

**CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

5 May 2008

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, 5 May 2008 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 Acting City Manager Teri St. James.

Invocation given by Kory Burel, pastor of Bemiston Baptist Church.

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

SUMMARY OF INVOICES & EXPENDITURES

Transfer of Funds	6,083.34
Payroll Deductions, Benefits & Taxes	264,881.79
Refunds	19,815.49
City Council	33,315.74
City Manager	152.42
Finance Department	25.81
City Clerk's Office	1,209.41
Police Department	2,840.10
Police Communications	100.42
Animal Control	1,682.20
Municipal Court Office	11,172.84
Fire Department	2,060.51
Public Works Department	7,206.55
Community Appearance Department	4,166.82
Parks & Recreation Department	26,350.28
City Building Expenditures	6,284.10
Non-Departmental Expenditures	1,832.03
Debt Service	11,772.87
2.5 Mil Property Tax Fund	229,243.82
Total Invoices & Expenditures	630,243.82

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Miller to approve the minutes of the regular council meetings of April 18, 19 and 24, 2008, work session of April 19, 2008 and public hearing of April 24, 2008. AYES: All.

Mayor Brian York announced that May 2008 is Older Americans Month.

During the pre-council meeting the members of Courthouse Square and Downtown Revitalization Task Force made a presentation of their recommendations. Mr. Pat Green indicated that the main focus of the Task Force was the parking issue, traffic management, the aesthetics of the buildings, and financial incentives for the building's owners. Martha Jordan presented a plan for short-term and long-term solutions on the parking and traffic management on the courthouse square as follows:

Short-term solutions

1. Enforce existing parking ordinance by hiring a full or part-time parking officer with parking limited to 2 hours per day during normal business hours.
2. Amend Ordinance 1545 to increase parking penalty.
3. Purchase hand-held computers to monitor car tags.
4. Re-designate official parking slots for county vehicles.
5. Install temporary parking signs around the square identifying free city parking lots (300 spaces in lots within 2 blocks of Square).
6. Give copy of parking Ordinance 1545 to business owners and employees on the square. Printed flyers on cars to explain the parking plan.

Long-term solutions

1. Seek grant funds for signage in the Square area and the main entries to town directing traffic to parking, historic sites, schools, colleges, etc.
2. Acquire additional parking lots on East Street (from Ritz) and on North Court Street.
3. Designate the 275 bypass as a truck or commercial route rather than a bypass.
4. Study appropriate zoning changes for the truck route to prevent new businesses from drawing business from downtown.
5. Request state DOT to re-designate Battle Street (S-12) for local use. Study traffic flow to possibly change parking patterns, one-way streets, pedestrian use, etc.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second from Councilman Grissett to adopt plan put forth by Martha Jordan. AYES: All

Council President Patterson requested that the agenda show steps when completed and bring forth for discussion any problems encountered in the execution of the plan.

Mr. Winston Massey, representative from Veolia Environmental Services, was present to discuss issues with the garbage and trash collection service. It was agreed that Veolia had gotten behind on trash and garbage collection due to cleanup after the last big storm, general spring cleaning increase and some equipment breakdowns. Extra trucks were run on Saturdays and currently everything is caught up. Councilman Miller stated that trash was blowing out of the trucks and Mr. Massey indicated that the company had been looking into the feasibility of having covers on the trucks to keep the small items from flying out. Additional discussion included drivers getting out of the trucks to rake up scattered garbage, keeping the time of day consistent for neighborhood pickup, setting up a procedure for weekend pickup of dead animals, increasing the number of trucks running during the summer months and getting holiday schedules to the newspaper (*Daily Home*) in a timely manner for publication. Mr. Massey indicated that all issues would be addressed and that he would have weekly meetings with the City Manager to stay on top of any daily operation problems.

Motion by Councilman Miller with a second by Councilman Davis to donate two surplus police vehicles to Talladega's District Attorney's Office. AYES: All.

Resolution #1654 declaring certain police department vehicles surplus property.

Resolution #1655 approving the CDBG grant application for the Coleman Circle sewer project and pledging local match of \$207,047.00.

Resolution #1656 approving Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Program (MWPP) for the Talladega Niki-Lu WWTP.

Resolution #1657 approving Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Program (MWPP) for the Talladega Airport WWTP.

Resolution #1658 approving Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Program (MWPP) for the Talladega Brecon WWTP.

Resolution #1659 approving Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Program (MWPP) for the Talladega Main WWTP.

Resolution #1660 agreeing that any CDBG grant funds will be used for low- income residential hookups only as part of the application for the Coleman Circle sewer project.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Davis to approve Resolutions #1654, 1655 and 1660. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Davis to approve Resolutions 1656 through 1659. Roll Call. AYES: Councilman Davis, Councilman Grissett, Council President Patterson, Councilman Miller, NAY: Councilman Tucker.

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

Mr. John Ford, 119 Cedarview Drive, addressed the Council concerning Buck's Wrecker Service which is located near his mother's house at 403 Spring Street. Mr. Ford complained that the wrecker service was more like a junkyard with barking dogs and a large amount of junk cars. Mr. Ford also stated that he knew Code Enforcement officers had come out numerous times, but that he felt cars were moved around or away from the site during inspection and then returned. Council President Patterson asked for an update from Code Enforcement and for the City Manager to contact the attorney as to what could legally be done on the issue.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Tucker to adopt the amended personnel policy on driver's license. AYES: All

Then there was discussion about amending the policy further to have new employees pay for one of the semi-annual driver's license check. Cathy Fuller was asked to bring a possible third revision to the next council meeting for consideration.

Mayor Brian York commented that the NASCAR race and related activities went well over the last weekend and that the Hall of Fame induction ceremony was excellent.

Councilman Miller's comments included:

- Wants to meet with the contractor, engineer, Kathy McHugh to resolve issues on the Bemiston Rec. Center grant. The City Manager was given approval to set up the meeting.
- Thanked the Parks & Recreation employees for their work on getting Veterans Park ready for Sunshine Saturday.
- Asked Ms. Heidi Edwards from the Chamber of Commerce to comment on the job fair. Ms. Edwards indicated that the job fair on Friday and Saturday serviced over 500 people which is more than the 360 who were displaced by the closing of Georgia Pacific. Ms. Edwards said she would follow-up to see how many actually obtained jobs from contacts during the job fair. Overall the job fair was considered a success and may become an annual event.
- Asked about the solution to the ambulance rotation problems. Chief Watson stated that there was a new procedure in place (dispatcher staying on the line until ambulance arrives) to insure that if the ambulance company does not have a vehicle in the area, the next company in rotation will be called.

Councilman Tucker's comments included:

- Asked if the speed bumps at Talladega College area could be painted. Mr. Swinford indicated that the new speed bumps would be installed in a couple of days.
- Discussed conserving fuel and utility costs by going to a four day work week during the summer.
- Discussed Talladega City Schools drop-out rate and how things needed to change quickly.
- Pointed out the improved railroad crossings, especially those on CSX tracks. Still need to get repairs done by the other railroad companies.
- Stated that since a city manager candidate dropped out that a decision needed to be made with the two remaining candidates. Councilman Davis responded by saying that this was a very deliberate process so as not to make any mistakes and we were working with the remaining candidates.
- Indicated that the new computers for the City Clerk's office needed to be bid out.
- Requested that the Drug Task Force continue working in the Knoxville area.
- Also, in the Knoxville area that many vacant lots or houses had overgrown yards and vagrants going in and out of empty houses. Chief Watson indicated that Code Enforcement Officer Ron Guy had already started the process on several overgrown lots in the area. Councilman Grissett stated that the condemnation process had been started on several houses also and commended Building Inspector Jerry Taylor on his work in that area.
- Indicated that the Edyth Sims Park was beautiful and well used and requested that picnic tables be purchased and installed at the park.
- Stated he would get together with Public Works Director James Swinford to set up other sidewalks in his ward that needed repair.

City Manager reported on the street lights requested by Talladega College. Alabama Power can not put street lights on the other side of the street across from existing street lights, but they will increase the wattage of the bulbs in the existing lamps.

Councilman Grissett comments included:

- Complimenting the improvements to the railroad crossing on East Street and several others.
- Make sure the six holidays that affected the garbage collection schedule are printed repeatedly in the *Daily Home*.
- As a member of the ARC Board he was very pleased with the work down by the Parks & Recreation Department for Sunshine Saturday. Also, thanked the Public Works Department for shoring up the bridge at the park and setting up barrels to make sure the drainage ditch did not become a safety issue.
- Thanked Code Enforcement Officer Ron Guy for making sure cleanup work was done on Allison Mill Road and Higgins Street.
- Asked Mr. Terry Hanner of the Water Department to give a drought update. Mr. Hanner indicated that the area was still 2.5" behind on rainfall for this calendar year and encouraged citizens to continue to conserve water.
- Commented on the quick response from Alagasco on patching any road cuts the company had done.

Councilman Davis commended the Courthouse Square Revitalization Task Force for their time and work. Councilman Davis also commented on the new stores that had opened in the City including Peebles and It's Fashion Metro and voiced his concern about other shopping areas such as the Talladega Shopping Center. Heidi Edwards of the Chamber of Commerce indicated that the rental agency (Aronov Realty) that was in charge of Talladega Shopping Center was undergoing some changes and that they were looking for a new realty company to take over that center. Councilman Davis indicated that he had attended the Talladega College graduation and was very impressed.

Councilman Tucker asked Officer Ron Dye to address the council concerning his pay rate. After some discussion Council President Patterson referred the matter to be resolved by Chief Watson, Personnel Director Cathy Fuller and City Manager Teri St. James. Council President Patterson further emphasized that he did not want to vote on something without complete information.

Councilman Miller asked for an update on the flashing light on Highway 77 and Tinney. Councilman Grissett indicated that he and Mr. Swinford had meet with the DOT representative, Mr. Tims, concerning options of signs and lights. Mr. Swinford has also sent a follow-up letter to ALDOT on the matter and will report to the council on any correspondence received on the matter.

Ellen Austin from the East Alabama Regional Planning Commission was present and indicated that with the approval of Resolutions #1655 and 1660 tonight that all parts were ready for submittal of the CDBG application for the Coleman Circle Project.

Councilman Davis motioned 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 May 2008, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall in the City of Talladega, Alabama.

Elizabeth Cheeks
Acting City Clerk