

**CITY COUNCIL OF TALLADEGA
WORK SESSION
November 2, 2020 – 4:00pm**

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a Work Session meeting on Monday, November 2, 2020 at 4:00pm at the Talladega City Hall Chambers. The following were present: Council President Trae Williams, Councilman Horace Patterson, Council Member Vickey R. Hall, Councilman Joseph K. Power, Jr., Council Member Betty C. Spratlin, and City Manager Beth Cheeks.

Brought before the Council a discussion concerning the Water Department Bonds. Council President Williams deferred to Mr. Walter Lewis from Piper Sandler for a presentation concerning the Water Department's expenditures and the 2010 and 2015 bonds. There was some discussion concerning reducing the base rate of water from 3,000 gallons per month to 2,000 gallons, the amount to borrow for infrastructure work for the Water Department to include with the refunding, and the potential interest on the amount borrowed.

**CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
November 2, 2020 – 5:00 pm**

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, November 2, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. at the Talladega City Hall Chambers 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 City Manager Beth Cheeks.

Invocation by Councilman Horace Patterson.

Public Hearing was opened for anyone who wished to comment and/or object to the placement of weed abatement liens for 16 properties. No one was present to comment and the public hearing was closed.

Council President Williams deferred to Councilman Patterson concerning a request from Talladega College. It was requested that there be street closures on the campus at Talladega College due to the fact that the upcoming elections may bring some unrest. City Manager Cheeks stated that she would discuss this with Police Chief Busby and Fire Chief Warwick. Police Chief Busby commented that he would coordinate with the Police Chief of Talladega College.

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

Total Invoices & Expenditures for 9/29/2020 to 10/27/2020	\$ 238,627.68
General Fund	233,353.39
Corrections Fund	924.58
Cemetery	52.50
Library Fund	2,172.88
Municipal Airport	2,124.33

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Council Member Hall for approval of minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 26, 2020. AYES: All.

Mayor Ragland swears in Eric Paul Chatman and Will Twymon to the Civil Service Board.

Mayor Ragland presents a Hospice and Palliative Care Awareness Month Proclamation to Mitzi Reves from Affinity Hospice.

Mayor Ragland presents a proclamation to Suellen Tobler in recognition of Rehab Select's recent award.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Council President Williams for the re-appointment of Russell Bowden and Becky Davis to the Heritage Hall Commission. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Mayor Ragland swears in Russell Bowden and Becky Davis to the Heritage Hall Commission.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Council Member Hall for the re-appointment of Rex Griffin, John Midlock, and Jack Clark to the Talladega Municipal Airport Board. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Council President Williams deferred to Mike Raita from the International Motorsports Hall of Fame. Mr. Raita presented to the Council a slideshow of the recent and proposed renovations being made to the Motorsports Hall of Fame.

Council President Williams deferred to Dorrine Smith. Ms. Smith came before the Council to request the City's help in stopping the illegal littering at Talladega Downs. It was stated that there were couches and mattresses left out and that the litter would drift down to her street. It was also mentioned that despite many conversations with the manager of Talladega Downs the problem has yet to desist. City Manager Cheeks stated that the City was looking into a resolution concerning this issue by negotiating with management concerning the business license and what they would need to do in terms of maintenance to be able to renew their license.

Council President Williams deferred to City Manager Cheeks concerning the Municipal Court Judge's salary since the latest Alabama's Supreme Court Ruling. It was mentioned that the warrant hearings previously being handled by the Chief Court Clerk and the Magistrates can only be conducted by the Municipal Judge, therefore greatly increasing the number of hours the judge must work. Brought before Council consideration were three proposed options for compensating the Judge. Chief Court Clerk Sparks stated that this change would occur in February and that no decision had to be made at this time.

Brought before the Council was a review by Brian Free of CRI the audit findings for the City. It was stated that the City has a qualified opinion. It was also mentioned that there were no internal control and no compliance issues to report. Mr. Free went on to cover all financial information of the City's General Fund and accounts. Councilman Power inquired if there were any issues seen in the audit. Mr. Free commented that after conducting interviews with management and addressing certain concerns there was no significant issues. Councilman Power commented that it would be beneficial for the Council to reach out to CRI prior to the beginning of an audit to have any questions answered. Mr. Free stated that he would reach out to the Council this year. There was also some discussion concerning the water department's budget.

Brought before the Council was a presentation by Kelsey Gallahar for the Chamber of Commerce building. The presentation included work already done and proposed renovations such as overhauling the parking lot, extensive repair to the roof, new gutters and refurbishment of the Chamber building and public restrooms.

Resolution #5153 to assess a weed abatement lien on 114 Jackson St.

Resolution #5154 to assess a weed abatement lien on Vacant lot on corner of Jackson St. and Williams St.

Resolution #5155 to assess a weed abatement lien on 215 Howard St.

Resolution #5156 to assess a weed abatement lien on 311 Grant St.

Resolution #5157 to assess a weed abatement lien on 421 19th St.

Resolution #5158 to assess a weed abatement lien on 312 Jemison St.

Resolution #5159 to assess a weed abatement lien on 716 Coffee St.

Resolution #5160 to assess a weed abatement lien on 205 Alexander St.

Resolution #5161 to assess a weed abatement lien on 510 Adams Ave.

Resolution #5162 to assess a weed abatement lien on 733 Pulliam St.

Resolution #5163 to assess a weed abatement lien on Vacant corner of Ave H and Knox St.

Resolution #5164 to assess a weed abatement lien on Vacant lot corner of Knox St. and Ave H

Resolution #5165 to assess a weed abatement lien on 205 East Parkway

Resolution #5166 to assess a weed abatement lien on 207 Alexander St.

Resolution #5167 to assess a weed abatement lien on 410 Brome St. East

Resolution #5168 to assess a weed abatement lien on VJS Stop & Shop/Ft. Lashley

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Councilman Power for the approval of Resolution #5153 to Resolution #5168. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #5169 for bridge inspection services with Neel-Schaffer Engineering for a cost up to \$20,903.00

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Council President Williams for the approval of Resolution #5169. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #5170 to expend public funds for sponsorship of two professional floats in the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade for a cost of \$800.00 *Moved to the next meeting for consideration.*

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

Water Department Expenditures for 10/19/2020 to 10/27/2020	\$ 42,167.55
Water/Sewer Fund	42,167.55

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Council President Williams for the approval of \$17 million for the Water Department Bond. Roll Call. AYES: All.

City Manager Cheeks commented that there were no injuries from Tropical Storm Zeta and expressed her gratitude to the City employees who aided in the cleanup. It was also mentioned that the City worked with EMA to declare a disaster area.

Councilman Patterson wished to thank the citizens who came forward with their concerns with Talladega Downs and emphasized the need for strengthened litter laws. City Manager Cheeks commented that an ordinance is currently being drafted to strengthen penalties to be brought before Council at a later date. Councilman Patterson requested that City Manager Cheeks look into scheduling a meeting with the property owner of Talladega Downs and the Police Chief to address the issues.

Council Member Spratlin wished to thank the employees who worked to clean the City after the storm. It was also mentioned that the hiring freeze was requested due to the finances and unbalanced budget but due to the storm and the increased work load; getting the City back in order is now a concern. Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Council President Williams to rescind the hiring freeze. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Mayor Ragland wished to thank the employees and echoed his agreement with Councilman Patterson concerning Talladega Downs.

Council President Williams wished to have his appreciation passed along to the Community Appearance department for their hard work Saturday. He also suggested that HUD be made aware of the issues concerning Talladega Downs and requested contact be made.

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Council President Williams to go into Executive Session to discuss negotiation of purchase of real property at 6:51pm. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Council returned to Chambers at 7:10pm with no action taken.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Council President Williams 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, November 2, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall in the City of Talladega, Alabama.