

**CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
May 2, 2022 – 5:00 pm**

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, May 2, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the Talladega City Hall Chambers. The meeting was called to order and the following were present: Council President Horace Patterson, Council Member Vickey R. Hall, Councilman Joe Power, Council Member Betty Spratlin, Councilman Trae Williams, Mayor Timothy Ragland, and City Manager Seddrick Hill.

Invocation by Reverend Josh Henderson, Southside Baptist.

Council President Patterson deferred to City Attorney O'Brien concerning the matter of executive session. Attorney O'Brien stated that after discussing the topic for the executive session with City Manager Hill, it is in his opinion that the topic was not the appropriate reason to go into executive session and should be done in open forum.

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

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

Total Invoices & Expenditures from 4/8/2022-4/22/2022	\$537,440.86
General Fund	446,965.98
Corrections Fund	17,792.78
Cemetery	3,400.00
Library Fund	127.13
Municipal Airport	67,091.98
Capital Projects Trust Fund	2,062.99

Motion by Councilman Power with a second from Council Member Hall for the approval of the Regular Meeting of April 18, 2022. AYES: All.

Mayor Ragland swears Reverend Hugh Morris to the Board of Adjustments and Appeals.

Motion by Councilman Williams with a second from Councilman Power to approve the contribution request to Talladega College for the Alumni Weekend in the amount of \$2,500. AYES: All.

Motion Councilman Williams with a second from Council Member Hall to approve the contribution request to Talladega High School for the Track and Field Teams in the amount of \$1,500. AYES: All.

Faye White, director of R.R. Moton Alumni Educational Center Foundation Inc. came before the Council to request \$500 to assist in the maintenance and funding of various programs held. Council President Patterson deferred to City Attorney O'Brien concerning the legality of the request for this organization. Attorney O'Brien stated that if it met the public purpose doctrine and would serve to promote health, safety, and general welfare of the community, and that rationale is stated in the records, then generally the courts would not oppose such expenditure, the only exception to this request is that it this is in the County and not in the City. Council President Patterson requested that City Manager Hill meet with Ms. White concerning the matter.

Motion by Councilman Williams with a second from Councilman Power for the approval of the alcohol license for Murphy Oil USA Inc. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #5466 approving an agreement with CRI for audit services for governmental and enterprise funds for FY2021 in the amount of \$68,000

Motion by Councilman Williams with a second from Councilman Power for the approval of Resolution #5466. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Brian Free from CRI was present to recap the 9/30 audit. It was stated that overall totals were adequate for a city the size of Talladega. Councilman Power inquired if CRI would be auditing everything such as revenue from taxes as well as expenses. Mr. Free stated that CRI would be auditing financial statements, governmental activity, business activity, and each major and nonmajor combined. Also, questioned was the auditing of RSI as the contract states that it would not be audited. Mr. Free commented that the RSI schedule was not part of the required conformity however there is assurance coming from the actuary.

Resolution #5467 amending Resolution #4109 to widen the scope of area for the Façade Grant

Motion by Councilman Williams with a second from Council Member Hall for the approval of Resolution #5467. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #5468 approving an agreement with NASCAR Media Ventures, LLC for video highlighting tourism in the amount of \$150/hour

Motion by Councilman Williams with a second from Council Member Hall for the approval of Resolution #5468. Roll Call. AYES: All.

City Manager Hill deferred to City Attorney O'Brien concerning the agreement with NASCAR. It was mentioned that although the price to do the highlight video is now free, there are some restrictions as to the use of the video. It is restricted only for tourism and cannot be sold or offer for viewing to the general public.

Resolution #5469 authorizing the participation in the Main Street Alabama Program

Motion by Councilman Power with a second from Council Member Hall for the approval of Resolution #5469. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #5470 approving an agreement with Bretwood Capital Partners LLC for advisory services ***Tabled***

Councilman Williams requested City Manager Hill give a brief overview of this agreement. City Manager Hill stated that this organization would assist the City in going after funding and loans and would only be compensated if the City received funding. Councilman Power inquired about a clause in the termination portion of the agreement; stating that it looks to read that either party could terminate the contract, however the Bretwood Capital Partners would be able to bill the City \$400/hour for every hour worked from the time of the work began. It was decided that City Attorney O'Brien review the agreement.

Resolution #5471 approving a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with The Omega Academy of Science and Fine Arts for the Eastside Academy Redevelopment ***Tabled***

Council President Patterson deferred to City Manager Hill concerning Resolution #5471. City Manager Hill stated that the aforementioned agreement would turn the Eastside Academy into two things, a center for fine arts and STEM academy for boys from the ages of 7-13 and a community center. With this agreement, the Omega Academy agrees to redevelop the park behind the facility to make it a nice community center. There were also questions as to the future ownership of the building. According to the agreement, the property would belong to the Omega Academy. After much discussion, it was decided that City Attorney O'Brien review the MOA and it be brought back for consideration at the next regular Council meeting.

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

Water Department Expenditures for 4/8/2022 to 4/22/2022	\$375,547.20
Water/Sewer Fund	375,547.20

Resolution #5472 approving an agreement with Covering Your Assets and Jeffrey's Consulting for accounting services at a cost of \$125/hour per specialist

Motion by Councilman Williams with a second from Council Member Hall for the approval of Resolution #5472. Roll Call. AYES: All.

City Manager Hill wished to defer to Police Chief Thomas. Police Chief Thomas informed the Council and audience that the Police Department had obtained two capital murder warrants, took one in possession and is actively seeking the second.

City Manager Hill wished to thank the Council for approving the agreement for the audit services, mentioned that his trip to DC yielded two requests for funding, one for pedestrian friendly walking around the community, such as safe sidewalks and blind talking signals from the Deaf and Blind School to the Square and the second for the airport for extending runways. Also mentioned was the successful block party with Clint Bowyer. The turnout was so great, Mr. Drew Honeycutt from Talladega Cast and Machine has agreed to take over the upkeep of the Davey Allison Park, met with Opportunity Zone to look at funds, had a great swearing in ceremony for the Chief of Police, had a successful ceremony for the interns at the Heritage Hall Museum, attended the United Way Building of Beds, wished to thank the Fire and Police Department for working together for Sunshine Saturday, wished to thank Purchasing, Finance, Building Inspector, and City Clerk's Office for working together during this time of transition, wished to thank the City Planner for his great job with the Main Street program and send him prayers while he is in the hospital.

Councilman Williams inquired as to when the CIP budget would be submitted for Council consideration stating he would like work on the paving project. City Manager Hill commented that the insurance company had reviewed five of the City's roofs and will be seeing how much they can cover.

Councilman Power commented that two meetings ago there was an issue with the accounts payable for grass cutting for the Water Department. He wished to note that he had missed one of invoices for the cuts. However, he requested that the City either cut the grass themselves or outsource the cut, but not both.

Council Member Spratlin wished to thank City Manager Hill on a citizen request for needed signs. City Manager Hill deferred the thanksgiving to Director Pointer who led the crew doing the work. Council Member Spratlin also wished to remind everyone that there was a called meeting on May 6 and the Dancing with Dega Stars event on May 7.

Council President Patterson wished to thank the Mayor for all he has done.

Mayor Ragland wished to congratulate the high school track team, declared this week to be Mental Health Awareness Week in conjunction with the City School system, wished to thank Ms. Curtis and the ARC for Sunshine Saturday, had the opportunity to race two officers on a rock wall, wished to thank all teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week, mentioned that 6 city schools received a \$500 grant, went to DC again and got to meet with several departments who offered helped with textile mills and jobs, met with the Department of Justice who has funds for training and would give the information to Police Chief Thomas, met with the USDA for development, met with Microsoft to revamp the City's technology, met with Department of Homeland Security for training with the Police Department, met with the Secretary of HUD to discuss affordable housing and options for the City, and would bring the issue concerning a curfew after meeting with Police Chief Thomas.

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Councilman 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, May 2, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the City of Talladega, Alabama City Hall Council Chambers.