

**CITY COUNCIL OF TALLADEGA  
REGULAR MEETING  
December 4, 2017-5:00 pm**

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, December 4, 2017 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 David Street, Councilman Horace Patterson, Councilman Jarvis Elston, Councilman Gerald Cooper, City Manager Patrick Bryant, and Mayor Jerry Cooper, Sr.

Invocation by Councilman Horace Patterson.

Motion by Councilman Elston with a second from Councilman Cooper to approve invoices and expenditures. AYES: All.

**FY 2017-18**

**Total Invoices & Expenditures for 11/20/2017 to 12/4/2017** **\$478,140.54**

General Operating Account 11/2017	458,938.84
Corrections Fund 11/2017	100.00
Cemetery Fund 11/2017	57.63
Capital Improvement Fund 11/2017	19,044.07

Motion by Councilman Elston with a second from Councilman Cooper for approval of minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 20, 2017. AYES: All.

Mayor Cooper swears in Ray Miller, Clarence Haynes, and Jeff Roberts to the Airport Board; Russell Bowden, Becky Davis, and Ann Graham to the Heritage Hall Commission; and Katie Reynolds to the Board of Adjustments and Appeals.

Motion by Councilman Elston with a second from Councilman Patterson to excuse the absence of Councilman Simpson. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Cooper with a second from Councilman Patterson to appoint Becky Griffin to the Heritage Hall Commission. AYES: All

**Ordinance No. 1835** approving job descriptions for all departments of the City of Talladega.

Motion by Councilman Elston with a second from Councilman Patterson for the Immediate Consideration of Ordinance #1835. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Councilman Cooper for the Reading of the Heading Only of Ordinance #1835. Roll Call. AYES: All.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TALLADEGA TO PROVIDE A JOB/POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF TALLADEGA.**

Motion by Councilman Elston with a second from Councilman Patterson for the Adoption of Ordinance #1835. Roll Call. AYES: All.

**Resolution #4341** requesting the Alabama Legislature to maintain operations of the Childersburg Work Release Center at its current location.

Motion by Councilman Cooper with a second from Councilman Patterson for the approval of Resolution #4341. Roll Call. AYES: All.

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

**FY 2017-18**

**Water Department Expenditures for 11/29/17 to 11/30/17** **\$469,935.63**

Operations & Maintenance	125,638.80
Revenue	206,847.59
Capital Improvements	137,449.24

City Manager Bryant commented that the just approved job descriptions were a large commitment for many. Councilman Cooper questioned whether the job description for the City Manager should include finding economic development for the City. City Manager Bryant commented that it was not necessary as the contract takes precedence. This was also agreed upon by City Attorney O'Brien. He also stated his appreciation for the support concerning the Childersburg Work Release program. It was also stated that the media blitz for Christmas on the Square commenced on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Councilman Cooper read a portion of a letter from the Red Door Kitchen thanking the City Council for contributing to their cause.

Councilman Patterson commented that the community of Talladega was blessed by Bill McGhee and lamented upon his passing. He also wished the following be included in the minutes:

*Who is Bill McGhee and what made him return to Talladega in 1974?*

*Bill McGhee was born in Talladega in 1950 to his parents Mary Lib and Billy McGhee. Their family owned Talladega Insurance Agency, the oldest insurance agency in Alabama, third oldest in the country, dating back to 1858.*

*Bill had a wonderful life in schools and church in Talladega and was the youngest Eagle Scout in Alabama at the age of 12. He was a graduate of the University of Alabama in 1972, and returned to Talladega in 1974. Talladega was a nice place to bring up children and have a family. It was a place, where you could be a part of the community as his father, grandfather, and great grandfather had been. A place to work with friends through business and neighborhoods – a place to work together to make your own community better and it would count.*

***What was Bill involved in?***

*Kiwanis, St. Peter's Episcopal Church (senior warden 7 times), Alabama Alumni Vice President, President of local Alabama alumni chapter, Heritage Hall, Talladega Arts Council, concept creator of The Davey Allison Walk of Fame memorial, Industrial Development Board, Historic Commission, Red Cross Blood Drive, Citizens Hospital Board, Alabama Independent Insurance Agents Board, Alabama Preservation Trust (he was Preservationist of the Year and one of Talladega's millennium citizens.)*

***What was his dream for Talladega?***

*He wanted Talladega to be a vibrant small town that was a destination in and of itself, with a great quality of life: education, arts, dining, shopping, leisure activities – all mixed with its historic architecture and background.*

*Bill began to dream of making the historic Courthouse Square once again something special, the center of the community, the center of shopping, the center of arts, and dining for the City of Talladega. At first, hoping Talladega would become an antique center, Bill conceived the idea of "Antique Talladega" a vision of the future through its past, with the historic Ritz Theatre as an antique auction house.*

*The Ritz had not been used as a theatre since the 1970s, serving as a church more recently. In the 1990s, Bill and the Antique Talladega committee, reworked their concept to mold the theatre into the regional performing art center that it is today. It has become an institution which has hosted nationally known artists and performances. Today it is the center of life in Talladega. It is the anchor for new businesses that settling on the Square, bringing Talladega back to the active town it once was.*

***How did he implement that dream?***

*Bill wanted to work with everyone from all walks of life, in all areas of the City. He thought you had to include everyone to give everyone ownership and make everyone feel valuable and a part of things. And it made it more fun! He supported everyone, and their projects – he bought tickets for everything that went on, in every school organization, neighborhoods, and church – from tables at dinners to backpacks for back to school events. And he wanted to have fun along the way, he brought Mardi Gras to Talladega with a wonderful gala and parade that are enjoyed by all.*

*He believed in showing off Talladega at tis best and bringing businesses and people to Talladega to make it even better. He gave many private tours of the town to prospective business owners, newly hired staff at local businesses, he truly was an ambassador in all areas for Talladega.*

*He was the first to meet new folks and have dinner or lunch with them and walk them around the Square to show them how beautiful it was and let them feel the pride he felt.*

***What would he want his legacy to be?***

*First of all, he would want to bring harmony to the citizens of Talladega and pride in their City and a spirit of fun and cooperation for all to work together to improve things in the town and make a better life for all. This is why he moved back to Talladega and why he really was George Bailey and had "a wonderful life." He would want his spirit/memory to be nothing more than a wonderful momentum of positive energy and pride to move Talladega into the vision that seems so possible now.*

Councilman Elston wished to remind everyone that the Christmas Parade is scheduled for December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

Council President Street commented that the movie *Polar Express* would be showing at the Ritz Theatre with several added accompaniments for the viewers. He also mentioned that Buster Taylor recently retired from Shocco Springs.

Motion from Councilman Patterson to adjourn the meeting.

Minutes Recorded by: Joanna Medlen

**AUTHENTICATION**

I, Elizabeth Cheeks, 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 4, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. at the Talladega City Hall Council Chambers in the City of Talladega, Alabama.