

CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
5 January 2009

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, 5 January 2009 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: Councilman Eddie Tucker, Council President Horace Patterson, Councilman Donnie Miller, Councilman Lance Grissett, Councilman Jimmy Davis, Mayor Brian York and City Manager Michael Stampfler.

Mayor Brian York presented Ms. Elsa Hayes with a Certificate of Recognition for her courteous and dedicated service to the public at the City Court Apartments.

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

Total Invoices & Expenditures for 12/12/2008 to 1/03/2009	\$555,092.11
General Fund	519,745.65
Corrections Fund	34,724.51
Municipal Court Fund	71.73
Senior Nutrition Fund	278.53
Police Dept. Technology Grant	271.69

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 15, 2008 with corrections. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Miller with a second by Councilman Davis to approve the request for a roadblock by the Talladega High School Baseball Booster Club for fundraising purposes. AYES: All. There was some discussion concerning the numerous roadblocks used for fundraising and a request was made by the Council to have the City Manager investigate alternative fundraising methods for these organizations.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Davis to approve invoices and expenditures for the Water Department. AYES: Councilman Davis, Councilman Grissett, Council President Patterson, Councilman Miller; NAY: Councilman Tucker.

Total Invoices & Expenditures for 12/13/2008 to 1/3/2009	\$432,544.28
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Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis to approval final payment to Hester Construction for Bemiston Recreation Center project. AYES: All.

Councilman Grissett read from a memo from the City Manager to the Council concerning the railroad crossing at West Battle Street. "On November 25, 2008 the City of Talladega met with Talladega County engineers, Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) and Eastern Alabama Railway Representatives to prepare the plans for repair to the West Battle Street Crossing. The plans were completed and approved by ALDOT on December 23, 2008. This approval allows the City to be reimbursed in full for the cost of the project. The total cost of the repairs for the West Battle Street Crossing is \$65,970.98."

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Davis declaring the railroad crossing repairs to be an emergency. AYES: All.

Councilman Davis commented on the anniversary celebration he attended last month at the Shocco Springs Baptist Convention Center and the history written about the organization by its former Director, Dr. Ricker. The Convention Center was visited by over 50,000 people in 2007. Councilman Davis requested that Dr. Ricker be honored by the City for his contributions and hard work in developing Shocco Springs Baptist Convention Center.

Councilman Davis brought to the Council's attention that Talladega Healthcare Inc. had received a federal rating of fives stars which is the highest possible rating.

Councilman Grissett's comments included the following:

- Paving of the new bypass may begin by spring or summer, depending on the availability of funds for ALDOT, which in turn is determined by federal funding.
- Read a letter to the editor of the *Birmingham News* entitled “Holding our Breath” which stressed the need for progressive forward movement during the tough economic times instead of “holding one’s breath” waiting for things to improve.
- 2009 will be a great year for Talladega as the Council works in concert with the City Manager and the leadership team that is now in place.

Councilman Tucker asked for an update on paving the roads such as what list had been made of roads to be worked on, how many miles and what the cost would be. City Manager Stampfler indicated that such information would be coming in the next 30 days. He also indicated that the agreement with the state was more complicated than what had been done in the past and that paving may start in late summer or early fall.

Councilman Miller thanked the City Manager for the work done at the City’s golf course and that he had heard a lot of compliments on the improvements. City Manager Stampfler announced that the Parks & Recreation Director, Parvin Neloms, had started today and that Mr. Neloms would be picking up many new projects that he had already started and that he would continue to work closely with the Parks & Recreation Department. Also, starting today are the Community Development Director, Chris Stone, and the Economic Development Specialist, Michael Speciale. The new employees will be officially introduced at the next Council meeting.

Councilman Miller’s comments included the following:

- Requested that a letter be sent out to residents concerning the status of the Pope-Hill Park (McMillan Street) flood plain.
- The “closed to through traffic” sign on Costner Street was ineffective and wanted the possibility of a gate being placed to keep out traffic. There was some discussion as to the ownership of the street itself.
- Updated requested on the Charter Communication franchise negotiations. Had many complaints on interruption of internet services to some areas of the City.
- Asked for an update on the Tinney Street and Highway 21 intersection issue. Mr. Stampfler indicated that ALDOT had not responded yet to the City’s latest communication.
- Update on the weight limitations on the bridge at 17th Street (Stephen J. White Blvd.) near Waites Concrete. Mr. Stampfler indicated that the restriction was placed on the bridge by the state. Upgrading or replacing of the bridges (6 located in the City limits) could not be budgeted until next year. Council President Patterson asked for some information on whether the City qualified for some federal assistance on the bridge repairs. Mr. Stampfler further noted that the City needed to get an idea of the cost of bridge repairs as well as a better understanding of what types of repairs were needed.

Motion by Councilman Grissett 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, 5 January 2009, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall in the City of Talladega, Alabama.

Elizabeth Cheeks
Acting City Clerk