

CITY OF TALLADEGA
PUBLIC HEARING
27 October 2008, 5:00 pm

Public Hearing – Closure of section of Cruikshank Street between Nolen Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive on the Talladega College campus. No one was present to oppose or recommend.

Public Hearing – Closure of section of Costner Street between Thornton Avenue and Allen Drive. Mr. Tony Sisk and Mr. David Williams of Industrial Machinery were present to answer questions concerning their petition for closure for safety reasons. No one else was present to oppose or recommend. Councilman Miller recommended the petition be granted.

Public Hearing – Opportunity to contest assessment of lien against property for the cost of removing the public nuisance of weeds/vegetation on properties listed in Resolutions #1749 to #1762. Councilman Miller indicated that the property listed on Resolution #1761 was incorrect and requested that it be checked for accuracy.

CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
27 October 2008, 5:30 pm

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, 27 October 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: Council President Horace Patterson, Councilman Eddie Tucker, Councilman Donnie Miller, Councilman Lance Grissett, Councilman Jimmy Davis, Mayor Brian York and City Manager Michael Stampfler.

Invocation given by Rev. Tommy Hardy.

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

Total Invoices & Expenditures for 10/03/08 to 10/02/08	\$604,708.72
General Fund 10	\$582,946.52
Capital Improvements Fund 70	\$ 21,762.20

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis to approve the minutes with corrections for the Regular Meeting of October 6, 2008 and the Joint Meeting with the City Board of Education on October 7, 2008. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Tucker with a second from Councilman Miller to approve the petition for closure of Cruikshank Street from Martin Luther King Jr. Drive to Nolen Street to through traffic. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Miller with a second from Councilman Davis to approve the petition for closure of Costner Street from Thornton Street to Allen Drive to through traffic. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Tucker with second from Councilman Davis to approve a 070-Retail Table Wine (off premises only) and a 050-Retail Beer (off premises only) for Tony's Food Mart & Ahmad Kahmal Musa at 823 East Battle Street. AYES: All.

Mr. Thomas Beavers came before the Council claiming that the police were harassing anyone with his dealer tags on the vehicle. Mr. Beavers requested a reimbursement of towing costs for the vehicle his grandson was driving when he was

stopped by police. The City Manager stated that this matter would be looked into and that a report would be given at the next Council meeting.

Resolution #1749 assessing lien against property at 185 Shaw for weed abatement.

Resolution #1750 assessing lien against property at 416 16th Street for weed abatement.

Resolution #1751 assessing lien against property at 519 Porter for weed abatement.

Resolution #1752 assessing lien against property at 149 Running Deer Lane for weed abatement.

Resolution #1753 assessing lien against property at corner of 19th and Shaw for weed abatement.

Resolution #1754 assessing lien against property at 522 Lawson St. for weed abatement.

Resolution #1755 assessing lien against property at 116 Renee St. for weed abatement.

Resolution #1756 assessing lien against property at 805 E. Battle St. for weed abatement.

Resolution #1757 assessing lien against property at 18 E. Sloan Ave. for weed abatement.

Resolution #1758 assessing lien against property at 816 18th Street for weed abatement.

Resolution #1759 assessing lien against 2 vacant lots on corner of Tinney St. and Davis St. for weed abatement.

Resolution #1760 assessing lien against property at 304 Westwood Circle for weed abatement.

Resolution #1761 assessing lien against property on 606 18th Street for weed abatement.

Resolution #1762 assessing lien against property on 412 15th Street for weed abatement.

Resolution #1763 to surplus City Water Department property at 651 and 653 Alabama Highway 275.

Resolution #1764 enters into an agreement with the State of Alabama Department of Transportation for improvements to various city streets, roadways, bridges including railroad crossings and drainage improvements (ST-061-999-011).

Resolution #1765 approving the employee contribution to the Employee's Retirement System of Alabama as non-taxable under Section 414(h)(2) of the International Revenue Code.

Resolution #1766 approving the contract with Veolia ES Solid Waste Southeast, Inc. to perform garbage collection services within the city limits of Talladega per bid specifications.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Davis to adopt Resolutions #1749-1760 and #1762-1766. AYES: All.

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 10/03 to 10/23/08

\$ 329,922.42

City Manager discussed the following items:

- Presented an update on the Shocco Springs/ Talladega Creek water pressure issues. Council members indicated that recently they had had no complaints concerning this issue.
- The City was moving forward on the money owed by the City of Lincoln and would keep the Council updated.
- The Mt. Olive Telemetry Project was completed on October 20, 2008.
- Presented a proposal to increase the water and sewer rates to those customers outside the city limits by 25%. This request was within the law and made the City's rates more comparable to other municipalities and more closely reflected the true cost of servicing these areas.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Miller to approve the 25% rate increase in water and sewer rates to customers outside the City limits. AYES: All.

- Requested approve to start the application process for a Brownfield Assessment Grant. If approved a Town Meeting was scheduled for November 3, 2008 at the Ritz Theatre to get the public's input.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second by Councilman Grissett to approve starting the application process for a Brownfield Assessment Grant. AYES: All.

- Presented the Fire Hydrant Testing Program with sample public notices (such as to hang on the customer's door hanger). The water would get dirty during this process and there would be some inconvenience but this process was vital to public safety. The Fire Department must know that all hydrants are operating properly. This will also help with the City's ISO rating.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Tucker to approve the hydrant testing program. AYES: All.

- Resubmitted the new and revised job descriptions that had originally been submitted in the previous Council meeting. This was necessary to assure that the Civil Service Board had proper notification of the changes prior to City Council approval.

Motion by Councilman Tucker with a second by Councilman Miller to approve the new and revised job descriptions for City employees. AYES: All.

- Presented the Council with a copy of the City's noise ordinance per the discussion in the previous Council meeting.
- Presented reports on two condemnations that were given time extensions by the City Council. Mr. Thomas Smith of 914 Lancaster Street was present to discuss the improvements he had made to the property and to state that he still had work to do on the property.

Council President Patterson indicated that historically the Building Inspector goes out and if the property is 50 % destroyed then the property was condemned. But if people have made a good faith effort then they should be given more time. Mr. Stampfler that work was being done on a procedure to allow the Council to give extensions and that a continuance clause needs to be written into the ordinance. The City wants home owners to improve their property, but if the public ignores the City's request to cleanup their property, then demolition will continue. Councilman Tucker requested an ordinance with a punch list of sorts that gives more information on what is a condemnable house or structure. Councilman Grissett stated that the ordinance needed to include a definition of "significant progress" that could be measured. Council Tucker suggested it be a percentage of repairs.

- Mr. Stampfler presented the Civil Service Attorney's charges for approval. Mr. Frank Miller was presented and questioned why the charges had to be approved by the Council when they had never done so in the past. Council President Patterson stated that the Council was going to be very "hands on" with the spending of the taxpayers' money. There was further discussion as to whether an attorney needed to be present at every meeting and Mr. Frank Miller indicated that most meetings involved important legal issues. Mr. Frank Miller stated that \$15,000 was earmarked for the Civil Service's expenses. Council President Patterson indicated that costs were cut wherever possible and just because there was \$15,000 earmarked does not mean that it needs to be spent, but that the Council would also be sensitive to any needs that caused costs to go over \$15,000.
- Presented the Council with the City's fuel conservation policy for three of the City's department. Over the next year, stated that the administration would be

more aggressive on this issue and that all departments will have a fuel conservation policy in place.

Councilman Miller announced the Halloween festivities on the Town Square and the Parks & Recreation Department's Flashlight Candy Hunt at the Sports Complex.

Councilman Grissett requested an updated on the Norfolk/Southern rail crossing repairs. Mr. Stampfler indicated that he had been notified that the schedule repairs had been delayed until the early part of December. Councilman Grissett then asked for information on the status of the Coleman Circle project. Mr. Stampfler stated that the situation would have to be analyzed whether or not accepting the Coleman Grant would greatly delay the City's ability to get other CDBG grants. Mr. Stampfler further stated that the stipulation letter would have to be closely examined. At the very least sewer hook-ups would have to be made mandatory.

Councilman Davis announced that soon the library would be open past 5:00 pm on two nights. Councilman Davis also noted that another joint meeting with the School Board could be scheduled later, such as after the first of the year.

Dr. Billy Hawkins of Talladega College was present and made some comments to the Council. Dr. Hawkins appreciated the approval of the closing of the section of Cruikshank Street and the cooperation of the City in increasing the public lighting on campus though he felt more lighting was still needed. He stated that there was a need for more speed bumps. There was also a problem with stray dogs in the campus area. Talladega College was kicking off their basketball season with games being played at the Talladega High School gym.

Councilman Grissett asked for an update on the Bemiston caution lights.

Councilman Davis moved 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, 27 October 2008, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall in the City of Talladega, Alabama.

Elizabeth Cheeks
Acting City Clerk