

MINUTES

Montevallo City Council Work Session

July 22, 2024

5:30 p.m. at City Hall

Present: Mayor Rusty Nix, Council Member David King, Council Member Lelia Mitchell, Council Member Kenneth Dukes, Council Member Martha Eisenberg, Council Member Sonya Swords. Quorum present.

Work Session Call to Order at 5:30 P.M. by Mayor Nix with Quorum present.

Discussion of New Business Items:

Business License request Velvet Vixen Art Studio – Studio Ordinance 0226202-287.

Request from HPC for Historic Marker Approval Recognizing the Historic Black Business District on Selma Rd.

Ordinance – 07222024-140 – Lodging Tax Amendment increase from 5% to 6%.

Mayor Nix Called for Committee Reports:

Mayor Nix called on Chief Littleton for the Police Report. Chief Littleton reported there were 56 Total Reports for the Month of July. See Appendix 1.

Mayor Nix called on Chief Davis for the Fire Department Report. Chief Davis reported there were 57 Calls for the first half of July. See Appendix 2.

Mayor Nix called on Council Member Dukes for the Sustainability Report. Mayor Nix advised before we get into the Sustainability he reported Kirk Hamby, Head of Public Works was unable to attend the meeting due to being at the hospital with his granddaughter and reported the family was well and congratulations. Council Member Dukes reported the Historical Preservation Commission has an Historical Marker on the agenda.

Mayor Nix called on Council Member Eisenberg for Recreation, Preservation and Community Development Reports. Council Member Eisenberg called on Shane Baugh, Parks and Recreation Director. Shane reported grass cutting is behind schedule due to heavy rains; tennis courts are also delayed due to rain; Flag Football starts this week; trees and limbs down in all parks and cleanup is underway.

Mayor Nix called on Council Member Mitchell for the Education, Arts & Outreach Reports. Council Member Mitchell called on Sarah Hogan, Director Impact Montevallo. Sara reported Impact is partnering with the Montevallo Athletic Club – MAC for its inaugural cookoff this Saturday; Impact partnered with Montevallo Main Street on the “For The Love of Montevallo” photo contest; Sarah reported Impact has been attending a variety of trainings and learned a multitude of resources to share with the public; Impact will be represented at the upcoming Freshman Orientation at Montevallo High School on August 1st engaging with parents and youth. See Appendix 3.

Council Member Mitchell called on Montevallo Junior City Council Junior Mayor Mary Elizabeth House for the Montevallo Junior City Council Report (MJCC) Report. Junior Mayor Mary Elizabeth reported MJCC will be participating in the MAC cookoff; MJCC will be having a Retreat to prepare all MJCC Council Members.

Council Member Mitchell called on Marissa Wilson, Director of the Parnell Memorial Library. Marissa reported summer reading program ended on July 12th and there were 168 participants with 130,751 recorded minutes logged for reading; Disney movies will be at the library every day this week; Friday, July 26th there will be a fun library Olympics program. See Appendix 4.

Council Member Mitchell reported the University of Montevallo 2024-2025 was named College of Distinction for the 13th year in a row.

Mayor Nix called on Council Member Swords for Finance, Economic Development & Tourism. Council Member Swords called on Courtney Bennett, Executive Director, Montevallo Main Street. Courtney reported Main Street has announced the winners of the photograph contest "For the Love of Main Street" and will give a total of 16 cash prizes to 8 local photographers; Main Street is still promoting the CO-STARTERS program; the final Friday Nights at the Cove will be held on Friday, July 26th. See Appendix 5.

Council Member Swords advised Adele, Executive Director, Montevallo Chamber of Commerce is at the Farmers' Market which will run through August 19th; Chamber Chatter will be delivered July 26th; the Chamber is a team sponsor for the Montevallo Athletic Club Cook Off; August Chamber Luncheon will feature "Back to School" speakers. See Appendix 6.

Montevallo City Council Meeting

July 22, 2024

6:00 p.m. at City Hall

Present: Mayor Rusty Nix, Council Member David King, Council Member Lelia Mitchell, Council Member Kenneth Dukes, Council Member Martha Eisenberg, Council Member Sonya Swords. Quorum present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Meeting called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Rusty Nix.

Approval and or corrections of the Minutes 07.08.24 – Motion by Council Member Mitchell, seconded by Council Member Eisenberg, 5 Ayes, 1 Abstain – Council Member King, Motion passed.

Recognitions: Proclamation of the National Farmers Market Week read by Mayor Nix. See Appendix 7.

Opportunities for Citizens to speak to the Council: C. P. Pierson 1131 South Oak Street sidewalk from gyn along Oak Street has never been completed. Oak trees need to be trimmed, on City's Right of Way. Refer to Public Works Department. Patching Oak Street of concern. Refer to Water Board (street cut).

Public Health & Safety (Police, Fire, Code Enforcement, Housing Abatement, Planning and Zoning) – Reported during City Council Work Session.

Sustainability (Streets & Sanitation, Recycling, Arbor & Beautification, ValloCycle, Environmental Preservation Initiatives, and Historical Commission) – Reported during City Council Meeting.

Recreation, Preservation and Community Development (Parks & Recreation, Youth Athletics, Trails, Annexations) – Reported during City Council Meeting.

Education, Arts & Outreach (Schools, Library, UM, Boys & Girls Club, American Village, Sister City Commission, Artwalk, IMPACT) - Reported during City Council Meeting.

Finance, Economic Development & Tourism (Finance, MDCD, IDB, Chamber, Main Street) – Reported during City Council Meeting.

Consent to Pay the Bills: Mayor Nix asked for a Motion to Pay the Bills. Council Member King made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Council Member Eisenberg, All Ayes. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Request from TJ Robertson and Hannah Campbell for Business License approval for Velvet Vixen Art Studio, located at 720 Middle Street within the City's Urban Core in accordance with Ordinance 02262024-287. Motion made by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Dukes, 5 Ayes, 1 Nay – Council Member Eisenberg, Motion passed. See Appendix 8.
- Request from Montevallo Historical Commission for approval of application for a Historic Marker to recognize an area of Selma Road as the Historic Black Business District, a part of the Montevallo African American Heritage Trail. Motion made by Council Member Mitchell, seconded by Council Member Eisenberg, All Ayes, Motion passed. See Appendix 9.
- **First Reading** of Ordinance No. 07222024-140 an Ordinance to amend Chapter 22, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Montevallo, Alabama to create Article VII Section 22-140 regarding the privilege or license tax for the business of renting or furnishing rooms, lodgings, or accommodations to transients. (Lodging Tax Amendment) – No Vote/ First Reading. See Appendix 10.

Old Business: None

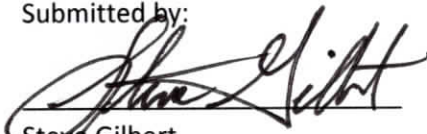
Board Appointments: None

Other Business: Chief Littleton in discussion with City Clerk Gilbert Re: Patrol vehicles, go ahead and order two vehicles now and noted will not pay for vehicles in this year's it will be in this fiscal year's budget; asking for approval go ahead and order. Motion made by Council Member Eisenberg, Seconded by Council Member Mitchell, All Ayes, Motion passed.

Citizen Participation: None

Adjourn: Mayor Nix called for a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Council Member Swords, Seconded by Council Member King, All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Submitted by:



Steve Gilbert
City Clerk / Treasurer

APPENDIX 1

	January-24	February-24	March-24	April-24	May-24	June-24	July-24	August-24	September-24	October-24	November-24	December-24	Total
Total Reports	50	87	89	79	84	102	56	0	0	0	0	0	1897
Criminal Cases	33	57	70	60	64	78	43						405
Non-Criminal	17	30	19	19	20	24	13						142
Traffic Accidents	6	11	11	6	11	13	5						63
Traffic Citations	98	127	148	126	79	125	95						798
DUI Arrests	4	10	9	9	4	5	5						46
Public Intox Arr	0	0	5	0	1	1	0						7
Alias Arrests	2	5	10	11	8	13	9						58
Juvenile Arrests	0	1	2	2	0	0	0						5
Misd Arrests	0	4	2	3	16	19	10						54
Felony Arrests	1	3	1	1	1	4	4						15
Drug Related	1	6	2	2	4	5	4						24
Total Arrest	8	29	31	28	34	47	32	0	0	0	0	0	209
Auto Thefts	1	0	2	0	0	0	0						3
Burglaries	0	1	0	3	1	1	0						6
Auto Recoveries	0	0	1	0	1	1	0						3
Auto Burglaries	0	0	1	3	0	0	0						4
Criminal Mischief	1	1	1	0	2	2	0						7
DV. Related	3	5	8	0	5	5	8						34
Assaults	1	0	1	2	0	0	0						4
Fraud/Forgery	2	0	1	0	0	0	0						3
Harass / Reck	1	3	2	3	3	4	3						19
Misc. Offenses	22	24	21	28	27	30	13						165
Robberies	0	0	2	1	0	0	0						3
Sex Crimes/Other	0	0	0	2	0	0	0						2
Thefts / Attempts	5	3	9	3	2	2	1						25
Suicide / Attempts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
Deaths	1	0	0	0	0	1	0						2

APPENDIX 2

Fire Department Report for Council Meeting 7.22.24

July 1st - July 15th 2024

EMS- 41

Lift assist- 6

Structure Fire- 1

Brush Fire- 0

Dumpster Fire- 1

Electrical Fire - 0

Vehicle Fire- 0

Appliance Fire- 0

Fire Alarm - 2

MVC- 5

Fuel Spill/ gas leak- 0

Assist other agency- 1

Assist Public- 0

Assist Law Enforcement- 0

Total Calls for the first half of

July - 57

Brad Davis

Fire Chief

City of Montevallo

Montevallo Fire & Rescue Service

541 Main Street

Montevallo, AL 35115

Office- 205-666-2555. Ext. 705

City Council Meeting: July 22, 2024

Ms. Sarah Hogan, program director provided the following report:

- ✦ **MAC Cook-Off:** Impact is happy to help support the Montevallo Athletic Club's upcoming Cook-Off event on July 27. We are assisting with youth activities for the event. Make sure you come out and support our youth and the MAC at this event.
- ✦ **Photo Contest:** We were happy to partner with Montevallo Main Street on the "For Love of Main Street" Photo Contest. Impact sponsored the youth component of the competition to encourage involvement in a positive activity and appreciation of their community. Check out all the great photos on our social media. Winners were announced today.
- ✦ **Professional Trainings:** Impact members have been attending a variety of trainings over the last week. We've all learned a multitude of new resources and information to share with the community. Watch our social media and visit our booth at upcoming events to gain some new knowledge to share with your network. One example is the new creation of vaping devices that have video games embedded, a clear example of how companies continue to market their products to youth.
- ✦ **Encouragement Learning Foundation:** The Encouragement Learning Foundation, Inc. is sponsoring its Summer Mentoring and Tutoring Camp at the George Dailey Park on the Wednesdays in July and we are honored to be invited to attend on July 31 to share information about Impact. This will be an opportunity to engage with our local faith based community as well. Thank you to Ms. Mitchell for inviting us to this opportunity.
- ✦ **Freshman Orientation:** Impact will also be represented at the upcoming Freshman Orientation at the High School on August 1. We look forward to engaging with students and parents.
- ✦ **Farmer's Market:** The Montevallo Chamber of Commerce has invited us to participate at the August 5th Farmer's Market to again provide information and activities for youth and families. Plan to come on out and join us.

CALLING ALL FOODIES! WE NEED JUDGES FOR THE MAC COOK-OFF

SPONSORED BY ALABAMA CUSTOM TRAILER & RV

MAC needs your help judging
our Cook-Off! For only \$10.00
you can sample
and vote for your favorite
in each category!

July 27, 2024
11:00am - 3:00 pm
in the Pecan Grove at
the Parnell Library
*other food and activities
will be there for a fun family
day in the shade!
Awards at 3:30!



CALLING ALL VENDORS!

The MAC is hosting a Cook-off and
we are looking for vendors who
would like to set up to sell their
crafts during our event! If you would
like to join us in our inaugural cook-
off and support the student athletes
of Montevallo, please complete the
attached Google form!

July 27th 11am - 3:30pm
In the Pecan Grove of
the Parnell Library

\$25.00 Booth Fee

Sponsored by Alabama Custom Trailer & RV



CALLING ALL COOKS!

MAC IS HOSTING A COOK-OFF SPONSORED BY ALABAMA CUSTOM TRAILER & RV

*Contestants may enter in one or all
3 categories of: meats/entrees,
sides or desserts

*Entry Fee: \$50.00

*Prepare 50-75 samples for judging
*Winners will receive a cash prize
(\$250 meat/entree, \$150 side,
\$150 dessert) blue ribbon
& bragging rights!

July 27, 2024
in the Pecan Grove of the
Parnell Library
11:00am until 3:00pm
Awards begin at 3:30



CALLING ALL TEAMS AND SPONSORS!

SPONSORED BY ALABAMA CUSTOM TRAILER & RV

We are looking for teams and community
organizations who would like to enter our
cookoff to do some team bonding and have a
chance to win some cash for their cause! We
are also looking for sponsors willing to help
teams enter our contest! If you are
interested in "Teaming Up" as a group or as a
sponsor, contact us!

Sponsorships will be \$200 to cover entry
fees and groceries for your team!

MAC Cook-Off
July 27th
11am - 3:30 pm
In the Pecan Grove at
Parnell Library



PARNELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

JULY 22 2024

- We ended our summer reading program on July 12th. We had 168 participate in our summer reading app, and the total minutes logged was 130,751. We had a great end of summer reading event, with a magic show, with over 200 in attendance.
- This week, we are playing family friendly water Disney movies at the library at every day at 2:30.
- Friday, July 26th, we are having a fun library Olympics program, where kids will compete in library style relay games.
- Our August calendar is posted on our FB page and inside the library, and we have some fun back to school crafts coming up.



APPENDIX 5

Report to City Council

July 22, 2024

Updates

- We have announced the winners of our “For the Love of Main Street” photo contest on our social media @MontevilloMainStreet and @ImpactMontevillo, and will give a total of 16 cash prizes to 8 local photographers. 28 photos were submitted.
- We continue to accept applications for our CO.STARTERS program, which will begin meeting weekly on August 27 and is offered at a discounted rate of \$99/person. More information can be found at this link: <https://www.cityofmontevillo.com/CO.STARTERS.aspx>
- Please make plans to join us for our final Friday Nights at the Cove of the season this Friday, July 26, featuring Twelve and sponsored by Bradford Real Estate Group. If the concert is cancelled due to inclement weather, we will announce that on our social media.

Courtney Bennett, Executive Director

Chamber City Council Report 07/22/2024

Due to the Montevallo Chamber hosting the 2024 Montevallo Farmers' Market Adele will not be able to attend Monday nights' council meeting Below is the Chamber Report -

- 1) Thanks to the Mayor and Montevallo City Council for placing the **National Farmers' Market Week** 8/4-8/10 proclamation on the July 22 council agenda. As part of the recognition the Montevallo Farmers' Market will be hosting **National Farmers' Market Day** on Monday Aug. 5th 3-6pm at 660 Main St. behind MFBC. Added attractions for that day will include - Antique Tractor, Bouncy for the Kids, Vendor Specials, Kids' Activities & Frios.
- 2) The **14th Annual Montevallo Farmers' Market** is in full swing - MONDAYS till Aug. 19 3-6pm at 660 Main St. behind MFBC .
- 3) **August Chamber Chatter** will be disturbed on Friday July 26.
- 4) Montevallo Chamber is a team sponsor for the **Montevallo Athletic Club COOK-OFF** / Sat. July 27 / Sign-up to cook or come out to sample / 11am - 3pm / Pecan Grove, Island Street. (Flyer attached)
- 5) **MERI MOON RIBBON CUTTING** / Tues. August 20th / 10am / 618 Main St.
- 6) **August Chamber Luncheon** / 21st WEDNESDAY "**Back to School**" Speakers from Montevallo Elementary, Montevallo Middle and Montevallo High / Parnell Library / 11:30am / Lunch - noon / \$15. each *RSVP* by Friday August 16th to 205-665-1519 or montevallochamber@gmail.com / Luncheon Sponsor - Regions Bank



Adele Nelson
Executive Director

Montevallo Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 270 Montevallo, AL 35115

205.665.1519 office

www.montevallocc.com

United States Dept. of Agriculture
Washington, DC 20250

NATIONAL FARMERS MARKET WEEK

August 4th - 10th, 2024

By the MONTEVALLO CITY COUNCIL & MAYOR of Montevallo, Alabama
A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS Alabama farmers and ranchers provide citizens with access to healthful, locally, and regionally produced foods through farmers markets, which are expanding and evolving to accommodate the demand for a diverse array of agricultural products, and

WHEREAS farmers markets and other agricultural direct marketing outlets provide infrastructure to assist in the distribution of farm and value-added products, thereby contributing approximately \$9 billion each year to the U.S. economy, and

WHEREAS farmers markets serve as significant outlets by which small-to-medium, new and beginning, and veteran agricultural producers market agricultural products, generating revenue that supports the sustainability of family farms and the revitalization of rural communities nationwide, and

WHEREAS the Montevallo City Council and Mayor recognizes the importance of expanding agricultural marketing opportunities that assist and encourage the next generation of farmers and ranchers; generate farm income to help stimulate business development and job creation; build community connections through rural and urban linkages; and more;

NOW, THEREFORE, to further awareness of farmers markets' contributions to Montevallo life, I, Rusty Nix, Montevallo Mayor, do hereby proclaim the week of August 4th - 10th, 2024, as Montevallo Farmers' Market Week with a Monday August 5th market celebration, in conjunction with the observance of National Farmers Market Week. I call upon Montevallo citizens and the community to celebrate farmers markets with appropriate observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 22nd day of July 2024, the two-hundred forty-eighth year of the Independence of the United States of America.



Rusty Nix, Mayor





APPENDIX 8

720 MIDDLE STREET

VELVET VIXEN ART STUDIO

Owner: TJ Robertson- 18 years experience

Owner: Hannah Campbell- 3 years experience

MISSION

- ▶ We strive to bring people into the City of Montevallo that would not normally visit.
- ▶ Our clients spend hours within the heart of the city while waiting to be seen by the artists. While waiting, they shop and eat locally.
- ▶ Our day to day clientele is working class, blue collar, average citizens and a lot of them love this town.
- ▶ As I have previously owned a shop in town for many years, I have never had any issues with violence, erratic behavior, or having to call the police. The Art Studio is a stable attraction for the town to gain revenue off of our clients who visit the city.
- ▶ Average visit is 10-30 people per day, and while those people are here, their friends also visit bringing more revenue opportunity.
- ▶ In the near future, we will be offering laser tattoo removal to help individuals remove unwanted pieces. Montevallo will be the only City in the State of Alabama for now that will offer this service as a tattoo studio. It is new and exciting and everyone in town will gain from this in a positive manner.

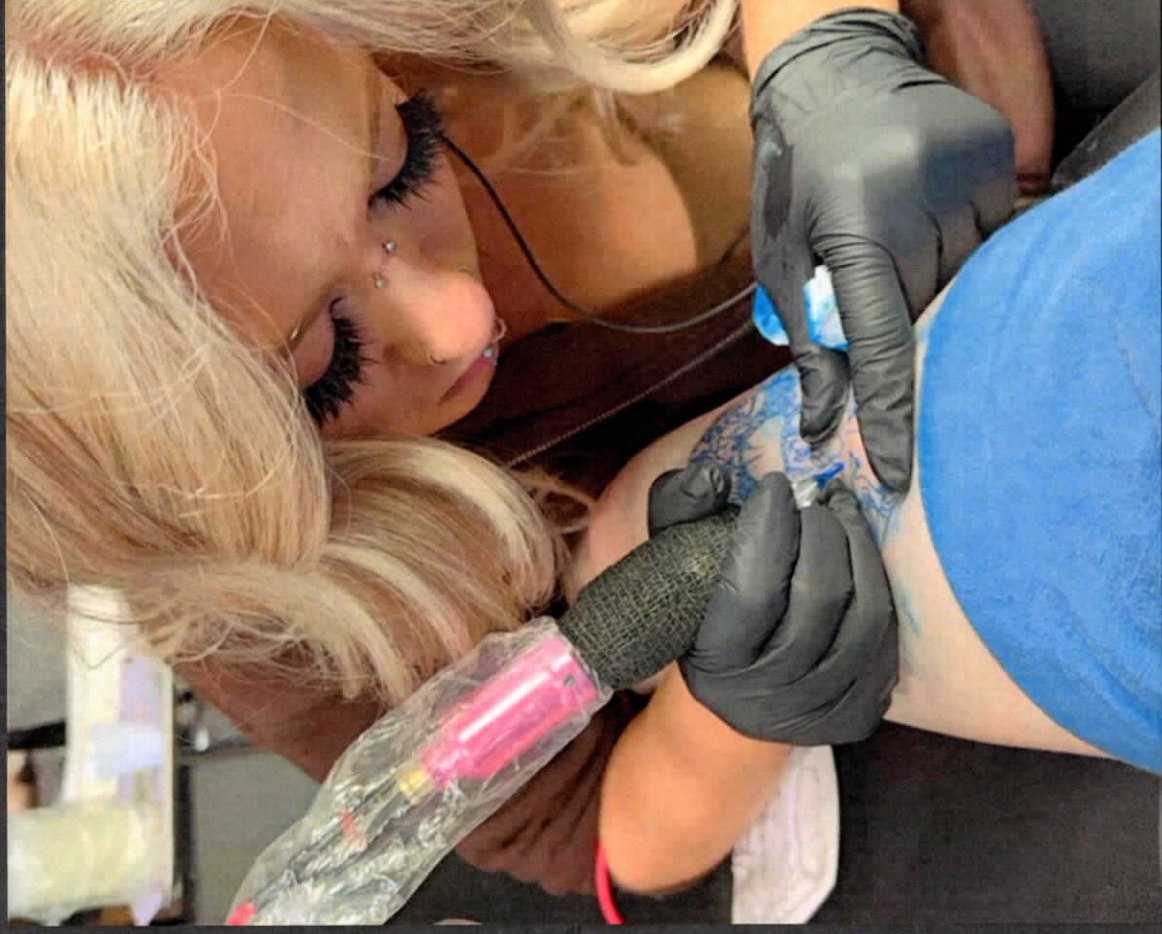
ARTIST- TJ ROBERTSON

- ▶ TJ has been in the tattoo industry for 18 years.
- ▶ He has been within the City of Montevallo doing business for 15 years tattooing.
- ▶ He has apprenticed many artists over the years and they are all excelling in their careers around the Country.
- ▶ Very involved with the community through charity work and supporting local businesses.
- ▶ He is involved with multiple businesses within the City of Montevallo.
- ▶ TJ took a break from the tattoo industry for a year to remodel and build The Dive Bar and Breeze Grill Food Truck, but is now back in full swing.



ARTIST- HANNAH CAMPBELL

- ▶ Hannah graduated from The University of Montevallo with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Art.
- ▶ Grew up in Gulf Shores, Alabama.
- ▶ Started apprenticing while in college at UM and has been tattooing for 3 years.
- ▶ She has amassed clientele all over the Southern states and steadily growing.
- ▶ Hannah is sought out in the industry because of her attention to detail and her style is unique stemming from her art degree. Women drive long distances because she makes them feel comfortable while getting their work done.



WHAT WE DO

- ▶ Revenue in town will increase while our clients come from all over to visit our historic town. It gives local businesses the opportunity to showcase their products and services to new and returning individuals that wouldn't come often.
- ▶ We offer art classes of all kinds and anyone is allowed to participate as space is permitted. We will attract visitors from neighboring cities to participate in our classes. We do not allow nudity of any kind or drinking alcohol in our establishment.
- ▶ Our signage will follow city guidelines and will read "Velvet Vixen Art Studio".

I AM PROUD TO INTRODUCE TO YOU...



VELVET VIXEN ART STUDIO

ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



APPENDIX 9

Historical Marker Application

Marker
Subject

Selma Road Historic Black Business District

County

Shelby

Contact Information

Sponsoring
Organization

City of Montevallo

Street
Address

541 Main Street

City

Montevallo

State

AL

Zip Code

35115

Web Address

cityofmontevallo.com

Sponsoring
Organization
Contact

Steve Gilbert

Mailing
Address
(if different)

Phone
Number

205-665-2555 Ext. 105

E-Mail Address

sgilbert@cityofmontevallo.com

Marker
Needed
Before a
Specific
Date?

Yes
 No

Date and Occasion

Continued on Next Page

Marker Information - Logistics

Where Will
the Marker
Be Placed?

245 Selma Road
Montevallo, AL 35115

Latitude: 33.09483
Longitude: -86.865186

Has Placement Permission
Been Secured?

- Yes
 No

Has Funding for the Marker Been
Secured?

- Yes
 No

Commercial
Address
for Marker
Delivery

Attention: Steve Gilbert / City Clerk
541 Main Street
Montevallo, AL 35115

Marker Information - Text

Draft of
Marker Text

See attachment

Continued on Next Page

Sources
Consulted

See attachment

Submission Instructions

This form may be sent electronically or via postal mail to:

Scotty E. Kirkland
Chair, Historical Marker Committee
Alabama Department of Archives and History
Post Office Box 300100
Montgomery, Alabama 36130
scotty.kirkland@archives.alabama.gov

Selma Road

Historic Black Business District

The Black Business and Entertainment District along Selma Road developed during the Jim Crow era. Most, if not all, of the commercial establishments were rented from a well-to-do African American couple from Marion, AL, Hampton D. Lee and his wife Exie P. Lee. It was the Lees who in 1948 sold the state of Alabama the tract of 15 acres along Selma Road that became Prentice High School and is now the site of Montevallo Middle School and George Dailey Park.

The district served as the business, social, and cultural center for blacks in the Montevallo community. The Lee Funeral Home offered an ambulance service, a notary public, and a burial association. It was operating by the early 1940s. Some of the workers were John Smith, Walter Taylor and Roosevelt "Sam" Cunningham. Other businesses included an Owl filling station, run by Andy Smelley and Ms. Heard; a cleaners operated by Hobie Harris; a pool hall (for men and boys only).

A barbershop was owned and operated by Tom Billingsley. There was also a taxi service. The taximan may have been the same John Smith who drove the ambulance for Lee Funeral Home. Coleman's Café, operated by Mable and Walter Coleman, sold soul food on one side and maintained a dance floor on the other side. The "Sensation Heartbeats" played at Coleman's and other local areas. It came under new management in the 1970s, bought by Sam Lilly, who renamed it The Superfly Club. There was another dance joint in the area called Slim's Place that was owned by Tellie

Cunningham. Many of the businesses ended due to the end of segregation and the death of the owners.

Sponsored by the City of Montevallo

Special Request

Alabama Historical Association

Historical Marker Committee:

We, the members of the Montevallo Historical Preservation Commission of the City of Montevallo would like to make a special request to include the name of Roosevelt (Sam) Cunningham on the marker for the Selma Road Historic Black Business District.

Mr. Cunningham is a 90-year-old former employee of the Lee Funeral Home. He was also a member of the "Sensation Heartbeats." He is currently in poor health, and we believe that having his name on the marker would be a blessing to him and our community.

If there is anything or information needed to facilitate this request, please contact me.

Thank you,



James Salter

Montevallo Historical Preservation Commission

James_a_salter@yahoo.com

205-306-4671

Montevallo Historic Preservation Commission presents

UNTOLD STORIES OF BLACK MONTEVALLO

Your Historic Preservation Commission is working to create a first-rate Montevallo African American Heritage Trail. In coming months we will use this space to share some of our discoveries.

We focus today on Black business enterprises. We begin at the end of the 19th century in the nearby coal mining village of Aldrich, now an unincorporated part of Montevallo. Remarkably, Aldrich was home to a weekly Black-edited newspaper, The Alabama Time-Piece, which ran for a number of years beginning in 1895. It was edited by B. L. ("Booker") Lester, who was also principal of the Aldrich grammar school. (The grammar school seems to have been progressive. The 7th grade course of study included not only bookkeeping but also "Negro History.") We will return to the fascinating story of the Alabama Time-Piece in a later installment.



Booker Lester, editor of The Alabama Time-Piece, c. 1900

Advertisements from the 1898 Time-Piece give intriguing glimpses of Black-owned businesses in Montevallo at the turn of the century. One businessman, Richard D. Taylor, was born into slavery in 1855. By at least 1900 he owned his own home. One of his neighbors was H. C. Reynolds. His store, located just behind the post office, offered confectionary, cakes, and candles as well as "FRESH GROCERIES." His appeal to his readers gives the flavor of the spirit of Black entrepreneurship of the times: "Call on him," the ad says, "if you want to practice race pride, and also get the most for your money."

Another businessman was Robert B. Evans, who, like many at this time, may also have worked as a coal miner. He points with pride to "the only first class Colored Barber Shop" on the east side of town. He urges: "While in the city call on him and be treated right."

An ad of unusual interest was placed by a man still revered in some local circles, Rev. Joseph S. Prentice (1857-1944) for whom the beloved Prentice High School was named. Prentice, whom you will meet again in this space, was acclaimed as a Baptist preacher and educational leader. The Bibb County Baptist Association installed a monument in his honor in 1945, which can be seen in the Montevallo City Cemetery (or on Findagrave.com).

In 1898, Prentice not only pastored three churches in Bibb Co and our own Shiloh Baptist here in Montevallo; he was also venturing into the merchant line. On May 5 he wrote to the editor of the Time-Piece: "Rev. Prentice & Sons have opened a Grocery Store on his lot, near the Time-Piece office, for the accommodation of all," with "SPECIAL prices to Church Schools and Secret Societies." He signs off: "Don't forget to bring your pocket book."



Joseph Prentice and Son posing in Aldrich, c. 1898

Moving forward, some will recall the Black Business and Entertainment District along Selma Road during the Jim Crow era. Most, if not all, of the commercial establishments were rented from a well-to-do African American couple from Marion (AL), Hampton D. Lee (1898-1971) and his wife Exie Patrick Lee (1902-1996). After WWI (in which he served), Hampton opened a funeral home in Marion that offered "prompt and efficient service"; before long he was wheeling and dealing in properties across central Alabama. Rev. Albert L. Jones remembers him as "really smart," a "wheeler dealer" with good hair. He does not know how Lee came into his property or wealth but thinks he had a white father. It was the Lees who in 1948 sold the state of Alabama the tract of 15 acres along Selma Road (for \$3750) that became Prentice High School and is now the site of Montevallo Middle School and George Dailey Park. Dailey was our first African American city council member.

The Lee Funeral Home in Montevallo offered an ambulance service, a notary public, and a burial association. It was operating by the early 1940s. A number of names have been linked with its daily operations: John Smith, Walter Taylor, Sam Cunningham, and a Mr. Foster. Other businesses along Selma Road included an Owl filling station (run by Andy Smelley and Ms. Heard); a cleaners operated by Hobie Harris; a pool hall (for men and boys only).

A barbershop was owned and operated by Tom Billingsley and an additional barber, Tommy Patrick of Wilton. Rev. Jones recalls working as a teenager in its shoeshine stand. A boot shine cost 25¢, a shoeshine 15¢. He got to keep a nickel for each, plus tips. There was also a taxi service (since few blacks owned cars) that advertised itself with a phone number on the side of the vehicle. The taximan may have been the same John Smith who drove the ambulance for Lee Funeral Home.

Coleman's Cafe, operated by Mable and Walter Coleman, sold soul food on one side and maintained a dance floor on the other. It came under new management in the 70s, bought by Sam Lilly, who renamed it The Superfly. It is said that the "Sensation Heartbeats" played at Coleman's and other local areas. The members included Sam Cunningham (alto sax), Chuck Chism (guitar), deceased drummers James Trenholm and Larry Deviner, and several other band members who have passed away. There was another dance joint up the street called Slim's Place (owned by Tellie Cunningham), at the site of the present Good Shepherd funeral home. Tellie was Earl and Sam Cunningham's uncle.

Montevallo produced at least one piano player who made it into the Encyclopedia of the Blues, Piano C. Red (1933-2013). He performed in Chicago with such greats as Muddy Waters, B. B. King, and Fats Domino. The son of Lucille Fain, he was taught to play by Thomas "Fat" Lilly who lived just to the left of the present Good Shepherd Funeral Home.



Blues musician Piano C. Red

Much of the history of Black life in our town exists in the minds, memories, and photographs of our residents. Let us hear from you! Now is the time to search your attics, garages, and cupboards for drawings, pictures, and memorabilia of any sort. Let us build the African American Heritage Trail together!

Submitted by Kathy King & Anita Stewart Sims

Contact us at: Moyaltrail@gmail.com. We want to hear your stories and welcome correction of any errors of fact or interpretation.

From: The Heritage of Shelby County, Alabama

The family is shown in the accompanying photograph. They are (left to right): Front Row - Etta, Lillie, Frank, Laura Louise (Frank's wife), Idalee (baby) and William. Back Row - Fannie (George's wife), Susie, George, Burke, Frank, Jr. and Isaac. Submitted by: Becky Holcombe Bolton, 1420 Linda Vista Drive, Birmingham, AL 35226-3518

Sources: Oral History, as told to me by my mother (Idalee Moody Holcombe) and from documents of transactions of my Grandfather, (Hon. F. S. Moody) and minutes of the 1st Board of Trustees.

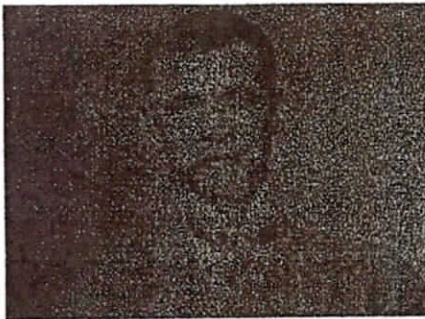
Montevallo's Prentice High School

Montevallo Negro High School - later to be known as Prentice High School - officially opened its doors in 1950. Prior to its creation, black students in the area who wanted to go beyond the ninth grade were bussed to Columbiana to County Training School.

First steps toward the establishment of the school were made in February, 1948, when a motion passed during a meeting of the County Board of Education to have plans made for building a high school in Almont. In May of '48, the site was moved to Montevallo and the suggested property (a 15 acre tract on Selma Road known as the old Kendrick property) was purchased from a prominent

black business man - Hampton D. Lee and his wife, Exie Patric Lee - for the sum of \$3750.00.

The building, set to be finished in September of 1949, was not completed until March of 1950. During the time from September to March, students attended classes in the Masonic Hall, Ward Chapel AME Church and Pilgrim Rest Church.

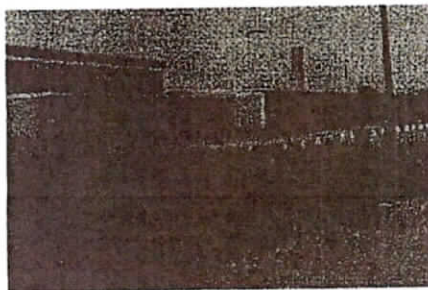


Rev. Joseph Prentice

The 1949-1950 faculty was headed up by Luther L. Penn as principal. Samuel Maull and Marie Peoples were sponsors for the first graduating class. The 62 member class held their ceremony utilizing a platform for a stage in one of two adjoining rooms that could be opened into one by means of a movable wall.

In September of 1950, it was obvious that more space was needed and six additional classrooms plus a home economics area were added to the original six room structure. A combination auditorium - gym was completed in March, 1955.

Between 1951 and 1954, mail delivery became a problem because of confusion between the names of the all-white Montevallo High School and M.N.H.S. A group of citizens met and decided to rename the school in honor of a long-time resident and leading citizen - the Rev. Joseph Prentice.



Prentice High School

With the renaming of the school, and the addition of competitive sports to the program, a true "identity" became established. Green and gold were chosen as school colors and a mascot - the dragon - was selected.

C.P. Everett became principal upon the retirement of Mr. Penn in 1960 and in September,

construction of two more classrooms and a lunch room were approved.

In 1965, George Dailey was named principal - at a time when decisions and guidelines were being issued from Washington, D.C. concerning the desegregation of public schools. The days of all-black Prentice High were numbered.

In 1968, a Freedom of Choice letter was distributed to all students giving them the opportunity to attend the school of their choice for the 1968-69 term. Some teachers long associated with Prentice became a part of the faculty of Montevallo High. One of

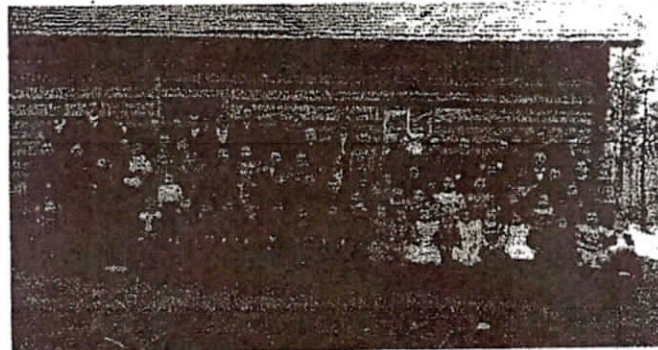
these teachers, Mrs. Blanche Coger, who had been a part of the Prentice faculty since the school's opening 1949-50 term, was especially revered. Her students and co-workers, both black and white, had great respect for her and honored her in a special tribute at a reunion of all Prentice classes held in 1989.

The final 1969-70 faculty for Prentice was composed of Mr. Dailey, principal; Mrs. Junnie Craig, Mr. Charles Kidd, Mr. Arthur Greenlea, Mrs. Jewel Dailey, Mrs. Margaret Bergstresser, Mr. Glen Hale, Mrs. Judy Smitherman, and Ms. Delois Patrick. Further directives from the Justice Department called for the closing of the four Shelby County Negro High Schools and the final graduation class of Prentice held their exercise. Submitted by: Emily V. Pendleton and Kathlyn Boyd Lathion (Retired Shelby County teachers and graduates respectively of MHS and PHS), 1630 Ashville Road, Montevallo, AL 35115. Photo of Mr. Prentice courtesy of Tina Grant

Mount Era School

Little information is available on Mount Era School, but many references to the school were made in the submitted stories. It was located near the present Mount Era Methodist Church on Shelby County Highway 26 East.

The accompanying photograph was made available by Mrs. Ruth Naish Harris of Camp Branch. Mrs. Harris' mother, Iva Drucilla Lynch Naish (1891-1980), and uncle, Sidney Eli Lynch (1886-1959) are pictured in the third row from the front. They are the taller boy and small girl, shown side by side, in almost the exact center of the row.

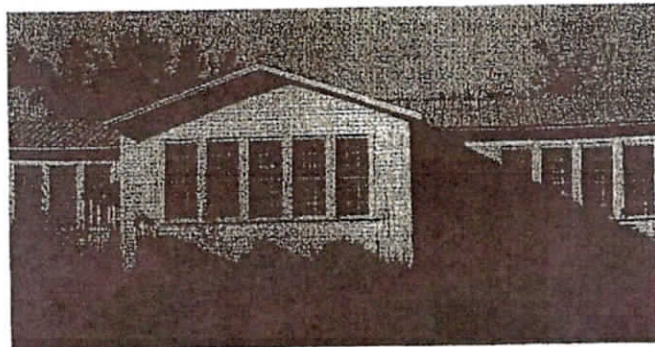


Mount Era School, ca 1898-1900.

On the front row, the first seated girl (from the left) is thought to be Mrs. Lennie Harless Payne, who was born on 2 July 1898. At the age 102, she was able to view the photograph, verify the location and identify the male teacher. He was Mr. Will McEwen, and is shown in the back row, 7th from left. Reminding us that it was in the days before daily automobile commutes, Mrs. Payne recalled that Mr. McEwen had a family in Wilsonville but, at one time, boarded with her family during the week, only returning home to Wilsonville during the weekends. Submitted by: Patricia Crim Dietlein, 1108 Crown Drive, Birmingham, AL 35235-1539


New Hope School

No information is available on New Hope School but many reference to the school were made in the Family Stories and one photograph was available from the Archives.



New Hope School

<i>Compliments of</i> WEEMS INSURANCE AGENCY	<i>Compliments of</i> DELUXE CLEANERS Montevallo
<i>Greetings From The</i> SIXTH GRADE President, Echol L. Nix Secretary, Valeria K. Bolding Mrs. J. B. Crawford, Teacher	<i>Compliments of</i> A FRIEND 35 Little Hearts Bubbling With Joy 4th GRADE CLASS Mrs. A. M. Nann, Teacher
<i>Compliments of</i> A FRIEND	P. M. BLAIR DRY CLEANERS Montgomery, Ala. 36106
<i>Best Wishes</i> FIRST GRADE — B Miss M. L. Henderson, Teacher	<i>Compliments of</i> Mrs. Daisy Davenport's Variety Shop 221 6th Ave., South Birmingham
DURITE CLEANERS Main Office, 834 So. Jackson Phone 263-4084 Montgomery, Alabama	<i>Compliments of</i> 6-B CLASS Mrs. M. M. Smitherman, Teacher
<i>Compliments of</i> J. O. JUDKINS Notary Public Birmingham	<i>Compliments of</i> TIMES PRINTING CO. Montevallo
OWL SERVICE STATION Montevallo, Ala. Phone 665-4531	

FIRESTONE MONTEVALLO HOME & AUTO Main Street Montevallo, Alabama	RON SHAFER  53 Main Street Montevallo, Alabama Phone 665-4481
MONTEVALLO LUMBER COMPANY LUMBER AND BUILDING MATERIALS Phone 665-6801 Montevallo, Ala.	SHELL SERVICE STATION Montevallo J. M. Allen, Owner
COMPLIMENTS OF FOREMOST DAIRIES Birmingham, Alabama	COMPLIMENTS OF JONES VALLEY SAUSAGE COMPANY 1127 6th Ave., No. Birmingham, Alabama Phone 322-1895

From: Dedication Program of the Almont Elementary School
Montevallo, Alabama December 6, 1964

Sources Consulted:

1. Themontevallolegacyproject.com/untoldstories/modern-archive-ddfrg
2. *The Heritage of Shelby County, Alabama* by Heritage Publishing Consultants, Clanton, AL (1999)
3. www.cityofmontevallo.com/GeorgeDaileyPark.aspx
4. Dedication Program of the Almont Elementary School, Montevallo, Alabama, December 6, 1964

Oral interviews with local residents:

1. Kathlyn Boyd Lathion – retired Shelby Co. school teacher
2. Janie Bolling – daughter of Mable & Walter Coleman
3. Tommy Patrick – local barber
4. Willie B. Bolling – local resident
5. Roosevelt (Sam) Cunningham – 90 year old former employee of Lee Funeral Home
6. Sarah Lacey – local resident
7. Patricia Walker - local resident

ORDINANCE NO. 07222024-140

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 22,
OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MONTEVALLO, ALABAMA
TO CREATE ARTICLE VII SECTION 22-140 REGARDING THE PRIVILEGE OR
LICENSE TAX FOR THE BUSINESS OF RENTING OR FURNISHING ROOMS,
LODGINGS, OR ACCOMMODATIONS TO TRANSIENTS

WHEREAS, The City of Montevallo under authority granted by the State of Alabama Code Title 40-26-1, *et. seq.*, Revenue and Taxation, currently collects a privilege or license tax from every person, firm, or corporation engaging in the business of renting or furnishing any room or rooms, lodging, or accommodations to transients in any hotel, motel, inn, tourist camp, tourist cabin, or any other place in which rooms, lodgings, or accommodations are regularly furnished to transients for a consideration at the rate of five percent (5%) of the charge for such room, rooms, lodgings, or accommodations, including the charge for use or rental of personal property and services furnished in such room.

WHEREAS, given the current economic circumstances and conditions, both regionally and nationally, the City Council believes it is necessary, advisable and in the best interest of the City to increase the percentage of lodging tax imposed on those businesses that benefit most from the privilege of doing business in Montevallo.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Montevallo, Alabama as follows:

Article VII. - LODGING TAX LEVY MODIFIED, is hereby added to the Code of Ordinances of the City of Montevallo

Article VII, Section 22-140 - Levy and amount of tax modified.

The rate of percentage shall hereby be established at six percent (6%) of the charge for such room, rooms, lodgings, or accommodations, including the charge for use or rental of personal property and services furnished in such room.

The proceeds collected related to this ordinance shall be expended to support the general operations of the City of Montevallo, as directed and appropriated by the City Council.

Section 22-141. Severability

Each section and provision of this ordinance is hereby declared to be an independent section or provision. If any section or provision shall be declared void, invalid, or unconstitutional, the remaining sections or provisions shall not be affected but shall remain in full force and effect.

This Ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and advertisement as provided by law. Collection of six percent (6%) tax levy shall become effective November 1, 2024.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS 12th DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.

ATTEST

APPROVED:

Steve Gilbert, City Clerk

Rusty Nix, Mayor Date

[SEAL]

POSTING AFFIDAVIT

I, the undersigned City Clerk of the City of Montevallo, Alabama, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing ORDINANCE NO. 07222024-140, was duly ordained, adopted, and passed by majority vote of the City Council of the City of Montevallo, Alabama at a regular meeting of such Council held on the 12th day of August, 2024 and duly published by posting an exact copy thereof on the 13th day of August, 2024 at four public places within the City of Montevallo, including City Hall, Parnell Library, Montevallo City Shop, and Montevallo Senior Center and at www.cityofmontevallo.com. I further certify that said ordinance is on file in the office of the City Clerk and a copy of the full ordinance may be obtained from the office of the City Clerk during normal business hours.

Steve Gilbert, City Clerk