

**CITY COUNCIL OF TALLADEGA
PRE-COUNCIL
December 16, 2019 – 5:00 pm**

Council President Power wished to introduce special guest, Senator Jim McClendon and opened the floor for questions. Deacon Chapman from the Southside Baptist Church asked when there would be a lottery in Alabama. Senator McClendon stated that that question has been asked of him many times and has been brought forth several times to legislature, but has been met with opposition. Chad Jones from First Bank of Alabama inquired how the 2020 gas tax would affect rural counties. The Senator stated that he was a no vote on this matter as he could not find a single constituent who wanted to pay this 10-cent tax. Dr. Adia Winfrey asked if there would be any support from Montgomery on the upcoming Alabama Literacy Act where 3rd graders would be retained if their reading level did not meet requirements. Senator McClendon stated that he did not know the answer to this question but he could find out. Citizen Henrietta Lawler asked if he had any influence with the railroad because the railroad company will not keep their ditches cleaned out and would like some help in this matter. Senator McClendon stated that the railroad is controlled by federal law and that there should be a phone number alongside the railroad to contact someone for questions.

Bess Garrett wished to file a petition with City Manager Cheeks.

Public Hearing was opened for anyone who wished to comment and/or object to the placement of weed abatements on 5 properties. No one was present to comment and the public hearing was closed.

**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
December 16, 2019 – 5:30 pm**

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, December 16, 2019 at 5:30 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 Hugh Morris.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Council Member Spratlin for the approval of the amended agenda. AYES: All.

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

Total Invoices & Expenditures for 11/25/2019 to 12/06/2019	\$ 220,092.38
General Fund	183,217.65
Corrections Fund	8,511.25
Cemetery	61.03
Library Fund	2,080.33
Municipal Airport	1,089.32
Capital Projects Trust Fund	24,942.02
Water/Sewer Fund	190.78

There were some questions concerning the invoices and expenditures for the City. Council President Power asked what Slappey Communications does for the City. It was stated by City Manager Cheeks that Slappey provides the internet, land lines data transfers, and IT services for not just City Hall but five other City facilities. He also inquired about the OPED Trust listed on the expenditures. City Manager Cheeks commented that this had to do with retirement benefits. Councilman Williams asked if Thompson Tractor had repaired the excavator. City Manager Cheeks stated that it was in working order.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Councilman Williams for approval of minutes of the regular meeting of December 2, 2019. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Williams with a second from Councilman Patterson for the approval of Cay Davis' application to the Heritage Hall Commission. AYES: All.

Brought before the Board was a contribution request from the Talladega High School Varsity Girls Basketball Team. The amount requested was \$2,700 to cover the cost of officials for their Thanksgiving Tournament. Motion by Councilman Patterson for the approval of the request for \$2,700 from the Talladega High School Varsity Girls Basketball Team. *No second, motion dies.*

Mayor Ragland indicated that the school board did approve of this request. Councilman Patterson stated that the information concerning this request was misrepresented in the newspaper. City Manager Cheeks commented that what appeared in the paper made it seem as if the request was a reimbursement to visitors who came to the City for the tournament. However, the request was to help cover the cost of officials during the Thanksgiving tournament. Councilman Patterson wished to thank Mayor Ragland for taking the leadership role for this request and wished to relay his support for this endeavor. Councilman Williams stated that he supports the school but did not think it was be responsible to set a precedence with this request. However, it was stated that he would gladly support this endeavor personally. There was some discussion upon this matter.

Brought before the Council was a recap of the Christmas on the Square event. Kelsey Gallahar from the City Manager's Office stated that this years Christmas on the Square was the best one yet with an estimated 8,000 people coming to the event. She also wished to thank everyone for supporting this event.

City Manager Cheeks presented to the Council the statistics for tourism in the City. It was stated that the Christmas on the Square event had visitors from Munford, Sylacauga, Bynum, Eastaboga, Oxford, Clay County, Sycamore, Lineville, Birmingham, and even as far away as New York and Puerto Rico. The Library which had 396 visitors in 2019 specifically for genealogy research and use of microfiche. Heritage Hall Museum has had over 6,000 visitors and recently hosted the Alabama State Arts Council's quarterly meeting. The Hall of Heroes in the last 16 months had 1,900 visitors. The Civilian Marksmanship Park (CMP) has had 33,000 visitors with 7,200 of them from other states and countries. It was also stated that TOP Trails had a total of 35,000 riders last year and 70% of them were from Georgia.

Dr Adia Winfrey on behalf of the Alethia House Community Wellness Prevention and the Boys and Girls Club came before the Council to disseminate to the them the desires and hopes of the City's youth. From a survey of children, there is a need for youth activities such as a skating rink and improved access to the City's recreation center.

Council President Power deferred to City Manager Cheeks concerning a presentation on the bridges within the City. It was stated that there are 17 bridges in the City and they are required by state and federal law to be inspected at least every two years. Those with weight restrictions must be inspected every year. The 9 bridges slated to be inspected this year are covered under the inspection contract with Neel-Schaffer for \$8,200 that was approved by Council. It was also stated that culverts are not required to be inspected but are monitored by City staff. Also mentioned was the needed replacement of the culvert on Willman Road before any paving could be done to that road. It is recommended that this culvert be included in the Capital Improvement Budget for 2020 in order for the road to be completed in time to be added to the next paving project.

City Manager Cheeks gave an update on the paving project stating that Bankhead, Stephen J. White Blvd., and Brome St. are almost complete with only striping needing to be done. It was also mentioned that Johnson St. was not complete and Pulliam St., Bowie St., Cooley and Cromwell almost finished. It was also stated that Mountainview would receive binder in the next few days. She also mentioned that Johnson St. would be closed tonight and tomorrow for road work.

The Council was informed that ALDOT will relocate/add and delete segments of Alabama State Route 21 and Alabama Route 77 and eliminate Alabama State Route 275. It was also mentioned that these changes would result in renumbering 150-200 businesses and residences along these roadways. City Manager Cheeks stated that ordinances would be brought forth for dedicating names for these roadways as well as speed limit and other traffic restrictions in January.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Councilman Williams for the approval of alcohol license transfer (050 Retail Beer – Off Premises only and 070 Retail Table Wine – Off Premises Only) for S and R Mart located at 1600 Ashland Highway. AYES: All.

Court Clerk David Sparks came before the Council to request a salary increase for the Municipal Court Judge. It was stated that this position has not had a salary increase in over ten years. It was also mentioned that the Code of Alabama 1975 Section 12-14-33(b) dictates a general increase in the compensation of all or substantially all city employees shall be applied proportionately to the salaries of such judges. He requested that the current salary be increased 6.8% to correct the error. Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Councilman Williams to approve the salary increase for the Municipal Court Judge. AYES: All.

C.D. Chappell came forth before the Council to request the Council to reconsider the operation of the golf course. Mr. Chappell stated that when the golf course was operated by the City there was revenue generated. He also mentioned that the golf course was an activity not only for the senior citizens of the community but also the youth. City Manager Cheeks stated that the golf course did not generate any revenue and was costly to operate. Council Member Spratlin wished to meet in an open meeting to discuss the possibility of re-negotiating the lease of property adjacent to the golf course from Alabama Power. Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Council Member Hall for communication by Council Member Spratlin and Alabama Power concerning the lease of property at the golf course. Roll Call. AYES: Council President Power, Council Member Hall, Council Member Spratlin, and Councilman Williams ABSTAIN: Councilman Patterson

City Manager Cheeks brought before the Council an ordinance which had been on the books since the 1950s regarding the cutting of grass by the property owner to the road. It was stated that the City would be enforcing this ordinance over the next few months. There was some discussion upon this matter. Reverend Hugh Morris asked if that would include mowing the drainage ditch which runs between his property and the right of way; stating that did not seem right. City Manager Cheeks stated that was the way the ordinance is currently stated. Councilman Williams commented that this would get into a gray area. City Manager Cheeks stated that the ordinance may be adjusted to be more clear.

- Resolution #4969** to assess a weed abatement lien on a vacant lot on Franklin Drive
- Resolution #4970** to assess a weed abatement lien on the apartment complex on North Street
- Resolution #4971** to assess a weed abatement lien on 716 Coleman Drive
- Resolution #4972** to assess a weed abatement lien on the old Radio Station property
- Resolution #4973** to assess a weed abatement lien on 314 Jemison Street

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Councilman Williams for the approval of Resolution #4969 to #4973. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #4974 approving the surplus of three copier/printer machines.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Council Member Spratlin for the approval of Resolution #4974. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #4975 approving a contract with Carr, Riggs & Ingram for the audit of the 2019 fiscal year at a cost of \$65,000.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Council Member Spratlin for the approval of Resolution #4975. Roll Call. AYES: All.

- Resolution #4977** approving abatement of junk cars on Jackson St.
- Resolution #4978** approving abatement of junk cars on Mallory St.
- Resolution #4979** approving abatement of junk cars on 19th St.
- Resolution #4980** approving abatement of junk cars on Mallory St.
- Resolution #4981** approving abatement of junk cars on Mallory St.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Councilman Williams for the approval of Resolution #4977 to #4981. Roll Call. AYES: All.

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 12/2/2019 to 12/6/2019
Water/Sewer Fund

179,150.35

\$ 179,150.35

City Manager Cheeks commented that the Christmas on the Square event was successful drawing many people from surrounding communities and as far away as Puerto Rico. She also wished to thank Captain Patrick Thornton for his work in the elementary school relaying life skills and wished everyone a happy holiday.

Council Member Hall asked if there was any information concerning Eastside School. City Manager Cheeks stated that City Attorney O'Brien, who was not present, is currently working on it and hopefully will have the information after the holidays.

Council Member Spratlin wished to thank the Parks and Recreation Department on a lovely dinner with Santa.

Mayor Ragland inquired about turning Bemiston Recreation Center into a skating rink. Parks and Recreation Director Ammons stated that this would interrupt the basketball programs held there on Mondays, Tues, Thursdays, and Fridays. He also requested a list of all boards and commission he would be responsible for appointing citizens to.

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Councilman Patterson 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, December 16, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall in the City of Talladega, Alabama.