

**CITY OF TALLADEGA**  
**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
16 March 2009

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, 16 March 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 and City Manager Michael Stampfler.

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

<b>Total Invoices &amp; Expenditures for 3/02/2009 to 3/13/2009</b>	<b>\$680,649.76</b>
General Fund	623,580.60
Corrections Fund	49,499.55
Capital Improvement Project	5,477.59
Technology Grant	2,092.02

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis to approve the minutes of the Council Meeting of February 16, 2009, Special Called Meeting of February 23, 2009, and Regular Meeting of March 2, 2009 with corrections. AYES: All.

Sandra Thomas asked the City Council Members if they would sign a sympathy card she had for the citizens of the City of Samson in Geneva County, Alabama in regards to the tragic shootings that had occurred there.

Motion by Councilman Miller with a second by Councilman Grissett to waive the license fee for the carnival to be held as a benefit for Palmer Place and the Fraternal Order of Police. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Davis with the second by Councilman Miller to approve the transfer of the 020 – Restaurant Retail Liquor license for the Triangle Restaurant located at 12 Fort Lashley. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second by Councilman Grissett to approve the agreement with the American Red Cross Talladega County Chapter to use the Brecon Recreation Center as a Special Needs Shelter. AYES: All.

City Manager Stampfler commented that the agreement was for three years and that it allowed for some modifications of the building to be paid for by the American Red Cross.

Council agreed that the latest letter from Mr. Huie of the Department of the Interior indicates that the Coosa River Storage Annex will definitely be given to the City of Lincoln and that that Council Members wish the City of Lincoln well in undertaking the project.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second from Councilman Miller to appoint Councilman Grissett as the Council representative on the Planning Commission. AYES: All.

Councilman Grissett stated that there are two vacancies coming up on the Civil Service Board and that these two members are the ones to be appointment by the Governor. Council President Patterson asked for the positions to be advertised and that at the next meeting nominations would be made and forwarded on to the Governor for approval.

**Resolution #1814** which rescinds Resolution No. 1802 and authorizes application to the State Legislature of the State of Alabama for enactment of a local law relative to the annexation of certain properties.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Miller to approve Resolution #1814. Roll Call. AYES: All.

**Resolution #1815** approving agreement with J&G Painting to paint exterior of the Bemiston Recreation Center per bid specifications for a total cost of \$10,100.00.

**Resolution #1816** approving agreements with Hutto Construction and Armbrester Electric for repairs and improvements to the historic train depot that houses the Chamber of Commerce for an estimated cost of \$10,000.00.

**Resolution #1817** approving agreement with Hydro Service Inc. for replacement of the sewage pumping station at the Talladega Animal Shelter per bid specifications for a total cost of \$10,800.00.

**Resolution #1818** to surplus certain City property (L&N Caboose located in the Chamber of Commerce parking lot).

**Resolution #1819** approving agreements with King Tire, Marks Alignment & Service Center, Waites Tire and Express Oil for vehicle maintenance per bid specifications.

**Resolution #1820** rescinding Resolution #1789 and approving a revised Employee Holiday Policy.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis to approve Resolutions #1815 through #1820. Roll Call. AYES: All.

**Ordinance #1654** granting a franchise to Marcus Cable of Alabama LLC (Charter Communications) to construct, operate and maintain a cable system in the City of Talladega.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis for immediate consideration of Ordinance #1654. Roll Call. AYES: Councilman Miller, Council President Patterson, Councilman Davis, Councilman Grissett, NAY: Councilman Tucker.

**Ordinance #1655** to close a portion of Costner Street lying between Allen Drive on the South and Thornton Street on the North to thru traffic and permit for the blockading of this portion of Costner Street.

Motion by Councilman Miller with a second by Councilman Grissett for immediate consideration of Ordinance #1655. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis for reading of the heading only of Ordinance #1655. Roll Call. AYES: All.

**Ordinance No. 1655 – An Ordinance to close a portion of Costner Street lying between Allen Drive on the South and Thornton Street on the North in the City of Talladega, Alabama and to allow limited access to be controlled by the business located along the closed portion of Costner Street.**

Motion by Councilman Miller with a second by Councilman Grissett for adoption of Ordinance #1655. Roll Call. AYES: All.

There was a great deal of discussion concerning the report presented by the engineering firm of Neel-Schaffer on “Pavement and Bridge Replacement Projects: Summary and Recommendations.” Consensus was that the Honda Bond money was to be used for paving of streets, not for the replacement of bridges and that funds for bridge renovation and replacement should be obtained through other means such as the federal stimulus money. Engineer Chris Sellers from Neel-Schaffer was present to answer questions about the report. The Council asked of the possibility of getting federal stimulus funds for bridge replacement. Mr. Sellers explained that the process involved working with the Corp of Engineers and getting any projects “shovel-ready” in order to take advantage of stimulus money. He further stated that getting projects “shovel-ready” could take up to 6 months to obtain proper permits, environmental analysis, etc.

Finance Director, Teri St. James presented a report on the City’s financial situation and projection through the end of the year. She stated that there was some reduction in sales tax, but that had already been projected and that the City should be able to maintain the 8-10% fund balance at the end of the fiscal year.

Police Chief Watson announced that the City was officially under contract to obtain certification. He introduced Officer Mary Surrett as the Police Department’s CALERA coordinator. Chief Watson further stated that it was an ambitious project that would take three years to complete.

Manager Stampfler indicated to the Council that the City would not be pursuing privatization of the water/sewer system.

A follow-up report on Mr. Gunter's complaint of possible pollutants in the ditch adjacent to the Shocco Pumping Station was prepared by Terry Hanner, City Safety Director, and included a report from CH2M Hill on 'stream sampling' test results which indicated there was no evidence of a sanitary sewer discharge into the stream adjacent to Mr. Gunter's property. Mr. Gunter was present at the meeting and was quite angry about the report, indicating that he had given the City every opportunity to make it right and that now he would take legal action.

The ownership of the Edythe Sims Park was discussed. Mr. Terry Hanner had conducted research with the City attorney and found that the property had been leased from the City Board of Education per an agreement dated 1981 for a term of 20 years. The lease has expired though the City continues to maintain the property by mowing the grass, etc.

Motion by Councilman Tucker with a second by Councilman Grissett proposing a land swap with the Board of Education for the property already deeded to the School System to build their maintenance facility on and therefore obtain a deed to the property. AYES: All.

Councilman Tucker's comments included a request for information on three police matters: 1) Huddle House parking lot incident, 2) incident with mother whose daughter had been killed in a car accident, and 3) warrant being issued on a mechanic because the car owner had an argument with him. Councilman Tucker announced the City's plans to host a parade to honor the Talladega College men's basketball team on their national championship. The parade will be on Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Councilman Grissett comments included:

- The importance of moving forward with the annexation and the rezoning of the 275 bypass so that a commercial corridor could be established.
- That it was meaningful and significant for the Police Department to be certified.
- Thanked the City Manager for finding funds to paint the Bemiston Recreation Center and the Chamber of Commerce.
- Commended the Purchasing Director for obtaining bids on vehicle maintenance contracts that could possibly save the City up to \$40,000 annually.

Councilman Miller requested that the City Manager contact Alabama Power about street lights that are out for extended periods of time, even after being marked by the Police Department. Councilman Miller announced that a new interim Chamber of Commerce Director had been selected, Mack Ferguson and that he would be introduced at the next council meeting.

Motion by Councilman Miller with a second from Councilman Grissett to provide the Chamber of Commerce with their usual \$5,000 Christmas Parade appropriation in April 2009 instead of November 2009. AYES: All.

Council President Patterson thanked the City Manager for making the announcement that there would be no privatization of the Water Department as that would give many employees peace of mind. Council President Patterson asked for clarification on beautification awards for businesses and residents. Was it something that was taken on by the Chamber of Commerce or did the City handle it? Council President Patterson also requested that the City Manager look into revitalizing the employee recognition program.

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, 16 March 2009, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall in the City of Talladega, Alabama.

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Elizabeth Cheeks  
Acting City Clerk