold a public hearing on January 6, 2009 at 6:45 p.m. Councilmember Black seconded the motion and it carried.

4- Motion to approve contract with AT&T

Jay Minus stated the he spoke with GiGi Armbrrecht, the representative from AT&T, and told her that he still has a couple of issues that need to be worked out before the contract can be approved. One of the issues is the length of the contract. He stated that the contract is for 10 years and asked Council if that is the

period, they prefer. Mayor Stewart asked Jay to look into what other cities are doing.

5- Motion to approve payment to HCL for the paving of 7th Street.

Councilmember Black reported that the project is complete and has been inspected by James Elmore.

Councilmember Black then made a motion to pay HCL Contractors a sum of \$9,420 for the paving project on 7th Street. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion and it carried.

Mayor Stewart presented the bills for payment. Councilmember Jackson made a motion to approve the bills as presented. Councilmember Black seconded the motion and it carried.

With no further business to discuss, Councilmember Monk made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Jackson seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Mayor Stewart

Councilmember Jackson

_____absent_____
Councilmember O'Gwynn

Councilmember Monk

Councilmember Williams

Councilmember Black

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk