

**CITY COUNCIL OF TALLADEGA
GOAL SETTING WORK SESSION
January 23, 2020 – 4:00 pm**

Council President Power wished to acknowledge anyone wanting to speak upon the matter of transportation.

City Manager Cheeks stated that the comments made on social media about the City cutting the transportation program was false. It was also stated that Community Life Institute, a private agency who aided in the transportation of seniors, had their funding and grant discontinued by East Alabama Regional Planning and Development. The City in the past had helped the agency as much as possible by donating a room at the Mabra Center for them to run their operations and a donation of a van. She wished to reiterate that the program which was cut was not a City program. She also asked that any ideas or proposals to increase transportation would be appreciated.

Councilman Patterson wished to thank the audience for their presence and stated that he understood that the discontinuation of the Community Life Institute posed a hardship for many and would like to go on record in support of securing a van to serve the seniors presently not being aided.

Citizen Curtis Holman wished to thank the Council for allowing him to speak upon this matter and requested that the Council look into expanding the existing transportation program.

Citizen Rod Skene came before the Council also requesting the expansion of the transportation program stating that many visually impaired citizens are in need of this service to get them into town.

David Trott stated that the City may be qualified for a 5312 grant and stated that perhaps the City could partner with a group of people for the expansion of the transportation system.

April Martin came before the council requesting that the City find ways for seniors to travel and suggested that a bond could possibly be created with the County for travel outside the City limits.

Cathy Williams came before the Council concerning transportation for the community and requested that a bus be provided for seniors to travel and a bond be created with the County to go outside the City limits.

Mary Farrow White came before the Council stressing the importance of public transportation for those over the age of 60 and asking them to take into consideration the elderly.

Councilman Patterson stated that he would like to begin exploring funding options to secure transportation and speaking with elected officials such as Senator McClendon and Representative Hurst. He also commented that funding could be possible with help from community businesses and stated that he would gladly serve on a committee in support of this issue.

Council President Power requested that this issue be put on the next Council meeting's agenda; letting them know what funding sources are available.

Citizen Ms. Ethel came before the Council requesting that the Council continue use of the van donated to Community Life Institute. Councilman Patterson commented that the van should be in use and if a plan should be initiated it could be used.

Property owner Kevin Smith came before the Council stating that advertisement space could be put on the busses to help pay for the vehicles and another option of looking into a Tesla charging station or getting in contact with the President of AIDB and look into contacting Google test driving cars. It was also mentioned that there were a lot of other companies looking for space to test things out.

Council President Power deferred to Jimmy Williams and Martha Jordan concerning a proposal on tourism. Jimmy Williams stated that in doing research they have found that many ideas were brought forth to increase tourism but nothing has come to fruition. He also stated that their proposal would include ideas for promoting tourism and requested a forum in which to present it to the Council. It was decided that a work session be held at 4pm on February 3, 2020 before the regular City Council meeting.

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
January 23, 2020 – 5:00 pm

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, January 23, 2020 at 5:00 p.m., at the Talladega City Hall Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order and the following were present: Council President Joseph K. Power, Councilman Horace Patterson, Council Member Vickey R. Hall, Council Member Betty C. Spratlin, Councilman Trae Williams, Mayor Ragland and City Manager Beth Cheeks.

Invocation by Reverend Robert Klotz.

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Councilman Williams to approve invoices and expenditures. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Total Invoices & Expenditures for 1/3/20120 to 1/13/2020	\$ 293,681.33
General Fund	262,799.47
Corrections Fund	22,145.24
Cemetery	57.19
Municipal Airport	4,841.83
Capital Projects Trust Fund	3,837.60

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Council Member Hall for approval of minutes of the regular meeting of January 6, 2020. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Council Member Hall to re-appointment Laura Beavers to the Board of Adjustments and Appeals. AYES: All.

Citizen Stephanie Engle came before the Council to request two speed bumps for Roundabout Road stating that there have been problems with speeding vehicles, trespassing, and illegal and dangerous events. Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Council Member Hall to approve the request for speed bump on Roundabout Road. AYES: All.

Council President Power deferred to City Manager Cheeks concerning the Complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census. City Manager Cheeks stated that the Census would be held in April and an accurate count was important and wished to make them aware of the upcoming Census. She also mentioned that the Complete Count Committee should consist of leaders in the community to pull together and get the information out to encourage all to participate in the Census. It was also mentioned that if necessary, the City can offer a place and time for discussion concerning the Census. Reverend Hugh Morris stated that he would be interested in joining the Complete Count Committee.

Brought before the Council was the Statement of Dissolution and Termination Report. Council President Power stated that this was for officials who were elected and ran for office. City Manager Cheeks mentioned that if the principal campaign committee was not dissolved by December 31, 2019 then an annual Campaign Finance Report is due to the Judge of Probate by January 31, 2020. It was also mentioned that those wishing to dissolve their campaign committee would need to file a Statement of Dissolution and Termination report also by January 31st to the Judge of Probate. City Manager Cheeks also reminded the Council to file their Statement of Economic Interest form by April 30, 2020.

Council President Power deferred to City Manager Cheeks concerning the 2020 Severe Weather Preparedness Tax Holiday. It was stated that the Alabama Department of Revenue announced that the holiday would be held February 21 to February 23. The items exempt from state sales tax include batteries, tarps, artificial ice and items needed to aid in weather preparedness. Council Member Spratlin questioned if an ordinance would be needed for this holiday. City Manager Cheeks stated that Ordinance 1731 was in perpetuity.

Brought before the Council was information concerning the Parks and Recreation's baseball and softball registration. It was mentioned that registration would begin January 21st and end February 7th. City Manager Cheeks encouraged all to attend opening day on April 4th.

City Manager Cheeks informed the Council that the City was awarded the 2018 GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and stated the City has received this recognition since 2016.

Brought before the Council was a breakdown of costs for the 2019 Christmas on the Square event. It was stated that this was the least expensive Christmas on the Square event thus far and it included the cost of personnel whereas in previous years, the cost of personnel was not calculated in the totals.

Resolution #4987 to assess a weed abatement lien on a vacant lot on Bednash St.

Motion by Councilman Williams with a second from Councilman Patterson for the approval of Resolution #4987. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #4988 approving abatement of junk cars on Ave H

Resolution #4989 approving abatement of junk cars on 103 Yester Lane

Resolution #4990 approving abatement of junk cars on 113 Highland Circle

Resolution #4991 approving abatement of junk cars on 722 Pulliam St.

Resolution #4992 approving abatement of junk cars on Pulliam St.

Resolution #4993 approving abatement of junk cars on Cook St.

Code Enforcement Officer Rowls stated that the junk car located at 103 Yester Lane was sold and no longer on the property.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Councilman Williams for the approval of Resolution #4988, #4990, #4991, #4992, and #4993. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #4994 approving the purchase of a table at the Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Luncheon for a cost of \$150.00

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Councilman Williams for the approval of Resolution #4994. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #4995 approving a purchase agreement with Diamond Tours for the Parks & Recreation Senior Trip to Savannah, Georgia.

Motion by Council Person Spratlin with a second from Councilman Patterson for the approval of Resolution #4995. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #4996 approving a contract with Alabama First Responders Benefits Program – Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company for legislated Critical Care and Long-Term Disability for firefighters at a cost of \$198.24/each for 2020.

Motion by Councilman Williams with a second from Council Member Spratlin for the approval of Resolution #4996. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second by Council Person Hall to approve invoices and expenditures for the Water Department. AYES: All.

Water Department Expenditures for 1/2/2020 to 1/16/2020 **\$ 156,669.54**

Water/Sewer Fund 156,669.54

Councilman Patterson wished to encourage all in the community to turn out in support of the opening of the Amistad murals at Talladega College and stated that Martin Luther King Drive posed a dangerous situation for students walking. He also requested that a letter be sent from the Council expressing their appreciation and commitment to the groups in attendance during this meeting.

Council Member Hall requested an update on East Side School. City Manager Cheeks commented that the property owner wished to donate the building and the Superintendent of Schools is not interested in the building. She requested that Council Member Hall get back with her concerning a time for a walk through of the building. Councilman Patterson expressed his interest in also attending the walk through. City Attorney O'Brien stated that the matter could be brought before the Council on February 3rd as long as it occurs more than 7 days before.

Mayor Ragland was also excited for the opening of the Amistad murals and encouraged all to come and join them in viewing the murals. He also stated that consideration should be given to putting money into transportation as well as exploring the ride share option.

Council Member Spratlin gave an update on the Alabama Power property lease at the golf course. It was stated that Alabama Power would only lease for long term or the property could be sold at market value. She requested that the City Manager look into different options for the golf course weather to sell the property to a private entity as a golf course or as a park, housing development, or golf complex.

Councilman Williams wished to thank Parks and Recreation Director Ammons and City Manager Cheeks for opening up centers for the severe weather event. He also wished to thank Public Works Director Phillips for the good job during the rain for cleaning out the curbs and gutters.

City Manager Cheeks wished to thank Councilman Williams for recognizing the hard work of the City employees stating that during the weather event there were 17 trees that were in the road needing to be cleared. She also gave her condolences to the family of Cleve Jacobs. It was also mentioned that James Spann would be at the Talladega Public Library on January 25 from 10am to 1pm for a book signing.

Council President Power wished to thank Councilman Williams for his assistance of a downed tree in his neighborhood while he was away.

It was agreed upon that the discussion of the City Manager's evaluation be delayed until the first meeting in March. Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Council Member Spratlin to delay the City Manager Evaluation with her agreement until the first meeting in March. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Council Member Spratlin to go into Executive Session to discuss the purchase of real property (real estate) at 6:16pm. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Council return to Chambers at 6:36pm with no action taken.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Council Member Spratlin for adjournment. AYES: All.

AUTHENTICATION

I, Joanna Medlen, City Clerk of the City of Talladega, Alabama, do hereby attest that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings of the City Council of Talladega, Alabama, which met in a regular session on Monday, January 23, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall in the City of Talladega, Alabama.