

CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL CALLED MEETING
12 March 2008

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a called meeting on Wednesday, 12 March 2008 at 5:00 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 Lance Grissett, Councilman Jimmy Davis, Mayor Brian York and City Manager Sue Horn.

Council President Patterson read a prepared statement:

During this period of transition, the name of a respected group of citizens has been raised as having control of this administration. This is not true. As president of this council, I have not been made aware of any efforts or requests from the Citizens for Good Government to improperly control or contrive any instrument to control this August body. At this time, when today's innovations can quickly become tomorrow's antiques, we need our entire community working together in a spirit of harmony. We have before us some unprecedented opportunities but they are mixed with keen competition. The future of this city is bright if we will come together, plan together, and work together. We must discard the "I" mindset and maintain the "we" concept.

We have re-established boards to advise us and committees to lead us in securing a professional City Manager, approaching annexation responsibly, and revitalizing the downtown area. We need support, advice and cooperation from all segments of our community. A clear impediment to growth arises when inactive citizens view attempts to bludgeon the good name of those who seek to serve. I apologize to any of those affected by unsubstantiated charges. We will soon meet with our bond attorney and determine the steps we must take as we seek to realize a most positive goal. We are presently working to secure a professional to work with us on a part-time basis until we hire a City Manager. The word "manager" is, I confess as far as I am concerned, a misnomer. We are looking more for a leader than a manager and I am convinced that we will succeed during both the interim and the long range period.

The city belongs to each of us as surely as if we each have laid every brick and driven every nail to build every city owned building. We have a major investment in this city, not only in terms of the taxes we pay, but in the lives of one another. We owe it to ourselves and to our children to protect the investments that we have made.

Dr. Lance Grissett, president pro-tem and I have met with department heads this day. We will support them as they continue to serve you. We are convinced that we will "hold on to the best of the past as we reach for the best of the future."

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis to accept the resignation of City Manager/City Clerk Sue Horn as of 14 March 2008. AYES: All.

Council President Patterson indicated that Ms. Horn had requested staying on the payroll until leave time was used and asked Ms. Horn to review the estimated calculation of her annual/sick/ comp time as presented to the council. Ms. Horn indicated that her comp time totaled 1091 hours not the 1000 stated on the estimate. Ms. Horn also stated that all other department heads who had retired since comp time was discontinued for department heads in 2004, received that time at their current rate not at the rate when earned. Council President Patterson stated that the attorney would be consulted and the council would abide by his decision.

The Manager comments included the following:

- The CDBG grants for Bemiston Recreation Center and the Avenue H Drainage project were completely closed out as of yesterday. There will be some final drawdowns of money to come to the city, but as far as ADECA was concerned the grants are closed out.
 - Received the draft of the 2007 audit and would do the updates on it and contact the auditor.
 - There was a windfall for the city of \$129,360 on the DHR Bond and it has been deposited into the city's general fund.
 - The new engineer on the sidewalk grant will be able to use the existing drawings and the engineer should be able to walk the council through the process to complete the work.
- Council President Patterson stated that he wished for all of that information to pass

through the Finance Department. Mr. Swinford, Public Works Department Head, will also be there to handle discussion with ALDOT and the engineers. The sidewalks included one side of the street from Jemison Park to Haynes Street.

- Recommendation to relinquish the Caboose Grant.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second by Councilman Grissett to relinquish the Caboose grant. AYES: All.

- If the decision is made to make Heritage Hall Commission a separate entity instead of a department of the City an ordinance will have to be prepared. Councilman Davis indicated that he had spoken with the Heritage Hall employees and that they wish to remain a separate entity.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second by Councilman Grissett to prepare an ordinance to make Heritage Hall Commission a separate entity. AYES: All.

- Would get the information to the attorneys to prepare the ordinance for Heritage Hall Commission.
- Council needs to obtain signed agency contracts for fiscal year 2008.
- Would inform the council of certain personnel issues under separate cover before leaving.
- Had the final interview with the Department of Labor and the city was cited for 14 violations, all involving minors working too many hours. The city will receive an assessment letter and there will be a penalty of some sort. Council President Patterson indicated that the letter should be sent to Cathy Fuller when it arrived.
- Meeting tomorrow with Ellen Austin from the East Alabama Planning and Development Commission concerning grant application.
- The Council President and the Mayor of the City of Waldo have requested that the city take over their water system. Council President Patterson requested that the Water Department liaison, Councilman Grissett, work with the Water Department Head to bring ideas on the matter to the council. Department Head James Brasher indicated that he had seen rudimentary drawings and a base assessment of the Waldo water system.
- Discussed briefly the Honda Bond issue and its restrictions. Council President Patterson indicated that the council would work with the attorneys on this matter.
- Discussed Mt. Olive branch well pump telemetry project and wanted a determination as to whether it had to be bid.
- Wished to make a public Thank You to all our employees. "It's been great working with you. I have enjoyed some good times and survived some bad times."

Council President Patterson wished Ms. Horn and her family the very best.

Ordinance # 1636 lease agreement with North American Testing Company for property at the Talladega Municipal Airport.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis for immediate consideration of Ordinance #1636. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Miller for reading of the heading only of Ordinance # 1636. Roll Call. AYES: All.

An Ordinance declaring certain municipal property surplus and not needed for public purposes and approving and ratifying lease agreement with North American Testing Company, a corporation, for municipal property located at the Talladega Municipal Airport.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Miller for adoption of Ordinance # 1636. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Councilman Grissett stated that he had spoken with Bill Curtis at East Alabama Regional Planning and Commission about recommendations for a temporary part-time manager. Council President Patterson indicated that he had contacted the League of Municipalities to also make recommendations for a temporary part-time manager to work with the city a couple of days a

week. Council President Patterson also stated that in order to keep things moving someone needed to be appointed to authorize for city purchases over \$1,500.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second from Councilman Miller to authorize Councilman Lance Grissett to authorize purchases over \$1,500. AYES: All.

Council President Patterson requested a motion to make Cathy Fuller Personnel Director.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second from Councilman Miller to make Cathy Fuller Personnel Director. AYES: All.

Council President Patterson stated that in the recent meeting with department heads he was able to get a good perception of what values they wanted in the city's leader (manager) which included: being candid and professional, someone who has interpersonal skills and the ability to pull people together in a working environment, honest, trustworthy and able to create a safe climate to share ideas. Council President Patterson requested that that department heads start having monthly meetings and that the first meeting would be headed up by Teri St. James, the Finance Director.

Councilman Grissett wished to reassure the city employees that business will go on uninterrupted and that now was the time to "step up to the plate."

Council President Patterson continued by stating that department heads indicated to him that what they needed from the council was to show confidence in their abilities to do their job, work to upgrade the infrastructure, and provide them with the equipment and tools to do their job. Councilman Grissett assured them that the council will support them in this.

Council President Patterson stated that this was a historic council meeting. Councilman Davis stated that change is scary and exciting and he was confident that the city would get the right person. Councilman Miller stated he had confidence in the department heads. Mayor York remarked that this was an opportunity for everyone and the future of Talladega.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Miller to adjourn at 6:00 p.m.

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 Wednesday, 12 March 2008, at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall in the City of Talladega, Alabama.

Elizabeth Cheeks
Acting City Clerk