

**CITY COUNCIL OF TALLADEGA  
PRE-COUNCIL  
May 18, 2015- 5:00 pm**

Reginald Radney came before the Council concerning the future of Westside Gym and the deplorable condition of Amanda Bingham Park. Mr. Radney questioned the Council as to whether they plan on re-opening the Gym. Councilman Patterson deferred to Parks and Recreation Director Ammons, who then informed Mr. Radney that he would need to address the Talladega City School Board because Westside Gym is owned by the School Board. Mr. Radney's next issue was the condition of Amanda Bingham Park. He stated that the parking lot which is gravel is in terrible condition and the roads around the Park have never been paved and are in poor condition. Councilman Patterson deferred to Public Works Director Phillips. Director Phillips explained the rating system for how the roads are rated for paving and mentioned that the parking lot is gravel like many other parks in the City and is in better shape than most roads; however the parking spaces can be re-lined. Councilman Patterson also raised the other issue Mr. Radney wished to address before the Council concerning unsolved murders in Ward I. Detective John McCoy came before the Council to address this issue. It was mentioned that in the last 10 years there have been 8 murders in Ward I, 6 in Ward II, 1 in Ward III, 1 in Ward IV, and 0 in Ward V. Of the 8 homicides in Ward I, 4 are unsolved. Councilman Patterson stated that one of the reasons why homicides are unsolved is the lack of witnesses willing to come forward with information.

David Street of 410 South Street East came before the Council concerning the Historic Preservation Commission Ordinance No. 1249. Mr. Street is requesting that homeowners who actually reside in their houses in the Historic District be excluded from the maintenance requirements of the Ordinance. He also stated that residents are hindered by the Ordinance and that many people are reluctant to buy a home in a Historic District because of this issue.

Jimmy Williams, a resident of the Silk Stocking District and a member of the Historic Preservation Commission, came before the Council concerning the proposed amendment to Ordinance No. 1249 which would strengthen the maintenance requirement of the Ordinance. Mr. Williams cited that 29 homes were in violation of the Ordinance and of those only 10 were from out of state homeowners and in response to Mr. Street's claim that people are reluctant to buy a home in the Historic District; Mr. Williams introduced three citizens who lived out of state, specifically bought a house in Talladega in the Historic District and are currently residing in their homes. Mr. Williams also mentioned to the Council that contact has been made with area realtors to let future buyers know if they are in the Historic District.

**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
May 18, 2015-5:30 pm**

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, May 18, 2015 at 5:30 p.m., at the Armstrong Osborne Public Library. The meeting was called to order and the following were present: Council President Ricky Simpson, Councilman Joe Ballow, Councilman Donnie Miller, Councilman Elston, Councilman Horace Patterson, Mayor Larry Barton, and Interim City Manager Theresa St. James.

Invocation by Dr. Horace Patterson.

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

**Total Invoices & Expenditures for 5/1/2015 to 5/15/2015** **\$564,543.99**

General Operating Account	376,899.45
Law Enforcement	7,678.95
Senior Nutrition	65,817.91
Corrections	43,707.37
CDBG Fund	37,031.00
Oil Trust Fund	21,978.30
Capital Improvement Fund	11,431.01

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Councilman Ballow for approval of minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 4, 2015. AYES: All.

Mayor Barton presented the National Police Week proclamation to the Talladega Police Department.

Interim City Manager St. James presented to the Council a response to the complaint from Daryl Rice. During the previous meeting of May 4, 2015, Mr. Rice came before the Council with a complaint regarding a vacant house at 817 Roosevelt Avenue. At the request of the Council an investigation was made of the issue brought forth by Mr. Rice. There have been no calls received by the City Manager's Office regarding this complaint and Animal Control Supervisor Jessica Jones verified that there had only been two calls to Roosevelt Avenue since January 2015 and neither was for the address in question. Director Phillips along with Animal Control Supervisor Jones and Animal Control Officer Armbruster investigated the property and found that the dogs were in crates or chained properly and were cared for. The Talladega County Health Department visited the site and reported no health concerns. Building Inspector Taylor also visited the property and determined that the structure was not condemnable. In regards to the noise complaint from the constant barking, Mr. Rice has the recourse to call the Police Department to make a complaint of public nuisance.

Interim City Manager St. James presented to the Council a response to the complaint registered by Reginald Radney during the last Council meeting. At the request of the Council an investigation was made regarding the issues brought forth from Mr. Radney. There have been no calls received by the City Manager's Office prior to his complaint. The Community Appearance Department had received two calls from Mr. Radney in April 2015. After a ride through Ward 1 and parts of Wards 2 and 5, it was determined that Mr. Radney's claims of unequal maintenance of Wards was unfounded. Regarding Mr. Radney's second complaint of no restroom facilities at Duncan Pinkston Park, City Attorney O'Brien did not recommend the usage of porta potties as there could be serious health and liability issues in doing so. He did suggest making sure there was signage at the park stating that there were no restroom facilities when the Mabra Center was closed. Concerning Mr. Radney's third complaint of a vacant lot on Battle Street needing to be tended to, it was deemed that this lot is in a "natural" state and does not meet guidelines to be cited under the nuisance abatement ordinance. The structure Mr. Radney referred to is not in a condition that it could be used as a shelter and attempts are being made to contact the property owner and encourage action to maintain the lot.

Brought before the Council was a request for street lights at Pinehurst Drive and Allen Street. It was determined through an evaluation process that a street light is warranted at the intersection of Allen Street and Cromwell Lane however Public Works Director Phillips does not recommend an additional light on Pinehurst as adequate lighting is already in place to illuminate the intersection. Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Councilman Ballow to approve the street light request for Allen Street. AYES: All.

**Ordinance No. 1797** adopting a Nepotism Policy for the employees of the City of Talladega.

Motion by Councilman Ballow with a second from Councilman Patterson for Immediate Consideration of Ordinance #1797. Roll Call. AYES: All

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Councilman Miller for reading of the heading only. Roll Call. AYES: All.

**ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TALLADEGA TO ADOPT A NEPOTISM POLICY FOR THE CITY OF TALLADEGA, ALABAMA AND TO REPEAL ORDINANCE NO. 1616 IN ITS ENTIREITY.**

Motion by Councilman Ballow with a second from Councilman Patterson for the adoption of Ordinance # 1797. Roll Call. AYES: All.

**Ordinance No. 1798** approving an amended budget for the General Fund and the Water Department.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Councilman Ballow for Immediate Consideration of Ordinance #1798. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Miller with a second from Councilman Patterson for reading of the heading only. Roll Call. AYES: Councilman Miller, Councilman Simpson, Councilman Patterson, and Councilman Ballow NAYS: Councilman Elston

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF TALLADEGA, ALABAMA, (ADOPTING SEPTEMBER 22, 2014, ORDINANCE NO. 1778) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING 1 OCTOBER 2014 AND ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2015.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Councilman Miller for the adoption of Ordinance #1798. Roll Call. AYES: Councilman Miller, Councilman Simpson, Councilman Patterson, and Councilman Ballow NAYS: Councilman Elston

**Resolution #3495** increasing the employee pay schedule from 18 steps in each grade to 25 steps. (*tabled from previous meeting*)

Motion by Councilman Ballow with a second from Councilman Elston to approve Resolution #3495. Roll Call. AYES: Councilman Ballow, Councilman Patterson, Councilman Elston, and Councilman Simpson NAYS: Councilman Miller

**Resolution #3499** that decreases to twelve the number of board members of the Talladega Municipal Airport Board.

Motion by Councilman Ballow with a second from Councilman Patterson to approve Resolution #3499. Roll Call. AYES: All.

**Resolution #3500** approving a lease with Cheaha Construction Company at the Talladega Municipal Airport for a rental fee of \$500/month.

Motion by Councilman Miller with a second from Councilman Patterson to approve Resolution #3500. Roll Call. AYES: All.

**Resolution #3501** approving a contract with AIDB to provide lunches for the Summer Food Program.

Motion by Councilman Ballow with a second from Councilman Miller to approve Resolution #3501. Roll Call. AYES: All.

**Resolution #3502** authorization to demolish the structure at 716 17<sup>th</sup> Street

**Resolution #3503** authorization to demolish the structure at 21 Banjo Hill

**Resolution #3504** authorization to demolish the structure at 430 North Court Street

**Resolution #3505** authorization to demolish the structure at 92 Freeman Street.

**Resolution #3506** authorization to demolish seven unoccupied manufactured homes (trailers) at the mobile home park located at the intersection of Grogan Road and Mountain View Road.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Councilman Miller to approve Resolution #3502 to Resolution #3506. Roll Call. AYES: All.

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

<b>Water Department Expenditures for 5/6/15 to 5/14/15</b>	<b>\$ 696,809.95</b>
Operations & Maintenance	221,799.61
Revenue	434,992.13
North Talladega Water	6,000.00
Construction & Improvement	34,018.21

Water Department Director Fuller deferred to Chuck Chitwood of CDG to present an update on the Harmon Park Well. The contractor has repaired all internal leaks in the aerator tower and the primary and secondary raw water sample testing has been completed and met ADEM standards. A raw water VOC test was completed and test results are expected May 15. An ADEM inspection on Harmon Park Well is scheduled for Friday. The punch list from the final walk through has two items still needing attention. Once the two items on the list are complete and approval from ADEM is received, the well will be placed into service.

**Resolution #3507** approving a change order to North Talladega Well Site Project for further exploration of test well sites increasing the cost of the project by \$9,000.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Councilman Miller to approve Resolution #3507. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Mayor Barton shared his condolences to the family of Sargent Tatum, the Talladega High School ROTC director, who recently passed away. Councilman Miller thanked Mr. Williams and Mr. Hill for the initiative of contacting the Chamber of Commerce in regards to making citizens aware of the Historic District regulations.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Councilman Ballow to request a letter be sent to the City Board of Education concerning Mr. Radney's request about Westside Gym. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Miller to adjourn the meeting.

#### **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, May 18, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. at the Armstrong-Osborne Public Library in the City of Talladega, Alabama.