

**CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
4 February 2008**

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, 4 February 2008, at 5:30 p.m., in the City Hall Auditorium, the regular place for such meetings. The meeting was called to order and the following were present: Councilman Eddie Tucker, Council President Horace Patterson, Councilman Donnie Miller, Councilman Lance Grissett, Councilman Jimmy Davis, and Mayor Brian York.

Invocation given by Van Blankenship, Commissioned Lay Pastor of the Presbyterian Church.

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

SUMMARY OF INVOICES & EXPENDITURES

Transfer of Funds	138,624.49
Payroll Deductions, Benefits & Taxes	122,054.18
Refunds	155.00
City Council	23,266.97
City Manager's Office	202.33
Finance Department	50.00
City Clerk's Office	296.69
Police Department	27,864.36
Police Communications	2,439.32
Animal Control	354.54
Municipal Court Office	6,335.88
Fire Department	12,917.35
Public Works Department	14,767.98
Community Appearance Department	16,655.75
Parks & Recreation Department	29,819.39
City Building Expenditures	6,190.01
Non-Departmental Expenditures	51,264.74
Debt Service	8,290.71
Police Technology Grant	44,486.52
Total Invoices & Expenditures	506,036.21

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Tucker to approve minutes of 22 January 2008 meeting with one grammatical correction. AYES: All.

During Pre-Council session, Mr. Paul Richards of 416 Dumas Street, requested some help in increasing the number of handicapped parking spaces outside the Food Center part of the Wal-Mart. Mr. Richards had been told that Wal-Mart had the required number of handicapped parking spaces under the current City ordinance. Council President Patterson requested that the City Manager and Public Works Department Head Swinford get together and officially ask Wal-Mart if they would voluntarily increase the number of handicapped parking spaces in that area of their parking lot.

James and Kathy Curry of the Faith Temple Ministries located at 1011 Alabama Highway 275 Bypass came before the Council during pre-council session and requested help in getting a natural gas line to their area of Highway 275 By-pass. Council President Patterson asked Terry Hanner of the Water & Sewer Department to call Alagasco and explore what options were available and most cost effective.

Also during pre-council session, Ms. Andrea Montgomery of the April in Talladega Pilgrimage Committee came before the Council and requested help to cover printing costs. Motion by Councilman Davis with a second from Councilman Grissett to approve \$2,600 for the April in Talladega Pilgrimage Committee. AYES: All.

Christina Mosca updated the Council on her efforts to obtain past franchise fees from Charter Communications from July 2004 through May 2005 along with interest. Ms. Mosca stated that once the past franchise fees were collected then she would work on the renewal process. Several Council members stated that the many citizens were unhappy with the service and maintenance of the current cable company.

Talladega College President Dr. Jimmy Hawkins addressed the Council on his plan to involve the Council and the community at large in the revitalization of Talladega College campus. Increasing the student enrollment at the College would have a definite economic impact on the City. He indicated that his staff had already started a cleanup effort on campus and that he wished to partner with the City on safety issues, such as additional street lights and installing speed bumps on the City's streets going through the campus. Council President Patterson stated that he thought the requests for City assistance was responsible and directed Dr. Hawkins to have his responsible staff member to get with Public Works Department Head James Swinford concerning the installation of speed bumps or perhaps speed limit signs on the campus roadways.

Motion by Councilman Tucker with a second from Councilman Grissett to increase the number of street lights on City streets going through Talladega College campus. AYES: All.

Presentation was made to the Council by Steve Moses of JKM Consulting/ M² Connections concerning setting up a wireless internet infrastructure for the City. They stressed that a city-wide wireless network enhanced the quality of life for all citizens through educational advantages, healthcare communications, public safety issues with the aid of surveillance cameras, increased communication between city-owned facilities, and a higher technology base to draw corporations to the industrial park area. Mr. Moses also discussed funding possibilities through federal and state grants. JKM Consulting offered their services in providing the City with a feasibility study and financial model on setting up such a wireless network.

Ms. Deoliver Turner of 680 Idalia Road requested help from the Council concerning the \$1,500 fee to tap into the City's water line. Her home is located outside the City limits but within the police jurisdiction and the closest water line for her to tap into is coming from a City fire hydrant line. Ms. Turner stated that she needs to get on the City's water system because her well is failing but that on a fixed income the tap fee was too high for her to manage. Council President Patterson requested that she give her contact information to Councilman Grissett who is the liaison to the Water Department and that he would work out what could be done to help her.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second from Councilman Miller to approve the request for a roadblock at the four red lights around the Court House Square for the Talladega High School Track Team to raise funds on Saturday, February 9, 2008. AYES: All.

Mayor York presented Brenda Hollingsworth from First Family Service Center in Talladega with a Proclamation declaring February 2008 as Healthy Marriage Month.

Resolution #1633 authorizing renewal of herbicide application program for drainage canals in 2008 by way of a contract with Spraymax, Inc. of Tuscaloosa, Alabama for a contract cost of \$ 30,558.30.

Resolution #1634 to enter into an agreement with The Mercer Group, Inc. of Atlanta, Georgia for professional services associated with a search for a new City Manager, per proposal dated 19 November 2007, for a fee of \$15,000 plus not-to-exceed \$8,000 expenses; for a total price not-to-exceed \$ 23,000.00.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Davis to approve Resolutions 1633 and 1634. Roll Call. AYES: Councilman Grissett, Councilman Davis, Councilman Miller and Council President Patterson, NAY: Councilman Tucker.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Davis to approve invoices and expenditures for Water Department. AYES: Councilman Davis, Councilman Grissett, Councilman Patterson and Councilman Miller. NAY: Councilman Tucker.

Expenditures for January 18-31, 2008 **\$ 197,354.68**

Council tabled the authorization of a three year contract with AMIC requesting further information at the next Council meeting.

Council President Patterson commented on the drawing provided by Mitch Bast, Community Appearance Department Head, for two American flags to cross behind the current Steven J. White Memorial Boulevard signs as being a good start. Another phase of the project could include flags on both sides of the boulevard between Davis Street and Shaw Avenue (2112 ft. of roadway with approximately 90 flags). Discussion included asking the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the Talladega Merchants Association to help with the cost of the flags, and to later on do the same type of work on the Jimmy Freeman Parkway.

Police Chief Alan Watson reported to the Council that his research showed that no other city in the area charged an impound fee and that the wrecker fees varied from \$65.00 to \$85.00. Council President Patterson polled the Council for their opinions on changing the fees. Councilman Miller was for lowering the impound fee to \$25.00 and increasing the wrecker fees. Councilman Tucker indicated that an impound fee was a tax on the poor and that there should be no impound fee at all. Councilman Davis stated that the impound fee should be eliminated and that wrecker fees should be increased. Councilman Grissett was for reducing the impound fee to \$25.00 and increasing wrecker fees. A compromise was reached to have the ordinance changed to reflect an increase in the wrecker fee to \$75.00 and to eliminate the impound fee. Council President Patterson requested that the ordinance be ready for approval at the next meeting.

Councilman Grissett presented some statistics on the capacity of the City's drinking water wells, all of which have had to go deeper to obtain water with the highest water well capacity at 60% of normal. With these statistics, Councilman Grissett stated he was very concerned about making any exceptions to the current water restriction ordinance for filling swimming pools. Councilman Grissett stated that there may be other options for filling pools such as non-potable water from wells at Lawson Mt. and the Newberry foundry, and volunteer fire departments. Councilman Miller stated that since the City is in an emergency water situation that permits to construct new pools should not be issued. Council President Patterson requested that the Councilman Grissett as Water Department liaison get with the City Manager to discuss swimming pool building permits and that the Council obtain more facts before making any changes to the current ordinance. Councilman Grissett stated that he thought the City had been negligent in informing the citizens of the water restrictions and he requested assistance from businesses with automated signs to help relay the message to the public.

Resolution #1635 enter into agreement with AIDB, B&S Sporting Goods, G&K Services, Michael's Men's Wear and Cintas for the purchase of uniforms.

Motion by Councilman Miller with a second from Councilman Grissett to approve Resolution #1635. Roll Call. AYES: Councilman Miller, Councilman Davis, Councilman Grissett, Council President Patterson. Abstain: Councilman Tucker.

Councilman Davis requested information on all of the City Boards, the members terms of service, any vacancies and a clear listing of what each Boards' duties were for the next meeting. Councilman Davis stated that the Comprehensive Plan for 2005-2010, which was only completed last summer, emphasized changes in the area's education system. Councilman Davis recommended that the Council should have a joint working meeting with the City of Talladega's Board of Education. Council President Patterson requested that the City Manager set up such a meeting as soon as possible.

Councilman Grissett complimented Water Department employees for taking on a Wastewater Treatment re-piping project themselves and completing the project for \$20,000 instead of for the \$90,000 estimated by outside companies who had bid on the project. He also commented on the work done out at the Municipal Airport to replace a major leak problem under the runway by enlarging the main to an 8" line and rerouting it to run along the current and proposed extended runway. Water Department Head James Brasher also commented that the larger 8" line would aid in new development at the industrial park.

Councilman Tucker indicated that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board had held their first meeting and that he wanted the Department Head Beth Martin to come forward with some proposals for work to be done.

Motion by Councilman Tucker with a second by Councilman Miller to approve the purchase of a copier for the Parks & Recreation Department's administrative office for \$2581.00. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Miller with a second by Councilman Tucker to approve expenditure of \$1226.00 to tile two restrooms and the entry way at the Mabra Center. AYES: All.

Councilman Miller stated that the concession stands at the Sports Complex had lost approximately \$30,000 last year (not including payroll) and that it would be more cost effective to have private businesses come in and offer concessions at the Sports Complex.

Motion by Councilman Tucker with a second by Councilman Miller to contract out the concession stand at the Sports Complex. AYES: All.

Parks & Recreation Department Head Beth Martin commented on a proposal to charge baseball organizations \$150 per game for using the City's ball fields. Ms. Martin said that the Talladega High School Girls Softball wanted to use the McMillan Park field. Councilman Miller stated that he did not want to charge for use of the fields because registration fees for these organizations was not enough to cover any additional costs. Ms. Martin agreed saying that she wanted to build a good relationship with the schools on using the ball fields.

Motion by Councilman Miller with a second from Councilman Tucker to allow the Talladega High School Girls' Softball team to use the field at McMillan Park. AYES: All. Council President Patterson requested that the City attorney be contacted and prepare a resolution if need be for the next Council meeting.

Councilman Tucker requested a stop sign on an alleyway at the Talladega Housing Authority at Curry Court. Mr. Tucker indicated that the Chief of Police had already gone to the area and agreed that a stop sign was needed. Chief Watson will make sure that the alleyway is a City street. Motion by Councilman Tucker with a second from Councilman Grissett to prepare an ordinance to place a stop sign at the aforementioned alleyway at Curry Court. AYES: All.

Councilman Tucker also requested of the Council to consider an Advisory Water Board. Council President Patterson asked for feedback from the other Council members. Councilman Davis and Councilman Grissett indicated they would not be in favor of it. Councilman Miller said he would be in favor of such a Board. Council President Patterson did not agree that a Advisory Board was necessary after the abolishment of the original Water Board.

Councilman Tucker asked for an update on the sidewalk situation on Avenue H. It was requested that the City Manager began the process of having the attorney contact the landowners from Oliver Street to Six Points on one side concerning vacating a section of their property for the sidewalk.

Councilman Tucker also requested the rezoning of Ward 2 for mobile homes and doublewides. Mr. Tucker indicated that he was told to wait until after the Comprehensive Plan came out and he has done so and now he would like to start the process. Council President Patterson indicated that it would need to go before the Planning Commission. Mr. Patterson also stressed that this was not a city-wide change but only for Ward 2 and only if Mr. Tucker's constituents were comfortable with the change.

Councilman Davis was asked by the Council to give an update on the City Manager search at the next meeting.

Councilman Miller's comments included the following:

- Wanted to thank the Police and Fire Departments for their help with the Mardi Gras Parade.
- He had received several good comments on the sidewalks along Brignoli Street.
- Indicated that he was meeting with the Department of Transportation representative on Wednesday with Public Works Department Head James Swinford about the caution light on Highway 21. Signs indicating the speed limit on Highway 21 have been ordered.
- Indicated his displeasure with the current City Manager.

Mayor York asked Water Department Head James Brasher if he had any statistics on whether the City's water consumption had decreased since the water restrictions were put into effect. Mr. Brasher indicated that he would get the statistics together but that his first impression was that the consumption had not significantly decreased.

There was some discussion as to Council members being able to talk with City employees. It was allowed as long as the Council members were not indicating how the employee should do their job. Council President Patterson stated that he wanted there to be a comfortable atmosphere for the employees who may wish to talk with any member of the Council.

Ms. Estelle Garrett addressed the Council asking for the status on her request for a permit for the Black History Festival parade. Chief Watson indicated that it had been approved.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with second by Councilman Miller to adjourn.

Minutes recorded by: _____
Elizabeth Cheeks

AUTHENTICATION

I, Sue A. Horn, 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, 4 February 2008, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall in the City of Talladega, Alabama.

Sue A. Horn
City Clerk/ City Manager