

**CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
September 27, 2021 – 5:00 pm**

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, September 27, 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 Joseph K. Power, Jr., Councilman Trae Williams, and City Manager Seddrick Hill.

Invocation by Councilman Patterson.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Councilman Williams for the approval of the amended agenda. AYES: All.

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

Total Invoices & Expenditures from 9/1/2021-9/30/2021	\$456,585.49
General Fund	157,570.46
Corrections Fund	21,516.65
Cemetery	6,556.76
Library Fund	165.46
Municipal Airport	24,279.79
Capital Projects Trust Fund	246,496.37

Motion by Council Member Hall with a second from Councilman Patterson for the approval of the Regular Meeting of September 9, 2021. AYES: All.

Council President Spratlin deferred to Terry McKee concerning issues with the taxi company in town. Mr. McKee requested that the City look into drawing other taxi companies into the City to help create competition which would in turn facilitate the current taxi company to do better in terms of safety and health issues. It was also stated that the current taxi company had suspended his charge accounts and would not give him an itemized list of charges. Councilman Williams inquired from City Attorney O'Brien about creating an ordinance to regulate taxi companies. City Attorney O'Brien stated he would look into the matter. Connie Humphrey the owner of the taxi company came before the Council stating that the company has to pass inspection every year in order to receive their license. She also mentioned that due to the shortage of employees, the service may take longer than usual to utilize. There were several in the audience wishing to inform the Council that the taxi service has been good to the blind community. The issue was deferred to City Manager Hill and City Attorney O'Brien.

Council President Spratlin deferred to Frances Ross concerning an issue with the library. Ms. Ross wished to know who set the library hours and wished to offer suggestions for keeping the library open. She mentioned that the last time she visited the library there was a sign on the door indicating to call, which she did and was told that the library was closed, however if she knew the author or title of the book, she could have it checked out to her. Ms. Ross suggested that a certain number of visitors be allowed as long as masks were worn or if the visitor was fully vaccinated. Councilman Power stated that the Library operations was directed by their board and that the City has no authority. Vickie Harkins, the Director of the Library, commented that during Ms. Ross' visit several of the library employees were absent due to tragedy in the family or health issues. It was also stated that the Library would be back to regular operating hours on Monday including Saturdays. She also mentioned that the Drive Thru could be utilized to check out and turn in books.

Motion by Councilman Williams with a second from Councilman Patterson for the approval of Joseph Vann Caldwell, II's application to the Industrial Development Board. Roll Call. AYES: All.

The Holiday Schedule for City employees was presented to the Council with no objection.

Ordinance #1892 approving the annual budget for Fiscal Year 2022

Motion by Councilman Power with a second from Councilman Williams for the Reading of the Heading Only of Ordinance #1892. Roll Call. AYES: All.

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE OFFICIAL ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF TALLADEGA, ALABAMA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING 1 OCTOBER 2021 AND ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

Motion by Councilman Williams with a second from Councilman Patterson for the Waiver of the first reading and Immediate Consideration of Ordinance #1892. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Councilman Williams for the Adoption of Ordinance #1892. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #5310 adopting report and affixing cost of demolition to 101 Silverwood Drive

Motion by Council Member Hall with a second from Councilman Williams for the approval of Resolution #5310. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #5311 adopting report and affixing cost of demolition to 722 Pulliam St.

Motion by Councilman Williams with a second from Councilman Power for the approval of Resolution #5311. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #5312 approving architectural services for East Street Pocket Park with HNP at a cost of \$30,000.00

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Councilman Williams for the approval of Resolution #5312. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #5313 approving application for state matching funds for an airport improvement project for the Talladega Municipal Airport during FY22

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Councilman Power for the approval of Resolution #5313. Roll Call. AYES: All.

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

Water Department Expenditures for 9/1/2021 to 9/30/2021	\$91,682.72
Water/Sewer Fund	91,682.72

Residents of Cleves Lane came before the Council concerning an issue with the trains blocking their entrance and exit to their community. Public Works Director Phillips commented that Cleves Lane was not in the City limits. Council President Spratlin suggested that they meet with the City Manager concerning the matter. City Attorney O'Brien commented that the railroad company is federally regulated and there is not much that can be done other than go to the elected representative to see if the law could be changed.

Council President Spratlin deferred to Wilby Wallace concerning an issue with cars being parked in the alley way and his property. He implored the Council for assistance in the matter. Councilman Patterson requested City Manager Hill get with Mr. Wallace concerning the issue.

City Manager Hill commented that the City is seeing improvement in places such as Talladega Downs and City Court II after mentioning that persistent problems and issues may affect their business license. It was mentioned that the City would also be bringing in an Apartment Inspector to make sure apartments were up to code. It was also mentioned that Public Works and Community Appearance has done a great job working together in cleaning curbs and ditches. He also stated that in October the Water Department would be putting dumpsters out at Wehadkee Mill for resident to utilize. Also stated was that several employees have been working on weekends cleaning up dump sites around the City. He also mentioned that soon the City would be able to contract with a camera company to survey not only for crimes but illegal dumping. City Manager Hill also informed the Council that thrift stores were

prohibited from leaving donation boxes within the City which contribute to people dumping trash there. It is hoped that the City would have a thrift store soon to donate applicable items to instead. He also mentioned a meeting with East Alabama Regional Planning and Development concerning a 10-year policy plan for motels. He also mentioned that the agencies receiving appropriation from the City were required to submit quarterly reports and many have not followed through. He also mentioned that he received push back from many however moving forward in order to receive City funds, quarterly reports would need to be submitted first. Next mentioned was the GEDI study which began September 1 to help with retention and get the City back to par with nearby cities, an inventory firm would be coming to inventory the City's items, met with Alabama Power and CSX about herbicide treatment of right of ways, met with the community college concerning additional programs and internship program with the City, a great Community and Employee Appreciation Day at Shocco Springs, and the City is a new member of Main Street Program.

Councilman Patterson inquired from City Manager Hill the status of the Chamber parking lot and building, indicating he would like to have something started on that lot. He also wished to thank Councilman Power for his leadership with the Chamber parking lot.

Councilman Power commented that according to the budget received, the City is way over on collection this year and that spending is exactly in line for the rest of the year, and is actually under spent.

Council President inquired if the dumpsters at Wehadkee would be for clothes and trash. City Manager Hill stated that it would be trash but residents can bring clothes to throw away. Council President Spratlin informed everyone that the next City Council meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2021 and would be having a Work Session on October 18 at 4pm and the Council Meeting to follow at 5pm.

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, September 27, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. in the City of Talladega, Alabama City Hall Council Chambers.