

**CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
ZOOM MEETING
October 26, 2020 – 5:00 pm**

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, October 26, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom. The meeting was called to order and the following were present: Council President Trae Williams, Councilman Horace Patterson, Council Member Vickey R. Hall, Council Member Betty C. Spratlin, Councilman Joseph K. Power, Jr., Mayor Ragland and City Manager Beth Cheeks.

Invocation by Councilman Horace Patterson.

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Council Member Hall to postpone approval of Invoices and Expenditures until November 2, 2020. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Council President Williams for approval of minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 26, 2020. AYES: All.

Council President Williams deferred to City Manager Cheeks concerning the Special Election for the Board of Education Ward 2. City Manager Cheeks stated that the Notice of Election would be advertised two months prior to the election and that candidates can begin qualifying on November 10, 2020 until November 24, 2020. It was also mentioned that additional information concerning the Special Election would be on the City's website.

Brought before the Council was the removal of Samuel Wiggins Jr. from the Industrial Development Board. Councilman Patterson voiced his concern about this issue; requesting City Attorney O'Brien's recommendation upon the matter. City Attorney O'Brien stated that it was the Council's decision and per the Code of Alabama 1975 Section 11-43-160 it would allow the Council to do so by a two-thirds vote of the Council in several departments for incompetency, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance in office and for conduct detrimental to good order or discipline, including habitual neglect of duty. After some discussion upon this matter, it was decided to allow Mr. Wiggins' term to lapse without any action taken.

Resolution #5143 to affirm local matching share of funds for Airport Improvement projects with the Talladega Municipal Airport Board

Motion by Council President Williams with a second from Councilman Patterson for the approval of Resolution #5143. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Junk Cars

Resolution #5144 approving abatement of junk cars at Davis St.

Resolution #5145 approving abatement of junk cars at 404 Dumas Ave.

Motion by Councilman Power with a second from Councilman Patterson for the approval of Resolution #5144 and Resolution #5145. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #5146 approving a Special Election for the Board of Education Ward 2

Motion by Council Member Hall with a second from Councilman Patterson for the approval of Resolution #5146. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #5147 approving a lease with Tanya Ingram for use of Brecon Recreation Center

Motion by Council President Williams with a second from Council Member Hall for the approval of Resolution #5147. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #5148 approving a lease with Lynn Sims (Little House Dance Studio) for use of Meeting Room A at the Spring Street Recreation Center

Motion by Council President Williams with a second from Council Member Spratlin for the approval of Resolution #5148. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #5149 approving a renewal with Alpine Properties for ground maintenance at Oak Hill Cemetery pending compliance with insurance and licensing requirements

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Council Member Hall for the approval of Resolution #5149. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #5150 accepting the Alabama Department of Public Health Oral Health Office 2021 Fluoridation Grant Award for \$24,500.00.

Motion by Council President Williams with a second from Councilman Patterson for the approval of Resolution #5150. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #5151 approving user agreement with Talladega College for use of the Ben E. Bruner Sports Complex for softball and soccer practices and games at a cost of \$1,500 for the term of 10/20/2020 through 9/30/2021.

Resolution #5152 approving user agreement with Talladega College for use of the Spring Street Recreation Center indoor pool for Water Calisthenics at a cost of \$1,500 for the term of 10/20/2020 through 9/30/2021.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Council Member Hall for the approval of Resolution #5151 and Resolution #5152. Roll Call. AYES: All.

There was some discussion concerning the Water Department's Invoices and Expenditures. Council Member Spratlin inquired about a payment for Christmas decorations. It was stated that the cost of the decorations was part of a 3-year agreement with Christmas Décor; it was also mentioned that even though the Christmas on the Square event has been cancelled this year, the decorations and the lighted Christmas tree would still be installed.

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

Water Department Expenditures for 10/12/2020 to 10/19/2020	\$ 395,550.48
Water/Sewer Fund	395,550.48

Councilman Power inquired about the 10 mil on the monthly finance report. City Manager Cheeks commented that this was the City's portion of property tax. Councilman Power also asked if expenses were complete for this fiscal year. City Manager Cheeks stated that it would be another month to clear up outstanding invoices and another 2 months for sales tax revenue. Councilman Power also inquired about Oak Hill Cemetery's fund. City Manager Cheeks stated that the cemetery was not part of the General Fund. Councilman Power also commented that the Library's fund was out a large amount of money. City Manager Cheeks commented that the large amount was due to personnel cost and that she was not sure how much State funding the Library would receive with Covid-19 but would look into the matter.

City Manager Cheeks commented that as part of an anti-litter campaign postcards containing facts of how keeping the City clean can help with tourism have been put together for distribution. It was also mentioned that a Drive Thru Trick or Treat event was planned on Friday from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Ben E. Bruner Complex. She also stated that the City has received the deeds and keys to the East Side Building on Friday and an initial walk through had been done with the Building Inspector and Assistant Fire Chief to ascertain where to start the renovations. It was also noted that the Battle of Talladega historic sign which was thought could be refurbished would either need to be repaired due to substantial cracks. It was also noted that a new sign with pole could be purchased for \$2,500.00. City Manager Cheeks commented that she would request a formal estimate for a new sign.

Councilman Patterson inquired if City Manager Cheeks had responded to Talladega College President Hawkins' request. City Manager Cheeks stated that President Hawkins has received the policy which is the State code and the International Building Code as there are no other policies beyond that. Councilman Patterson also inquired if City Manager Cheeks had responded to President Hawkins' letter concerning the City Building Inspector. City Manager Cheeks stated that she had not because she had not received a copy of that letter. It was also mentioned that it was a requirement of the Building

Inspector to report unlicensed contractors working in the City to the Electrical board. Councilman Patterson requested that City Manager Cheeks respond to the letter. City Manager Cheeks stated that she would respond with a phone call to resolve the issue. Councilman Patterson next inquired about a Letter of Intent from a private entity to purchase the Water Department. He stated that if the purchase of the Water Department was to proceed a Public Hearing would be needed. Council President Williams commented that the private entity, Southwest Water, approached the City and other than a meeting with himself, Councilman Power and City Manager Cheeks nothing had been explored. City Attorney O'Brien commented that the Letter of Intent would allow the entity to examine the books and records of the Water Department to see what kind of return there may be, inspect equipment and property. He also mentioned that a city may sell its utility system to a private entity, but only if there is a referendum vote by the citizens of the city approving of the sale. It was also noted that the Letter of Intent had not been signed and will not be unless the Council approves it.

Councilman Power commented that he had received the letter from Talladega College President Hawkins' and requested that there be a response made. He also informed the Council that several citizens had voluntarily picked up litter around their neighborhood.

Council Member Hall wished to thank the Council for supporting the Special Election for the City School Board.

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Councilman Patterson to rescind the hiring freeze for only the Police and Fire Department effective October 27, 2020. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Council Member Spratlin requested an update on the garbage pickup; stating that the Mount Olive area had not been serviced in a while and asked that the matter be looked into. City Manager Cheeks stated that the list she had received for trash pickup had been taken care of. It was also mentioned that the list received this evening would be addressed this week and that hopefully everything should be on schedule soon. It was also mentioned to contact her if there were additional Waste Pro or Republic trash receptacles that needed to be picked up. She also commented that the garbage schedule will be listed on the City's Facebook page and on the website.

Mayor Ragland wished to thank Councilman Patterson for coming out to the free Covid-19 testing site and flu shot site last Saturday. He also inquired when the Community Advisory Board. Council President Williams stated that there was a meeting Wednesday at 10am. Mayor Ragland also requested a copy of the Letter of Intent for the Water Department.

Council President Williams wished to comment about the Special Election stating that he had wanted the City to stay out of the election and avoid any controversy; however, after speaking with Council Member Hall, he wished to support her wishes. He also commented that the people of Ward 2 deserve an election. Next, Council President Williams wished to inform the Council that there would be a Work Session scheduled at 4:00pm before the Council Meeting on November 2, 2020 to discuss the Water Department bonds.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Council President 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, October 26, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom in the City of Talladega, Alabama.