

CITY OF TALLADEGA
PUBLIC HEARING
April 12, 2010

Public Hearing concerning the proposed closing of the Bemiston and Brecon Recreation Centers.

Public Hearing began with Councilman Grissett reading from a letter received from Representative Steve Hurst, dated 4/12/2010 and addressed to the Mayor and Council Members:

“As each of you are aware the legislature is still in session and will be for a few more weeks. I am aware that city government along with state government are facing difficult decisions at this time but I am asking each of you not to make a decision to close the above facilities as it will only constitute two more vacant buildings in our city not to mention it will take away a place for the youth and our seniors. Before you make a decision, I respectfully request that we all meet and discuss other possible alternatives. Collectively I am convinced we can reach an agreement to keep these facilities open. Again, I am asking for your consideration regarding the Bemiston and Brecon Recreation Centers.”

Councilman Grissett went on to say that the letter is a very encouraging note and very timely and further stated that he is unequivocally opposed to closing Bemiston Recreation Center. Councilman Miller suggested that that public hearing be moved back a month until after Rep. Hurst learned if funding was available. Councilman Tucker agreed that in about two weeks time the Council could make an informed decision. Councilman Davis stated that he wanted to hear what the citizens present had to say on the matter.

John P. Moore, his father John L. Moore is who the Bemiston Recreation Center is name for, made a brief historical presentation to the Council on the Bemiston building. Mr. Moore further stated that the ADECA funding that was used to upgrade the building should not be wasted by closing the facility down. Mr. Moore proposed that perhaps the City could donate the building to the Bemiston Baptist Church. Council President Patterson stated that the Council had been informed that teenagers do not use the facility. Mr. Moore stated that the months used to count participants were during the school year and that when school was out was when the teenagers should be counted and documented. Mr. Moore commented that volunteers had tried to help with programs at the building but were frustrated with the lack of afternoon and evening hours that the center was open and especially on Saturdays.

Ms. Bobbye Trammell stated that she goes by the Center often and it is being used, but not to its full capacity because it is hardly open.

J.W. Baker – 208 West Damon Street – stated that there are no programs going on but there are people using the building. He further stated that the building was not renovated as it should be and that closing it down will affect a lot of people. He commented that the kids use to roller skate in the gym.

The pastor of the Bemiston United Methodist Church, 300 Wells Avenue, suggested that once Rep. Hurst obtains funds to keep the building open, he would volunteer to run such programs as low impact aerobics and other youth activities.

Mr. John Elders noted that the Brecon Recreation Center was an emergency shelter and asked who had the key to it. Mr. Elders stated that he had supported the 1 cent tax increase that was suppose to improve the recreation centers back in 2004-2005 and that didn't seem to improve anything. Mr. Elders asked about the flags and ceremony for Memorial Day. Mitch Bast, Community Appearance Director, stated that the American flags would be up for the Memorial Day weekend and Parvin Neloms, Parks & Recreation Director, stated that the Memorial Day preparation was about ¼ done.

Frank Miller, 805 East Street South, stated that the Golden Agers program that was moved from the Brecon Recreation Center to the Spring Street Center had a dramatic drop in membership from 90 to 20 because the concentration of Senior programs that occurred at the Brecon Center did not happen at the Spring Street Center. Mr. Miller further stated that if you don't have any programs no one is going to go there.

Ms. Iris Kite – 382 Pinehurst Drive – commented that the Bemiston and Brecon Centers had been used as voting centers.

Geneva Phillips – 511 Wells Avenue – stated she grew up in Bemiston and wants both centers to remain open. She stated that the Bemiston Community Council tries to have a meeting every month, that basketball games would be there in the evenings if the center was open, there just are no programs for the seniors or the teenagers there.

Council President Patterson asked for a count of those in the audience for or against the closing of the Bemiston and Brecon Recreation Centers. There were 52 citizens against closing the centers and none in favor of closing the centers down. Council President Patterson officially closed the public hearing.

CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
April 12, 2010

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, April 12, 2010 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 Eddie Tucker, Councilman Donnie Miller, Councilman Jimmy Davis, Councilman Lance Grissett, Mayor Brian York and City Manager Michael Stampfler.

Council members agreed to wait on making a decision concerning the Bemiston and Brecon Recreation Centers until hearing from Representative Hurst.

Resolution # 2045 approving contract with Clements Dean Building Company, LLC of Wilsonville, Alabama for renovations to the Spring Street Recreation Center for a total cost of \$839,500.00.

Resolution #2046 amending the City's Section 5311 Non-urbanized Area Public Transportation Program contract to increase the matched reimbursement by \$18,000.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second by Councilman Miller to approve Resolutions #2045 to #2046. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Council President Patterson asked the Council for any comments on the take home vehicle cost report provided by the City Manager. Councilman Grissett requested more time to study the figures. The request was made for the Chief of Police, Alan Watson, to have a report for the Council at the next meeting as to the benefits to the City of the police officers taking home vehicles.

Council President Patterson requested that the topic of the Bemiston and Brecon Recreation Centers be added to the agenda for the second meeting in May. Council President Patterson also commented on the condition of Coleman Circle pavement and stated that the City had promised the people in that community that the street would be returned to its original condition and that it was a commitment that he felt the City needed to live up to and that continuity was needed between the Council and the city administration.

Council President Patterson also asked for an update on paving projects. Terry Hanner, Purchasing Director, stated that ALDOT has approved the plans and that the bids would be done in April. It was requested that the paving engineer attend the next council meeting.

Councilman Davis stated that a budget work session was needed in the next four weeks. May 20th was set up as a work session on budget only for 5:00 pm.

Councilman Grissett asked about the Mt. Olive well and Terry Hanner indicated that the purchase of the backup pump would be coming to Council soon. Councilman Grissett then asked about the safety issue at the North Street Parking Lot and asked if concave mirrors on the North Street entrance would help. Terry Hanner indicated that it had been looked into. Council President Patterson asked that the North Street Parking Lot be placed as an item on the next council meeting agenda.

Councilman Grissett requested some headway on City entrance signage to include something in writing with attached designs. Entrance Signage was requested as an item on the next meeting's agenda.

Councilman Tucker asked for a study of the corner of Coosa and Court Streets and the timing of the lights there that causes a major back up of traffic. Interim Public Works Director, Karen Phillips, indicated that the intersection needs a warrant study and would be added to the list of intersections to be studied. Councilman Tucker also asked about the roofing estimate on the house at 113 Jemison that Chris Stone, Community Development Director, was looking into and he requested some clear answers about compliance on the house by the next council meeting.

Council President Patterson asked for Water Department tours be set up for the council members to re-visit areas to see any improvements.

Council President Patterson suggested that the Recreation Department send out a survey or questionnaire concerning programs the community would like to see in the recreation facilities and have the results of those surveys summarized and presented to the Council in about a month or so.

Councilman Miller moved 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, April 12, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall in the City of Talladega, Alabama.

Elizabeth Cheeks
City Clerk