

**CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
May 16, 2022 – 5:00 pm**

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, May 16, 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 Ricky Clark from Central Baptist Church.

Motion by Councilman Williams with a second from Council Member Spratlin for the approval of the amended agenda. AYES: Council President Patterson, Councilman Power, Council Member Spratlin, and Councilman Williams ABSTAIN: Council Member Hall

The public discussion concerning the Eastside building was open for comments and concerns. Lamar Williams from the Omega Academy of Science and Fine Arts was present to answer any questions or concerns citizens may have. Mr. Williams stated that their organization wished to direct resources to and for Talladega to make the most impact for the City. A citizen came forward to ask what was the plan for the building, whether it be a community center or a facility for the elderly. Mr. Williams stated that their intention was to build a community center to foster growth and STEM education for boys ages 3-15. It was also mentioned that not only education would be taking place but also life skills such as etiquette would be offered. The focus would be to drill down and improve the community by having a building to be proud of and a better outlook of things.

Resident Gregory Rice came before the Council concerning availability of rooms if the agreement with Omega Academy were to be approved. Mr. Williams stated that their organization was looking for that type of mentorship from the community.

Dr. Adia Winfrey stated that she was part of the original group who had presented ideas to the City concerning the use of the Eastside building and inquired about the process used to get to this point. Dr. Winfrey aired her concerns that the organization is not one from the community. Council President Patterson wished to encourage anyone with questions or concerns to reach out in writing to the City Manager, who will then respond back. It was questioned if the decision would come back to the community or be done behind closed doors. Council Member Hall stated that no decision would be made behind closed doors and nothing has been voted on yet. It was also mentioned that a town hall meeting would be scheduled to discuss the utilization of the Eastside building.

Citizen Lawanda Keith inquired what children would benefit, whether it be the community's children or youths from outside the City. Mr. Williams stated that their intention is to first give the community the opportunity to join and then if other youths wish to enroll, they would be welcomed, although it would still be the community's decision.

Terencea Holtzclaw, founder of Beyond the Lights Theatre Company, requested that their children not be forgotten in this decision as they have in the past. Council President Patterson wished to apologize for the oversight and reiterated the importance of submitting in writing all concerns to the City Clerk to be addressed by the City Manager.

Ms. Williams from Omega Academy came before the Council to introduce her self and wished to share that they only want to help strengthen the community through private investments.

Mayor Ragland wished to thank everyone for coming and mentioned that Knoxville is his home community and is sorrowful to see it in the condition that it is in currently; which is why he is excited to see someone who wishes to take the opportunity to invest in it.

Motion by Councilman Williams with a second from Councilman Power to approve invoices and expenditures. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Total Invoices & Expenditures from 4/23/2022-5/3/2022	\$241,768.02
General Fund	182,151.82
Cemetery	3,521.02
Municipal Airport	22,431.83
Capital Projects Trust Fund	33,663.35

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Council Member Hall for the approval of the Special Called Meeting of April 25, 2022, the Called Meeting of May 6, 2022, and the Regular Meeting of May 2, 2022. AYES: All.

Michael O'Brien from HNP came before the Council with an update on the East St. pocket park design. Mr. O'Brien presented an overview of the plans for the pocket park and stated that the next step is to produce construction documents which is a three-month process, wrapping up around August, and construction to begin in the fall. It was mentioned that completion should be in the first quarter of 2023. Mayor Ragland inquired if there could be opportunities for students at Talladega High School in the landscaping program to help out. Mr. O'Brien stated that he would engage those students interested when it got to the part in the project for it.

Code Enforcement Officer Kirk came before the Council with an update on Code Enforcement. Officer Kirk stated that within the last 2 weeks he had received 24 citizen complaints, 26 self-initiated complaints, and worked with Waste Management as well. It was also mentioned that in the past, he would give notice to the citizens and allow them to clean it up in a timely manner, however, now he would begin to cite immediately.

Resolution #5473 approving a contract with AIDB for preparing lunches for the Summer Food Program at a cost of \$2.95/meal

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Councilman Williams for the approval of Resolution #5473. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #5474 approving a Memorandum of Understanding with HNP and Chambless King Architects for master planning services at a cost of \$150,000

Resolution #5475 approving a Memorandum of Understanding with HNP and Chambless King Architects for concept renderings of the 12 existing parks at a cost of \$40,000

Resolution #5476 approving a Memorandum of Understanding with HNP and Chambless King Architects for concept renderings of the 4 recreation centers at a cost of \$47,500

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Council Member Hall for the approval of Resolution #5474 to Resolution #5476. Roll Call. AYES: All.

There was some discussion concerning the funding for the concept renderings. City Manager Hill stated that this would be an allowable expenditure of ARPA funds. There was also a question as to the Advisory Board and who was on seated on it. City Manager Hill commented that the board has not been put together yet, but would be comprised of those who are in that ward who wish to serve.

Resolution #5477 approving an agreement with Bretwood Capital Partners, LLC for financial advisory services

Motion by Councilman Williams with a second from Council Member Hall for the approval of Resolution #5477. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #5478 approving a contract with Cavco Services, LLC for demolition of (14) fourteen structures per bid specifications at a cost of \$87,494

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Council Member Hall for the approval of Resolution #5478. Roll Call. AYES: All.

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 4/23/2022 to 5/3/2022	\$172,605.06
Water/Sewer Fund	172,605.06

Resolution #5479 review and accept the MWPP Annual Report for the Talladega Brecon Wastewater Treatment Plant

Resolution #5480 review and accept the MWPP Annual Report for the Talladega Airport Wastewater Treatment Plant

Resolution #5481 review and accept the MWPP Annual Report for the Talladega Main Wastewater Treatment Plant

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Council Member Hall for the approval of Resolution #5479 to Resolution #5481. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Councilman Williams wished to point out that the MWPP reports were excellent and noted that the Water Department was doing a great job.

City Manger Hill informed the Council that the program for the college interns had commenced and the City would be receiving high school student interns for the Summer, mentioned traveling to Oxford to continue to build a relationship with the Police Department and partnering with Oxford, wished to thank those who had a hand in submitting the Main Street Alabama application, mentioned that over 30 letters of support had been received for the Main Street application, as well as a personal call from the Governor's Office to the Main Street program on the City's behalf, had several investors reach out concerning four properties, met with food banks concerning food prices and inflation and would be partnering with the Speedway to donate frozen items to Red Door Kitchen and the community, mentioned applying for an broadband infrastructure grant and a grant for hiring police officers and developing policing programs, a plan to partner with schools to stop school violence program, apply for a grant with the U.S. Dept. of Transportation to assist in financing of bus and facilities, will be getting to Council at the next meeting concerning water and waste water, still waiting on one more quote from the roofer for the Spring Street Recreation, Willman Rd. culvert should be brought to the Council at the next meeting, mentioned that the Council gave out over \$700,000 in appropriations with another \$10,000 given to contribution requests, and wished to thank the Council for approving the summer food program agreement.

Council Member Hall wished to thank her community for coming out and listening to the representatives of Omega Academy and would inform everyone of a town hall meeting.

Council Member Spratlin wished to thank City Manager Hill on the speedy installation of a sign and mentioned that there was another one she'd like put up at a later time.

Councilman Williams inquired if the City was still offering overtime for employees to catch up on the mowing. City Manager Hill answered in the affirmative. Councilman Williams also wished to thank the Police Department during National Police Week for their good work.

Council Member Spratlin inquired if the City was aware of a nuisance problem with stray dogs and that a Police Officer had been bit by one of them. City Manager Hill stated that there have not been any complaints received. Police Chief Thomas stated she would look into the matter.

Mayor Ragland wished to congratulate the track team for a successful state track meet. He also informed the Council that a preliminary plan for a temporary curfew would be sent to City Attorney O'Brien to review and then would be brought back to the Council.

Motion by Councilman Williams with a second from Council Member Hall 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 16, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the City of Talladega, Alabama City Hall Council Chambers.