

**CITY OF TALLADEGA  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
July 19, 2021 – 5:00 pm**

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, July 19, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in the Talladega City Hall Chambers. The meeting was called to order and the following were present: Council President Betty Spratlin, Councilman Horace Patterson, Council Member Vickey R. Hall, Councilman Trae Williams, Councilman Joseph K. Power, Jr., and City Manager Seddrick Hill.

Invocation by Reverend Hugh Morris.

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

<b>Total Invoices &amp; Expenditures from 7/1/2021-7/12/2021</b>	<b>\$449,077.69</b>
General Fund	382,462.95
Corrections Fund	23,157.41
Cemetery	11,700.00
Municipal Airport	23,466.80
Capital Projects Trust Fund	8,290.53

Motion by Councilman Williams with a second from Councilman Patterson for the approval of the Regular Meeting of July 8, 2021. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Council President Spratlin presents a proclamation to Mary Sue Gaines in recognition of her dedication and contributions to the community and its citizens.

Reverend Hugh Morris presented a report to the Council concerning the NAACP Scholarship Awards. It was stated that there was not a fundraiser last year due to the pandemic and it is likely there will not be one this year as well. Reverend Morris further stated that there were 7 applicants, one from Talladega High School. He also wished to thank the City for their appropriation.

Linda Jennings came before the Council to request the closure of Best Inn alluding to the fact that this establishment was a place for drug deals and other dangerous clandestine activities. She also stated that her granddaughter had died under suspicious circumstances there. Ms. Jennings submitted to Council President Spratlin pictures of her granddaughter, police report and a petition for the closure of Best Inn formerly known as McCaig's Motel.

Penny and Carl Hudson also came before the Council to beseech their help in closing the Best Inn. It was stated that they share Ms. Jennings' granddaughter and with the hope of shutting down Best Inn, would prevent the same tragedy on other families. City Manager Hill stated that when he had received their request; began putting a list of items needed to look into the matter and stated that the matter would be looked into. Councilman Patterson requested City Manager Hill to personally request an investigation be done and brought back to the Council for consideration. Councilman Williams inquired if City Attorney O'Brien could look into stepping in legally in moving forward with the closure of Best Inn and send correspondence to the City Manager. Councilman Patterson asked if there was any record of complaints on the establishment. Councilman Power suggested that the Mayor or City Manager may have the ability to shut down the business for a short period of time for any violent situation and recommended that this would be the best plan of action and requested that it be looked into. City Manager Hill stated he would look into the ordinance. Councilman Patterson inquired from City Attorney O'Brien if it would be legal to vote to close the establishment. City Attorney O'Brien stated that the Council had no more authority than the state and with limited investigation in respect to this matter, that option was not available. It was mentioned he would explore the best options available. Councilman Patterson requested increased police presence at that establishment. It was also stated that the City Manager would follow up with the family.

Jimmy Williams from the Hall of Heroes came before the Council in reference to tourism and redevelopment. He wished to submit to the Council a proposal to help the City with their tourism endeavors. He also stated that these same ideas and practices had been done for the Hall of Heroes with much success and believes it would be a benefit for the City as well. It was also mentioned that an investment of \$100,000 from the City would be used wisely and cost effectively, if approved.

Representative Steve Hurst also commented that a representative over tourism in Alabama was willing to offer his assistance to expediate the City's tourism plans and also mentioned that legislature was working towards helping municipalities with litter. Councilman Patterson expressed his desire that the focus of good ideas and happening be highlighted instead of the bad and inquired if the City Manager would be willing to entertain the idea. City Manager Hill commented that it was a great idea and that all the appropriation requests are submitted one of the items required would be to show tangible results and outcomes from the appropriation. It was mentioned that these requests would be sent out to agencies and be brought back to Council for a vote around the end of August.

**Ordinance #1889** approving the Water and Sewer Rate

Motion by Councilman Williams with a second from Councilman Patterson for the Reading of the Heading Only of Ordinance #1889. Roll Call. AYES: All.

**THIS ORDINANCE ESTABLISHES THE RATE TO BE CHARGED FOR WATER AND SEWER USAGE, BOTH RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL, AND TO REPEAL ANY ORDINANCE, REGULATION OR RESOLUTION INCONSISTENT HEREWITH**

Motion by Councilman Williams with a second from Councilman Patterson for the waiver of the first reading and Immediate Consideration of Ordinance #1889. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Councilman Williams for the Adoption of Ordinance #1889. Roll Call. AYES: All.

**Resolution #5260** approving a lease with Ingram Dean (Little House Dance Studio) for use of Meeting Room A at the Spring Street Recreation Center for a cost of \$350.00/month

Motion by Councilman Williams with a second from Councilman Patterson for the approval of Resolution #5260. Roll Call. AYES: All.

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

<b>Water Department Expenditures for 7/1/2021 to 7/12/2021</b>	<b>\$ 348,857.90</b>
Water/Sewer Fund	348,857.90

City Manager Hill commented that Code Enforcement Officer Falkner continues to do a great job and that 17 properties had went before the judge and 9 had been corrected. It was also mentioned that the City is currently hiring for a Human Resources Director and interviews for Building Inspector will be underway. Also stated was that the Police Department was hiring, a new posting for AP Clerk, and the impending hiring of an executive assistant in the City Manager's Office. City Manager Hill also wished to thank the Finance Department for applying for the American Rescue Plan and commented that the City has already received the first \$1.8 million and a work session should be put together soon as to the spending of those funds. He also mentioned a back-to-school bash on August 21, 2021 would be had.

Council Member Hall stated that the shootings in town have not gotten any better and did not know what else could be done. Councilman Patterson requested that the City Manager get some feedback on where the City currently stands since CrimeStoppers has been involved. City Manager Hill commented that a report will be forthcoming. Councilman Patterson also requested increased police presence in the area of Banjo Hill.

Councilman Williams wished to thank Water Department Director Fuller for keeping up with the trash complaints. He also commented upon his excitement with working with the new City School Superintendent and is looking forward with a school system with him.

Councilman Power inquired about the Municipal Court Judge's salary as he and the rest of the Council had been contacted by him concerning the matter. City Manager Hill stated he has met with the Judge twice and informed him that it would be worked in on the upcoming budget. Councilman Power also wished to recognize Phoebe Presson and her work with the children in the community. It was mentioned that the children had self-created their own church and assigned positions as well. He also commented that Mr. Walter Lewis was in the audience and informed the Council that there was a phone

call Thursday concerning the S&P and was disappointed with the turnout. It was also stated that out of 2 years in 2017 and 2018, the City was out on the debt service coverage with a ratio of 1.2%; stating it was possibly due to the change in auditors and Finance Directors during that period. He suggested that a policy be created to be able to maintain the current good bond rating.

Council President Spratlin informed the Council that the next Council meetings would be held August 2 and August 16.

Motion by Councilman Williams with a second from Councilman Patterson 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, July 19, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. in the City of Talladega, Alabama City Hall Council Chambers.