

CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
19 May 2008

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, 19 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 Lenord L. Jacobs, Pastor, Kelly Springs Missionary Baptist Church.

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

SUMMARY OF INVOICES & EXPENDITURES

Payroll Deductions, Benefits & Taxes	206,597.93
Refunds	60.00
City Council	5,025.00
City Manager's Office	307.12
Finance Department	1,097.46
City Clerk's Office	3,327.71
Police Department	41,112.50
Animal Control	3,208.29
Municipal Court Office	30,391.37
Fire Department	4,761.77
Public Works Department	10,447.90
Community Appearance Department	8,833.25
Parks & Recreation Department	34,091.38
City Building Expenditures	1,616.45
Non-Departmental Expenditures	111,645.38
Debt Service	129,164.43
CDBG Fund	37,566.70
Total Invoices & Expenditures	629,254.64

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis to approve the minutes of May 5, 2008 with correction indicated by Councilman Tucker. AYES: All.

Mayor Brian York swore in Ms. Cora Green to the Airport Board.

Presentation by James Edgar and Theresa Lackey of Edgar and Associates of the City's 2006-2007 audit. Mr. Edgar stated that there was an important increase in the quality of the financial reporting and bookkeeping documentation from an audit point of view in the last few years. There was a brief discussion on the wording and terminology of the report and a presentation of the actual financial numbers. Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis to accept the 2006-2007 auditor's report. AYES: All.

Resolution #1661 accepting the bid of Giddens Inc. for the Bemiston Pump Station Modification with a total cost of \$198,000.00.

Resolution #1662 authorizing the Department of Transportation to install flashing school zone signs on AL Highway 77 (near Houston Elementary and Talladega High School) with all costs of installation, operation and maintenance to be paid by the City.

Resolution # 1663 authorizing the Department of Transportation to install a flashing light at the intersection of AL Highway 21 and South Bemiston Road with all the costs of installation, operation and maintenance to be paid by the City.

Resolution # 1664 authorizing the Municipal Airport Board to make an application to the FAA for improvement projects at the Talladega Municipal Airport.

Resolution #1665 accepting the bid of Joe Money Equipment Inc. for the purchase of three (3) backhoes for a total cost of \$119,961.00.

Resolution #1666 authorizing the Talladega County Commission to grant a tax abatement for R.K. Allen Oil Company, Inc.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis to adopt Resolutions #1661 and #1665. Roll Call. AYES: Councilman Miller, Councilman Davis, Councilman Grissett, Council President Patterson. NAY: Councilman Tucker.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis to adopt Resolutions #1662 and #1663. Roll Call. AYES: Councilman Miller, Councilman Davis, Councilman Grissett, Council President Patterson. NAY: Councilman Tucker.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Tucker to adopt Resolution #1664. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second by Councilman Grissett to adopt Resolution #1666. Roll Call. AYES: All.

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

Expenditures for May 2-15, 2008

\$ 183,759.89

Motion by Councilman Miller with a second by Councilman Grissett to adopt the revised Driver's License Policy with semi-annual license checks paid for by the City, for all employees required to maintain a valid driver's license. AYES: All.

City Manager's comments included:

- Request for permission to bid out renovations for the restrooms at the Spring Street Pool.
Motion by Councilman Miller with a second by Councilman Tucker to authorize bidding out restroom renovations. AYES: All.
- Request for authorizing a total of six lights for the walking track at Edyth Sims Park as recommended by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.
Motion by Councilman Tucker with a second by Councilman Miller to authorize the purchase and installation of lights on the walking track at Edyth Sims Park. AYES: All.
- Water Department Head James Brasher had met with the School Board representative concerning gifting a portion of the property near the Niki Lu Water Treatment Plant. The School Board has agreed to pay the cost of the survey, drawings and any legal or application fees required to subdivide the property in order to give approximately 10 acres to the School Board for their bus maintenance facility. Councilman Grissett requested that the agreement include a reversion clause indicating ***if the School Board did not use the property for the stated purpose within a reasonable amount of time or if they discontinued the intended use at any time in the future, that the property would revert back to the City's ownership.***
Motion by Councilman Davis with a second from Councilman Grissett to proceed with all necessary documentation for gifting the property to the Board of Education with requested wording of contract. AYES: All.

Mayor York stated that a certificate of recognition was presented to the First Congregational United Church of Christ honoring their 140th Anniversary.

Councilman Miller's comments included:

- Commended the Police Department for the job they did Sunday night when the house was moved down Battle Street.
- The newly purchased Jaws-of-Life device was used at an accident on Eastaboga Road on Friday night.
- Asked the Council's approval to raise the parking fee at the Sports Complex from \$1.00 to \$2.00 to offset the cost of extra security. Councilman Tucker protested that the parents already pay too much and this would be like raising taxes. Councilman Davis stated he would agree if it was only a temporary measure until the end of the season. Councilman Grissett also agreed that it should be only on a trial basis. Council President Patterson stated that he support it on a trial basis and agreed that the parents already paid too much.

Motion by Councilman Miller with a second by Councilman Grissett to authorize raising the parking fee at the Ben E. Bruner Sports Complex to \$2.00 until the end of the baseball season. AYES: Councilman Miller, Councilman Grissett, Councilman Davis, Council President Patterson, NAY: Councilman Tucker.

- Asked Department Head Beth Martin for an update on the parking lot lights at the Sports Complex. Ms. Martin indicated that Don Hart had contacted Alabama Power and the burned out lights were to be replaced.
- Requested consideration of fire alarm monitoring offered through Tallatron, Inc. for both the Ritz Theater and the Bemiston Recreational Center costing \$1080.00 for one year. Motion by Councilman Miller. Failed for lack of second.
- Councilman Miller indicated that Ms. Linda Norred was present at this meeting and wished to move forward in negotiating the lease agreement and what repairs would be done by the City and which are to be done by the renter. Councilman Grissett was assured that this was the recommendation of the City Manager and Parks & Recreation Department Head.

Motion by Councilman Tucker with a second by Councilman Miller to authorize the City Manager negotiate a lease with Ms. Linda Norred for the building at the Municipal Golf Course. AYES: All.

Councilman Tucker's comments included:

- Again stated that he was opposed to the parking fee increase at the Sports Complex.
- Requested that Department Head Beth Martin get with the City Manager to obtain playground equipment at the Knoxville Park.
- Mentioned that he had discussed a hole on Davis Street with Water Department Head James Brasher. Mr. Brasher indicated that a line location work order had been issued and would be started tomorrow.
- Discussed the Animal Control issue with the snake located at Mt. Canaan Estates and that he was upset that it was not taken more seriously by the city employees. Requested a meeting with Chief Watson and the City Manager concerning the episode.
- Requested budget works sessions so that the budget could be finalized.
- Requested updates on property with uncut grass.
- Wanted a status report on Officer Ron Dye's issue. Council President Patterson indicated that the council would not make a statement at this time and that it will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Asked Department Head James Swinford for an update on the light at the intersection of Tinney Street and AL Highway 21. Mr. Swinford indicated that the State has done all they intend to do. Councilman Miller requested that the city continue to look at it and come up with other options.
- Requested an update on the City Manager search from Councilman Davis. Councilman Davis responded by saying that the process was taking longer than

anticipated, but that one candidate was coming to the City to unofficially visit during the week. Councilman Tucker asked why only one candidate was coming to visit when there were still two candidates left. Mr. Tucker further indicated that he felt he was being left out of the process. Council President Patterson stated that Councilman Davis had been selected to take the lead in negotiating a contract for the City Manager position, but that the contract will come before the whole body for a vote. No one member of the council will make the decision.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis to appoint Mr. Joseph Ballow, Sr. to the Board of Adjustments and Appeals. AYES: All.

Councilman Grissett indicated that the request for the time extension on the South Street sidewalk project had been denied by the Alabama Department of Transportation.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis to re-apply for the South Street sidewalk project through the 2009 FY Transportation Enhancement Grant. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis to go into Executive Session concerning the good name and character of an employee. AYES: Councilman Davis, Councilman Grissett, Council President Patterson, Councilman Miller, NAY: Councilman Tucker.

Council session was then called back into order by Council President Patterson. Councilman Tucker read a statement indicating that the council had determined that their discussion of the employee's good name and character indicated there may be just cause for disciplinary action and were requesting the City Manager to take the following actions as justified: verbal reprimand, written reprimand, suspension without pay for up to 15 days, and finally demotion and/or termination.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Miller to adjourn at 7:45 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 Monday, 19 May 2008, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall in the City of Talladega, Alabama.

Elizabeth Cheeks
Acting City Clerk