

CITY OF TALLADEGA
PUBLIC HEARING
2 March 2009, 5:00 pm

Public Hearing for rezoning of properties owned by City of Talladega and Linda Nunn Brannon on Parkway Avenue from M-1 Limited Industrial Zoning District to R-1 Agricultural Zoning District. Council President Patterson asked for comments on the rezoning from the audience. Ms. Bobbye Trammell, 605 Stone Avenue, stated that she felt the zoning should be R-2 instead of R-1.

Public Hearing for property owners concerning liens to be assessed against property for weed abatement costs (7 properties). There was no one to speak for or against the proposed resolutions.

CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
2 March 2009, 5:30 pm

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, 2 March 2009 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, Mayor Brian York and City Manager Michael Stampfler.

Invocation was presented by Eric Richardson, Associate Pastor, Mt. Mariah Baptist Church.

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

Total Invoices & Expenditures for 2/16/2009 to 2/28/2009	\$1,299,871.89
General Fund	905,816.84
Corrections Fund	26,001.43
Municipal Court Fund	228.00
Oak Hill Cemetery Fund	6,005.86
Technology Grant-Police Dept.	1,996.01
2.5 Mil Property Tax	245,282.19

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis to table approval of minutes of the regular meeting of February 16, 2009 and the Called Meeting of February 23, 2009 until the next meeting. AYES: All.

Councilman Miller presented Fireman David Elston and Fireman B.J. Miller with Certificates of Recognition for their actions that saved a resident of the Pine View Landing Apartment Complex during a fire on February 7, 2009.

Coretta Grant, Tobacco Prevention & Control Coordinator for the Alabama Department of Public Health thanked the Council for making the difficult decision to pass the Smoking Ordinance for the City of Talladega and presented each Councilman with a certificate of appreciation. Ms. Grant noted that a recent survey indicated a decline in youth tobacco use.

Ms. Iris Kight, 382 Pinehurst Drive, read a prepared statement concerning the drainage ditch that crosses under Court Street South and Spring Street South and then widens as it channels water to the large ditch at Veteran's Park. Ms. Kight stated that erosion is a serious problem in the area. Ms. Kight also emphasized the safety issue and reported to the Council on the 2008 death of Ms. Hughston, a resident who had slipped and fallen into the drainage ditch in her backyard and drowned. Ms. Kight requested that the City shore up the bank behind the homes on Sunset Drive. Three other citizens and/or residents of the area were present in support of her request. Councilman Tucker stated that there are dozens of properties in the City that have the same problem with erosion along drainage ditches and that the problem needed to be addressed. Mr. Stampfler echoed Mr. Tucker's comments and stated that the State of Alabama as a whole has not considered stormwater management as an issue, but that the City of Talladega has put this urgent concern in the forefront and the solution is tied to other issues that the City is working on. Councilman Grissett noted his concern during last year's Sunshine Saturday festivities around the ditch in Veterans Park and the partial fencing that had been constructed. Councilman

Grissett also noted that there are some issues on other ditches as to whether they are on private or public property.

Dr. Jason Hurst, President of the Board of Directors of the Talladega Chamber of Commerce, Chad Jones, Treasurer for the Chamber, and Mike Challendar, Second Vice-President of the Board of Directors, made a presentation on the activities and the direction of the Chamber. Highlights of the presentation include:

- Imminent announcement on the Interim Director and confidence that this person will bring instant credibility to the Chamber
- Grand Marshall for the Christmas Parade of 2009 will be Coach Gene Stallings with a dinner to follow (December 19th)
- Support, promote and assist current local businesses and industries
- Recruit new business and industries through such efforts as the convention in Las Vegas
- Marketing of tourism, Speedway, Cheaha Park, Desoto Caverns, etc. through professional looking bill boards and a well developed website
- Have the Chamber building as a visibly attractive and welcoming information center and making sure that the personnel are more service oriented
- Work session is scheduled for March 13th, 12 noon at Shocco Springs with the keynote speaker Will Robinson, former Pell City mayor.

Council discussion on the Chamber included a consensus to support the Chamber's efforts including making the necessary repairs on the Chamber building.

Joyce Howard, Co-Chairperson on the April in Talladega 2009 Committee, gave a presentation on the upcoming activities. Ms. Howard indicated that April in Talladega was often a well kept secret. Ms. Howard stated that the murals at Savory Library were on the tour and that this National Treasure had been appraised at \$42 million. For the first time a 5K Fun Run has been added to the festivities and it is believed this will produce a great deal of publicity for the City.

Roger Gunter, 107 Leah Drive, read from a prepared statement concerning a ditch on his property that he claims has received sewage from the nearby lift station. Mr. Gunter's statement included a listing of events from February 13-18, 2009 indicating when City employees and Councilman Grissett were on his property to view the situation. Mr. Gunter stated his frustration and anger as to the City's handling of the alleged problem and claims that years of abuse and neglect have occurred. Mr. Gunter presented the Council with numerous photographs of the area. Council President Patterson stated that the matter was to be passed on to the City Manager.

Resolution #1806 assessing lien against property at 412 15th Street (Parcel ID 13-06-23-3-012-010.000) for weed abatement.

Resolution #1807 assessing lien against property on West Battle Street (Parcel ID 13-08-28-3-001-021.000) for weed abatement.

Resolution #1808 assessing lien against property at 2578 Hearthwood Place (Parcel ID 13-07-35-2-016-014.000) for weed abatement.

Resolution #1809 assessing lien against property at 1202 Hobson Avenue (Parcel ID 13-05-21-4-008-002.000) for weed abatement.

Resolution #1810 assessing lien against property at 1208 Hobson Avenue (Parcel ID 13-05-21-4-008-005.000) for weed abatement.

Resolution #1811 assessing lien against property at 35161 Highway 21 North (Parcel ID 14-04-19-2-000-006.000) for weed abatement.

Resolution #1812 assessing lien against property at 915 Nimitz Avenue (Parcel ID 13-06-13-3-013-018.000) for weed abatement.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Tucker to approve Resolutions #1806 through #1812. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #1813 approving contract with Commission for Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) for a cost of \$4,390.00 during fiscal year 2009.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second from Councilman Grissett to approve Resolution #1813. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Ordinance #1653 – rezoning properties on West Parkway from M-1 Limited Industrial Zoning District to R-1 Agricultural Zoning District.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Davis for immediate consideration of Ordinance #1653. Roll Call. AYES: Councilman Davis, Councilman Grissett, Council President Patterson, Councilman Miller. Abstain: Councilman Tucker.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Davis for reading of the heading only of Ordinance #1653. Roll Call. AYES: Councilman Davis, Councilman Grissett, Council President Patterson, Councilman Miller. Abstain: Councilman Tucker.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Davis for approval and adoption of Ordinance #1653. Roll Call. AYES: Councilman Davis, Councilman Grissett, Council President Patterson, Councilman Miller. Abstain: Councilman Tucker.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis to approve invoices and expenditures for the Water Department. AYES: Councilman Davis, Councilman Miller, Councilman Grissett, Council President Patterson; NAYS: Councilman Tucker.

Expenditures for 2/16/2009 to 2/28/2009

\$ 313,754.35

A map of the proposed annexation was discussed. Dr. Grissett reported that only a possible 10 county students may be affected by this annexation and he recommended that the council approve the annexation as laid out on the map. Councilman Miller requested that the annexation be split by location into three separate resolutions so that if, for instance, a certain area was not approved then the other two sections or resolutions could be approved. General consensus of Council was to leave it as one resolution.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis to move forward with the annexation as proposed. Roll Call. AYES: Councilman Davis, Councilman Grissett, Council President Patterson, Councilman Tucker. NAY: Councilman Miller. It was agreed that a Called Council Meeting would be set for Monday, March 9th at 5:00 pm to vote on the ordinance that would contain the legal description of the annexation.

Councilman Miller requested an update on the Costner Street “closure” for the next council meeting. Councilman Miller wished to thank the Fire and Police Department for their response on the overturned 18-wheeler in front of his place of business. Also, wishes to thank the Public Works Department for getting sand on icy patches in the road during the snowy weather. Councilman Miller indicated that he had received a complaint from the Brecon area about street lights out and requested that Alabama Power be contacted about repairs. Councilman Miller then commented on an upcoming event with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra attending Salter School to introduce students to symphonic instruments.

Councilman Tucker thanked the Police Department for their help with the Black Heritage Parade last weekend. The event’s theme was “Least we Forget.” Councilman Tucker also thanked Councilman Grissett for his leadership and involvement in the annexation.

Councilman Grissett’s comments included the following:

- City participation in the cooperative purchasing organization with the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission
- Commended the Manager on the “smooth as silk” railroad crossing in front of Mt. Canaan Church
- Indicated that the Coosa River Annex was a “work in progress”
- Requested an update on the entrance signs into the City and the Manager responded that it was on the “to do” list.
- Requested an update on obtaining a new Public Works Director. The Manager indicated that he had completed some interviews but was still searching.

Councilman Davis commented on his pleasure with the annexation reaching this point. Councilman Davis asked why there was not a bin for aluminum at the recycling center. Councilman Miller indicated that it was because a local business was already handling recycling aluminum (Reynolds Recycling).

Council President Patterson stated that last week was a great week for the City of Talladega and a giant step in the right direction with the City's Tree City USA designation. Manager Stampfler commented on the donation made by the Pilgrimage Council that paid for the trees planted on South Street, the donation made by the Bemiston Council for the tree planted at the Bemiston Recreation Center, and the City-purchased trees that were planted at Jemison Park by the Career Tech students from Talladega High School. All of this showed the environmental consciousness of the community and he hoped that such improvements in the urban landscaping could be done every year.

Council President Patterson asked for an update on the status of the rezoning of the 275 bypass through the Planning Commission. The Manager read from a memo prepared by the City Clerk which gave a time line of the steps already completed. The Manager further commented that it was important for this to be reviewed by the new Community Development Director.

Council President Patterson requested an update on a listing of streets to be paved and Manager Stampfler indicated that it was still being worked on.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second by Councilman Miller to go into closed session to discuss pending litigation. Ayes: All. Enter closed session at 7:00 pm.

Returned from closed session at 7:20 pm. Council agreed to leave the matter for the City attorney to handle appropriately.

Motion by Councilman Grissett for adjournment.

AUTHENTICATION

I, Elizabeth Cheeks, Acting 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, 2 March 2009, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall in the City of Talladega, Alabama.

Elizabeth Cheeks
Acting City Clerk