

**CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
ZOOM MEETING
January 4, 2021 – 5:00 pm**

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom. The meeting was called to order and the following were present: Council President Trae Williams, Councilman Horace Patterson, Council Member Vickey R. Hall, Council Member Betty C. Spratlin, Councilman Joseph K. Power, Jr., Mayor Ragland and Interim City Manager Kelsey Gallahar.

Invocation by Councilman Horace Patterson.

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

Total Invoices & Expenditures for 12/15/2020 to 12/31/2020	\$340,928.60
General Fund	254,404.83
Corrections Fund	935.22
Library Fund	2,684.49
Municipal Airport	1,820.54
Oil Trust Fund	80,224.02
Capital Projects Trust fund	859.50

Motion by Council President Williams with a second from Council Member Spratlin for approval of minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 7, 2020. AYES: All.

Brought before the Council was a request from the 2nd Saturday Committee to establish a monthly community event for the second Saturday of each month for 2021, the waiver of vendor permits/business license requirements for the vendors for the weekend, and the use of the Davy Allison Memorial Park and parking spaces and the parking lot near the Talladega Bottling Works Building. There was some discussion upon the matter. It was the consensus that although the request was desirable, it was decided that shorter intervals would be better in case of unforeseen circumstances occur. Motion by Councilman Power with a second from Council Member Williams to approve the request from January to March 2021. AYES: All. Council Member Spratlin inquired if the event sponsor for the Brannon’s Building could work with Mr. Smith’s request. Interim City Manager Gallahar commented that she had not heard of any other group joining the 2nd Saturday Committee and that the Brannon’s Building was private property.

Council President Williams deferred to Police Chief Busby concerning an update on a situation within the City. Police Chief Busby commented that there were 3 felony arrests, multiple misdemeanor arrests and several fire arms confiscated a few days ago. He also mentioned that this crackdown would continue although it might not be the same type of arrests; hopefully curbing crimes on the street.

Brought before the Council was a discussion concerning the proposed section of the Historic Preservation Commission in the Zoning ordinance drafted by City Attorney O’Brien. There was much discussion upon the matter. Councilman Power suggested that the restriction of paint colors and the notification requirement for owners of adjacent properties that are also in the district be removed. Also discussed was the possibility of some property owners wishing to be removed from the Historic District overlay. Councilman Power mentioned one of the problems encountered by residents was the issue of selective enforcement and that if the proposed changes are to be made to the Zoning Ordinance, this would need to be enforced as with any other ordinance. City Attorney O’Brien stated that to change the overlay that appears on the Zoning map, an ordinance to repeal part of all of ordinance designating historic districts or individuals who don’t want to be in would be needed and could be done by drafting a new ordinance with new legal description of areas to be included or to draft ordinance amending the current ordinance for particular area by excluding by legal descriptions those who did not want to participate in the historic district. Councilman Patterson commented that he thought that Talladega College had been removed as a historic district and requested that the City Manager reach out to the College president to see what the College’s wishes are. Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Council Member Hall to remove the paint color restriction and the 7-day notification from

the proposed ordinance and before the proposal is re-written, contact AIDB and Talladega College concerning their participation in the overlay. AYES: All. A committee consisting of Councilman Power and Council Member Spratlin was created to work directly with City Attorney O'Brien and Interim City Manager Gallahar concerning this issue.

A discussion concerning the water rate was brought before the Council. Interim City Manager Gallahar commented that Jackson Thornton has recommended in order to bring the City's current rates to the current standard; the City would need reduce the minimum usage by 1,000 gallons and increase volume metric rate by \$1.00 per thousand gallons and in end have a 0 minimum usage rate and an increase by \$3.00 by 2022. It was also mentioned that the last increase was in 2008. Councilman Power inquired if part of the rate increase will go toward supporting the additional debt that was taken on. Water and Sewer Director Fuller stated that it would but is not required for the additional debt. Councilman Power asked from Walter Lewis if it would support the previously approved \$17 million, but according to the rate study might \$35 million was needed. He also stated that he had never received the actual amount needed over time, when it was needed and what it was going to be for. Director Fuller commented that the projects were to increase the amount of water being produced at the water plant, additional storage and to improve the system to provide for any future industrial growth. Council President Williams stated that the minimum usage recommended from Walter Lewis does not correlate to Jackson Thornton's recommendation; stating that he would personally like to stay with the plan presented by Mr. Lewis. Council President Williams deferred to Mr. Lewis. Mr. Lewis stated that he did not have his presentation and has not had a chance to compare the two. Council President Williams requested a copy of Jackson Thornton's recommendation be sent to him. There was also some concern that the increase in the water bill would be a burden on the citizens and a sample bill was requested to be able to compare the difference.

David Andrews from CMS came before the Council concerning a Special Use Permit for Telecommunication Tower located at 606 Stone Ave. It was proposed that T-Mobile would remove all the existing antennas and replace them with 3 new antennas for a technology upgrade.

Resolution #5210 allocating \$112,000 to be used for capital improvement project 2021 in the Police Department for enhancing investigative tools – immediate need concerning public safety; after approval state competitive bid law will be followed

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Council President Williams for the approval of Resolution #5210. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #5211 approving a special use permit for T-Mobile telecommunication tower located at 606 Stone Ave.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Council Member Hall for the approval of Resolution #5211. Roll Call. AYES: All.

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

Water Department Expenditures for 12/16/2020 to 12/22/2020	\$ 206,766.43
Water/Sewer Fund	206,766.43

Brought before the Council was the discussion concerning the setting of the starting salary and closing date for the City Manager. It was decided that the starting salary be set at \$85,000 subject to negotiation and education status. It was also decided that the closing date for applications was February 15th with applications to be sent to City Attorney O'Brien. Motion by Council President Williams with a second from Councilman Patterson to set the starting salary at \$85,000 subject to negotiation due to education status and job experience and the application closing date on February 15, 2021. AYES: All.

Interim City Manager Gallahar commented that there was a new tool on the City's website allowing citizens to submit a tip to the Police Department anonymously.

Councilman Patterson inquired about the status of the Chamber of Commerce's parking lot. Interim City Manager Gallahar stated that the caboose project was on the CIP and once approved will be started on that phase of it. It was also mentioned that the trees for the parking lot were at the nursery

until the weather is right for them to be planted. The sod had already been planted on the back side of the building. It was also mentioned that the roof would be done phases for the CIP in the year 2022. Councilman Patterson stated that he would like to revisit this after the selection of a new City Manager commenting that he did not want to wait until next year to tackle the roof situation. Another concern mentioned that would need to be revisited was the need to look at funds to market the City and other possible projects along with the Chamber project.

Council Member Hall reminded everyone of upcoming Special Election for City School Board for Ward 2 and encouraged all in ward 2 to vote. She also commented that the Eastside building would be started on in 2021 and requested the paperwork for it; stating that citizens had told her it was put in for February of 2020. She also wished to thank Police Chief Busby and the rest of the department for the great job they are doing.

Councilman Power commented that based on Councilman Patterson's comments after going through the first stage of the CIP for 2021 many of the items although are important do not directly impact the quality of life for the citizens. He also stated that the budget not only need to include the important items such as vehicles and other items that need to be upgraded which have been neglected for years, but also need to provide the things that directly impact the resident. He also asked when the discussion for the Municipal Judge would be heard. Council President Williams commented that the decision does not have to be made until August and is trying to get an idea what the current judge is wanting financially. Council Member Spratlin commented that Interim City Manager Gallahar is looking into the matter currently and is familiar with it and may give the Council some updates at future meetings. Councilman Power also inquired about the letter of intent from Southwest Water and requested that a definite vote be brought up. City Attorney O'Brien commented that based upon the comments of other Council members, the changes to the Letter of Intent were acceptable. However, the term agreement attached, it was Council's preference not to agree to terms in advance and wait until Southwest Water had completed its due diligence and then negotiate terms of agreement. He also stated that he has communicated that to the attorney; who will submit a clean draft of the LOI for Council consideration on January 21. Councilman Patterson commented that he was opposed to this issue.

Council Member Spratlin wished to read a letter with a donation sent to her concerning the help received from Animal Control and wished to thank them for their hard work.

Councilman Power commented that there was a ribbon cutting for Premier Auto Detailing January 7 at 11:30am.

Council President Williams encouraged the Council to go through the CIP and reach out to Interim City Manager Gallahar for any adjustments and feedback. He also stated that the water system was an asset and before considering this issue the Council would need to find out what Southwest Water is offering.

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