

CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
2 June 2008

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, 2 June 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 Becky Davis, Chaplain, Citizens Baptist Hospital Pastoral Care.

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

SUMMARY OF INVOICES & EXPENDITURES

Payroll Deductions, Benefits & Taxes	257,695.65
Refunds	130.00
City Council	8,021.36
City Manager's Office	62.46
Finance Department	2,832.00
City Clerk's Office	4,503.95
Police Department	4,796.78
Police Communications	2,446.19
Animal Control	1,442.67
Municipal Court Office	1,729.62
Fire Department	2,109.65
Public Works Department	20,367.42
Community Appearance Department	8,779.61
Parks & Recreation Department	21,641.71
City Building Expenditures	4,037.49
Non-Departmental Expenditures	2,330.92
Debt Service	12,674.16
Total Invoices & Expenditures	365,601.64

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis to approve the minutes of regular council meeting of May 19, 2008 and the called council meeting of May 26, 2008 with one correction indicated by Councilman Grissett. AYES: All.

Mayor Brian York administered the oath of office to Joseph C. Ballow, Sr. for the Board of Adjustments and Appeals.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second from Councilman Miller appointing Bill McGehee to the Historic Preservation Committee. AYES: All.

Resolution #1669 to accept the bid of Garings Business Machines for the purchase of computer units at a cost of \$1,119.00/each through October 1, 2008.

Resolution #1670 to enter into an agreement with Tallatron Inc. for fire alarm monitoring services at the Bemiston Recreation Center and at the Ritz Theater for an annual cost of \$1,080.00.

Resolution #1671 to enter into an agreement with Edgar and Associates, LLC, Certified Public Accountants, to provide an annual audit for the year ending September 30, 2008 for the City of Talladega's Water & Sewer Department at a cost not to exceed \$ 15,000.00.

Resolution #1672 to enter into an agreement with Edgar and Associates, LLC, Certified Public Accountants, to provide an annual audit for the year ending September 30, 2008 for the City of Talladega at a cost not to exceed \$30,000.00.

Resolution #1673 authorizing a lease agreement with Linda Norred, d/b/a The Rock Bar and Grill to rent a portion of the main clubhouse building at the Talladega Municipal Golf Course for a cost of \$300/month.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Miller to accept Resolutions #1669-1673. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #1674 approving the contract to be presented to Mr. Michael Stampfler for the position of City Manager.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Miller to accept Resolution #1674. Roll Call. AYES: All.

There was a brief discussion where Councilman Davis presented the highlights of the employment agreement for the City Manager, such as the base salary of \$110,000, monthly car allowance of \$600, life insurance benefits identical to what is offered to all City employees, etc. Councilman Tucker asked how the salary was calculated as it was \$20,000 higher than what was originally discussed. Councilman Davis indicated that it was the going rate for a manager with his experience in a city our size. Councilman Tucker indicated that he felt Councilman Davis had done a great job handling the City Manager search and agrees with the candidate selected, it was the entire process of selection that he disagreed with and had wanted to personally be more involved with. Council President Patterson thanked Councilman Davis for a job well done and expressed a hope that all involved would have open minds, hands and hearts at this exciting hour in the life of the Council and the City.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second from Councilman Tucker to authorize the purchase of infield mix from Miller Sand and Landscaping Supply for the baseball parks. AYES: All.

There was a great deal of discussion on improving the playground equipment in three or four of the City's parks. Council President Patterson requested of the Park & Recreation Department Head Beth Martin to lay out a design plan with input from the Park & Rec. Board and the community that contained each park as to what would be suitable. Each park should be handled differently and have its own distinct look that fit well into the community surrounding it. It was also requested that a visual presentation and five-year plan be given with pictures, designs and costs, along with a time table on installation and what would be budgeted over the next few years.

Councilman Grissett brought up a safety issue concerning the fence at Veterans' Park around the drainage ditch. Council consensus was to address this problem immediately and have the drainage ditch totally enclosed with fencing.

Detective Ron Dye addressed the Council about the resolution of his payscale dispute. Police Chief Watson, Personnel Director Cathy Fuller and Acting City Manager Teri St. James had met and evaluated Detective Dye's request and had agreed it was handled correctly according to the pay systems in effect. Councilman Grissett indicated that this is a personnel matter and not a council matter. Councilman Tucker indicated that there was an issue on a point of order with the council concerning this matter. City Manager St. James stated that the Code of Talladega is more restrictive than Roberts Rules of Order in that there must be three (3) votes to pass any measure. Council President Patterson requested that this matter as well as a review of the entire payscale issue be addressed by the new incoming City Manager, especially since the council must be very careful in getting involved in any administrative issues.

Mayor Brian York indicated that he had received a phone call about alcohol being sold at the old Yvoos Club on Highway 21. Council President Patterson stated that he didn't know the building was being used. Police Chief Watson stated that because it was a private establishment it did not require a liquor license.

Council Miller's comments included:

- Getting water and sewer lines on the bypass out to the proposed new development at Talladega Crossings. Councilman Grissett indicated there was water part way but no sewer and that ALDOT would need to get involved.
- The Coosa River Annex application was in the second phase.
- Requested that the Public Works Department check the ditches at Harmon Park for snakes.
- Requested that the City revisit the issue of bio-diesel plant. The City currently has 17 bio-diesel trucks and with the cost of diesel the cost of starting up the plant would pay for itself in savings very quickly.
- Requested that the ordinance concerning junkyards and their fencing requirements be investigated.
- Requested two streetlights for Moorefield Drive.

Councilman Tucker's comments included:

- Requested the replacement or repair of the handicapped accessible van.
- Requested that the \$2.00 charge for parking at the Sports Complex for one month only and then reduced back to the original \$1.00 charge. Council consensus was to accept the one month only restriction.
- Announced that tomorrow (Tuesday) was election day and encouraged all to vote.
- Commented that the road patch near the Post Office on Coosa Street near the new building construction was inadequate. Terry Hanner of the Water Department indicated that it was a temporary patch during the construction stage of the building.
- Stated that 4 or 5 manhole covers on Bingham Street needed to be raised to pavement level.
- CSX Railroad had repaired some of the crossings, Norfolk Railroad would be starting on their crossings next month and the third company, called Rail America, that had the crossing near Mt. Canaan Church was going to be contacted by e-mail, as there was no other method of contact that he could find. Council President Patterson thanked Councilman Tucker for the work he had done and for all the improvements to the crossings that had already occurred.

Councilman Tucker then indicated that Ms. Valerie Hicks Powe wished to address the Council and he gave her the floor. Ms. Powe indicated that she was an attorney representing Vista Barclay and her daughter. Ms. Powe asked the council if they were investigating the incident concerning members of the council at the Sports Complex on May 15, 2008. Council President Patterson indicated that the council had not initiated an investigation, that the matter was in Municipal Court and that the council was not involved. He further stated that the Council does have a forum for citizen's complaints and that a complaint form would be forwarded to her. Councilman Tucker stated that he had done an informal investigation and that he had gotten very conflicting statements from witnesses. Council President Patterson indicated that the Council would stay within the limits placed on them by the law.

Acting City Manager Teri St. James announced that legislation raising the bid threshold from \$7,500 to \$15,000 was passed and would be effective August 1, 2008. Councilman Miller indicated that this showed how important it was for the City to use a central purchasing system.

Councilman Grissett's comments included

- That the water and sewer connection at Animal Control had been completed.
- Complimented the Community Appearance and Public Works Departments on the drainage ditches. Several citizens had commented on how nice these areas looked.
- Would like to have the noise ordinance reviewed and more stringently enforced in residential areas.
- Asked for an update on the surplus fire truck. Chief Warwick indicated that it would be moved within three weeks, as they were still waiting on a repair part.
- Asked the Council's permission to authorize him to take the lead on relocating and redesigning the City's welcome signs and signs for historic areas such as Talladega College, etc.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second by Councilman Tucker to authorize Councilman Grissett to began work on relocating and redesigning the City's welcome signs. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second from Councilman Grissett to continue the appropriation contracts with agencies at levels indicated in the current budget for Fiscal Year 2007/2008. AYES: All.

Councilman Davis requested a work session to establish goals of leadership to be used as a basis for the City Manager's performance evaluation. Councilman Davis went on to say that this was an opportunity to make changes and improve the quality of life in our community. Council President Patterson stated he wanted a community reception for the new City Manager at the public library and also suggested a town meeting to be held at the Ritz Theater to hear the community's input and then incorporate those suggestions into the work session to establish goals of leadership.

Councilman Grissett commented that he was glad that the new City Manager was voted on unanimously and that the City was very fortunate to get someone of his caliber, his experience and his intelligence. He asked that the new City Manager be given a fair chance by the council, the city employees and the public.

Council President Patterson indicated that we (the City) are at a pivotal point in our history. Other cities around us are doing great things and that with a lot of hard work, we can navigate our way through obstacles and be successful instead of talking about what is bad about Talladega. Talladega is a wonderful community, we are bright enough to bury grudges and think about the future.

Council President Patterson asked for an update on the employee recognition program and that if it had been discontinued to have it started up again.

Motion by Councilman Miller for adjournment at 7:26 pm.

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, 2 June 2008, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall in the City of Talladega, Alabama.

Elizabeth Cheeks
Acting City Clerk