

MINUTES

September 1, 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 1st day of September, 2009.

Councilmember Williams gave the invocation

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Monk.

On roll call, the following answered present:

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

Absent: Councilmember Pamela O’Gwynn

Vicki Miller, City Clerk; Jay Minus, City Attorney; Tom Briand, Building Inspector; James Elmore, Public Works Supervisor, and Chief Benefield, 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 August 18, 2009 for approval. Councilmember Williams stated that he would like a change be made on page 6, paragraph 3 stating “Councilmember Williams made a motion *to suspend the rules to put* Ordinance 454 up for immediate adoption”. With that change Councilmember Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes of August 18, 2009. Councilmember Black seconded the motion and it carried.

VISITORS

1. Eva Rowe- representing the Satsuma Peanut Cheerleaders

Ms. Rowe came before Council to request permission to have a bucket drop to raise funds for the Satsuma peanuts cheerleading squad. She stated that they will only have drops at businesses which have given approval. They are requesting to do this for the month of September. After discussing the matter, Councilmember Monk made a motion to allow for the bucket drops. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion and it carried.

2. Ms. Debbie Harbin-representing the American Cancer Society

Ms. Harbin came before Council to request usage of the lodge on Tuesday October 27 and the fee be waived. She stated that she will have the kickoff for the 2010 Relay for Life which will be held in Satsuma on April 30th. She also left information for the city to review for a \$1500 sponsorship. After discussing the matter, Councilmember Jackson made a motion to waive the fee for the American Cancer Society on October 27. Councilmember Monk seconded the motion and it carried.

3. Sherry Darley-requesting an in-home business license.

Ms. Darley came before Council to request an in-home business license at 510 Baker Road. She stated that the business will be an ID and Finger printing operation. She stated that they will go to different schools and day cares and she will not have any traffic at her home. Mayor Stewart invited her to participate in the 50th anniversary events. Council approved.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Stewart stated that Jay Minus has received and reviewed the agreement with Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood for the engineering and consultation relative to the annual municipal storm water system permit. Jay Minus stated that after comparing the contract with the one received from Volkert, the two are comparative with just a few wording differences. Mr. Minus stated that if Council agreed then a motion would be needed. Councilmember Williams made a motion to accept the Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood agreement to perform the engineering and consulting work necessary to complete the ADEM permit. Councilmember Jackson seconded the motion and it carried.

Mayor Stewart presented the 2010 Council Schedule and Holiday schedule. Council reviewed and Councilmember Jackson made a motion to approve both. Councilmember Monk seconded the motion and it carried.

Mayor Stewart stated that he would like to request Jay Minus to create a resolution to set the standards and price for the Memorial benches. He asked James Elmore to describe the benches. Mr. Elmore stated that the benches are a simple design that will sit on a concrete slab. In some instances the benches will be on the other side of ditches and there will be a bridge built across the ditch. The benches will be surrounded by shrubbery. The memorial plaque will be placed in the slab. He stated that the cost will be approximately \$300 for each bench. After discussing the matter, Councilmember

Black made a motion to request Jay Minus to proceed with the paperwork. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion and it carried.

Mayor Stewart stated that he has concerns about pawn/title shops locating in the city and the city not having the authority to regulate. He stated that other neighboring cities have moved against these types of businesses by placing moratoriums on such until the proper paperwork can be completed. Mr. Minus stated that the city will need an ordinance regulating these types of businesses and can place a moratorium until the ordinance has been passed. After discussing the matter, Councilmember Williams made a motion to pass a 90 day moratorium to prohibit issuing a business license to a pawn/title business and proceed with establishing an ordinance to regulate. Councilmember Monk seconded the motion and it carried.

Mayor Stewart reminded everyone of the bid opening for the shelter on Thursday, September 3, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES

Parks and Recreation:

Councilmember Jackson stated he has asked James Elmore to get price quotes on removing some trees at Steele Creek.

Councilmember Jackson reported that the Satsuma Sharks will be playing their play-off game and if they win they will proceed to the National Championship.

Councilmember Jackson reported that the public works department has finished clearing the land for the shelter.

Administration and Finance:

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

Municipal Services:

Councilmember Monk expressed condolence on behalf of the Mayor and Council to the families of Billy Towery and Donald Brown.

Councilmember Monk invited everyone to attend the homecoming at the Methodist Church on September 13.

Councilmember Monk stated that there have been questions regarding the permit fees for the shelter. He stated that after discussing this matter, Council agreed to waive the fees. He then made a motion to waive the permit fees on the shelter. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion and it carried.

Public Safety:

Councilmember Williams stated that he has a request from Chief Benefield for two officers to attend a tactical training class being held at the Mobile County Sheriff's office from September 28 – October 3 at a cost of \$100 each. After discussing the matter, Councilmember Williams made a motion to approve this expenditure. Councilmember Monk seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilmember Williams stated that he would like to recommend creating another firefighter position. He stated by creating this position the city would be able to hire another fire firefighter which would put two men on a shift and once the position is created to call for a list for two firefighters. Councilmember Williams stated that Thomas McDuffie is currently working as a provisional, but should be on the list to hire permanently. He stated that it would be a benefit to the city to have two men on a shift. After discussing the matter, Councilmember Williams made a motion to create an additional firefighter position and then call for a certification list to fill two positions. Councilmember Monk seconded the motion and it carried.

Mayor Stewart commented on how well the fire department handled a recent incident at his home involving his wife being attacked by bees. Councilmember Williams commented on the new radios stating that the fire chief was able to use the walkie-talkie to communicate from Dallas, Texas during this incident. He stated that everyone is pleased with how the new phones are working.

Councilmember Williams reported that the Fire Department had 60 calls during the previous month with 47 being EMS. He stated that the Police Department had 1643 assignments with 163 cases made and 54 rescue calls.

Councilmember Williams asked Chief Benefield about the Skid car training. Chief Benefield stated that the city has four slots reserved and the training will be at the end of the month.

Councilmember Williams stated that he has been informed by the Police Chief that only those certified on the National Crime Information System can be allowed in the dispatcher area. He stated that other cities have had their systems removed when this was violated. He stated that Chief Benefield is working to get an instructor to come and get more officers certified.

Councilmember Williams reported that Chief David Benefield was elected as secretary to the Alabama Chief of Police Association. Council congratulated.

A citizen stood and asked Council to consider looking at the traffic situation at Thomas and Old Highway 43. He stated that there have been several near misses when the traffic on Thomas pulls out in front of the traffic on Old Highway 43. It was also stated that the school bus is not yielding before crossing Pennsylvania Avenue. Mayor Stewart asked

James about putting up yield signs. He stated that the property is actually in the county and at one time there were signs but they got removed. He stated that he would contact the county and see about getting another sign put up. Mayor Stewart also asked James Elmore and Chief Benefield to look at putting a 3-way stop sign at Thomas and Old Highway 43.

Mayor Stewart commented that he also met with a representative from the Department of Transportation and has asked that they look at improving the intersection at the Pilot and Chevron and Highway 43.

Public Works

Councilmember Black reported that the tree at Maple and 6th needs removing. He then made a motion to get quotes for the removal. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilmember Black reported that the pumps on 3rd Street and Pine Avenue E. have been replaced and should be operational in approximately two weeks.

Councilmember Black reported that Mobile County will be able to start back with the road grading on September 1.

Councilmember Black reported that work was being done on the ditches on Twin Branch to take care of the complaint given at the last meeting.

AGENDA

There were no ordinances or resolutions for consideration

With no further business to discuss, Councilmember Monk made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:10. P.M.

Mayor William F. Stewart III

Councilmember Billy Jackson

absent
Councilmember Pam O’Gwynn

Councilmember Pratt Monk

Councilmember Tom Williams

Councilmember Bill Black

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk