

**CITY OF TALLADEGA
BUDGET MEETING
January 24, 2011 – 4:00 p.m.**

General discussion meeting (not called to order). City Manager Muenger started by stating that the City is right where it was projected to be with no significant increase in sales tax revenue. Consensus was to maintain the 8% fund balance. Councilman Davis stated that sales tax has declined, the City has cut everywhere possible and it is still not enough to maintain the infrastructure which will continue to deteriorate unless the City comes up with the means to pay for it without depending on government grants that may not be available. Councilwoman Grissett stated that we needed to stay with our tough decisions such as hiring freeze, furlough and that if a sales tax increase was decided on part should be set aside for infrastructure projects and a percentage set aside and not touched until next fiscal year. Councilman Miller stated he wished to wait until the City was six months into this fiscal year (March 2011) to decide on a tax increase. Council President Patterson stated that now was a time for a sales tax increase so that the money would be there as quickly as possible for street improvements and paving. Councilman Tucker indicated that he wanted to wait until April to decide on a tax increase. This discussion continued throughout the Pre-Council meeting.

**CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
January 24, 2011 – 5:30 p.m.**

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, January 24, 2011 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: Council President Horace Patterson, Councilman Donnie Miller, Councilman Jimmy Davis, Councilman Eddie Tucker, Councilwoman Liz Grissett and City Manager Brian Muenger.

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

Total Invoices & Expenditures for 1/8/2011 to 1/21/2011	\$ 1,155,448.51
General Operating Fund	1,051,575.29
Corrections Fund	6,389.86
RBEG Grant	61,504.90
Brownfield Grant	5,283.50
Police Department Grant	15,527.96
Capital Improvement Fund	15,167.00

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second from Councilman Miller to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 1 and 15, 2010 with corrections. AYES: All.

Councilman Miller presented Todd Smith of the Community Appearance Department with the Top Gun Employee of the Month award.

Councilman Miller swore in Mike McWilliams to the Talladega Municipal Airport Board.

Ordinance # 1685 designates the section of roadway to be named Fort Lashley Avenue.

Motion by Councilman Tucker with a second from Councilman Davis for immediate consideration of Ordinance #1685. Roll Call. AYES: All

Motion by Councilman Tucker with a second from Councilman Miller for reading of the heading only of Ordinance #1685. Roll Call. AYES: All.

AN ORDINANCE TO DESIGNATE A SECTION OF ALABAMA HIGHWAY 21 TO BE NAMED FORT LASHLEY AVENUE.

Motion by Councilman Tucker with a second from Councilwoman Grissett to adopt Ordinance #1685. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Ordinance # 1686 designates and names Tinney Street South, Tinney Street North and a renaming of a section of Tinney Street North as Lumber Yard Road.

Motion by Councilman Tucker with a second from Councilman Davis for immediate consideration of Ordinance #1686. Roll Call. AYES: All

Motion by Councilman Tucker with a second from Councilwoman Grissett for reading of the heading only of Ordinance #1686. Roll Call. AYES: All.

AN ORDINANCE TO DESIGNATE TINNEY STREET SOUTH, TINNEY STREET NORTH AND LUMBER YARD ROAD.

Motion by Councilwoman Grissett with a second from Councilman Miller to adopt Ordinance #1686. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #2211 approving application for a Fire Prevention & Safety Grant under FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grants for \$43,700 with matching City funds of \$4,856.

Resolution #2212 approving a contract for pool chemical supplies with Harcros Chemicals.

Motion by Councilman Tucker with a second from Councilman Miller to approve Resolutions #2211 and #2212. Roll Call. AYES: All.

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

Water Department Expenditures for 1/13/11 to 1/20/2011	\$ 462,655.97
General Fund	274,367.22
Revenue Fund	188,288.75

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second from Councilwoman Grissett to approve the re-appointment of Charles Montgomery and Jean McMillan and the appointment of Cathy McCleskey and Nancy Rue to the Talladega Heritage Commission.

City Manager Muenger gave a PowerPoint presentation update on the Capital Improvement Projects. Pavilions at Edythe Sims Park and Duncan Pinkston parks were almost complete. The landscape architect with Neel-Schaffer Engineering presented the welcome sign design and noted the four major locations being considered. The welcome sign design was brick mortar and concrete for low maintenance. Cost estimates at this time did not include the cost of landscaping and lighting of the signs. There was a Council consensus to proceed with the welcome sign concept as presented.

Councilwoman Grissett stated that she want to again comment on the sales tax increase and proposed that she would support the increase if the following conditions were met: that hiring be at the discretion of the City Manager for what is absolutely needed in certain departments such as Community Appearance and Public Works, that 25% be set aside and not touched during this fiscal year, and that 50% be set aside for capital improvements. Dr. Davis stated that he would like to come back and see about the 25% in savings in a few months – to keep the 25% flexible. Dr. Patterson reiterated for clarity that what Councilwoman Grissett was proposing was taking 25% of the proposed sales tax increase for a “savings account” to be keep in reserve and not touched, that 25% would be used for general operating expenses and that 50% would be used for capital improvements such as paving of streets. Councilwoman Grissett again emphasized that she wanted the hiring freeze to remain for the most part and trusting to the City Manager's expertise as to what hiring absolutely needed to be done. There was consensus between Dr. Patterson, Dr. Davis and Councilwoman Grissett that this was an acceptable agreement for supporting the sales tax increase. Councilwoman Grissett also commented that perhaps this tax increase could be reversed after about 5 years or have a time limit on it. Manager Muenger commented that it would be the same concept as a special local option tax.

Councilman Tucker then requested that such a “decision this monumental” should “go to the public” with hearings in each ward to get the citizens' input. Councilwoman Grissett stated that she

believed no one really wanted a tax increase and that “we were elected to make the decision after looking at the information provided.” Councilman Tucker countered by stating that during public hearings on the last sales tax increase in 2004, the community said “yes” once they knew what the increase was to be used for – “whenever you have public involvement it could be good...” Dr. Patterson and Dr. Davis agreed that one public hearing in the City Chambers would be sufficient. Councilman Tucker requested more than one hearing and especially a public hearing in his ward.

Councilman Miller had “no comment.”

Council President Patterson requested that a public hearing be set for the City Hall Council Chambers at the next Council meeting and that a one page flyer stating exactly what was to be done with the sales tax increase be drawn up for distribution.

Councilman Tucker asked that the issue of a sidewalk on Avenue H be looked at again, stating that the appearance of the City’s sidewalks is just as important as the appearance of the City’s welcome signs.

Council President Patterson asked for an update on the Talladega College signs. City Manager Muenger indicated that the signs were on order.

Councilman Miller asked that the City Council eliminate the door to door sales category from the business license code, except for the Girl Scouts, etc. Councilman Miller requested that fireworks sales be allowed year round in a permanent building along other retail and that time restrictions be limited to shooting of fireworks and not sales of fireworks. Councilman Tucker also indicated that door to door sales be limited to non-profits only.

Motion for adjournment from Councilman Davis with a second from Councilman Tucker.

AUTHENTICATION

I, Elizabeth Cheeks, 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, January 13, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall in the City of Talladega, Alabama.

Elizabeth Cheeks, City Clerk