

**CITY OF TALLADEGA**  
**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
7 July 2008

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, 7 July 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 City Manager Michael Stampfler.

Invocation given by Rev. Glen Horn, Pastor, Bemiston United Methodist Church.

Councilman Davis indicated that this council's first order of business when they took office was to hire a professional city manager and tonight that goal is realized and would like to welcome Mr. Michael Stampfler to his first council meeting. Councilman Grissett indicated that he was very excited and enthusiastic about working with the new city manager and hopefully won't set the expectations too high. Councilman Tucker wanted to thank Ms. Horn and Ms. St. James for the great job they had both done, wanted to thank all department heads, also. Councilman Tucker stated that we now have a great city manager, he is smart and a people person, understands others' concerns, knows how to be a city manager with 20 years experience. He is a professional manager who just needs to learn Alabama stuff. Councilman Miller wished to thank Councilman Davis and the committee, stating that we had three splendid candidates and he is hoping that this gentleman has the ideas to bring the City of Talladega into the future. Councilman Miller also wished to thank Ms. St. James for a job well done. Mayor Brian York echoed all the comments and indicated that he was looking forward to working with Mr. Stampfler. Council President Patterson stated that this was the dawning of a more prosperous day for our city and that much is before us but nothing that we can't overcome. Mr. Stampfler stated he was very pleased and proud to be chosen and thanked the council for the vote of confidence. He further stated that the City has many fine attributes and he was going to work to accentuate those attributes, while minimizing and overcoming challenges and in doing so counting on the staff, council and community.

Councilman Grissett made a motion with a second from Councilman Davis to compose an appropriate resolution to thank Teri St. James for her time and efforts as Interim City Manager. AYES: All.

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

**SUMMARY OF INVOICES & EXPENDITURES**

<b>Transfer of Funds</b>	<b>6,083.34</b>
<b>Payroll Deductions, Benefits &amp; Taxes</b>	<b>287,713.79</b>
<b>Refunds</b>	<b>285.00</b>
<b>City Council</b>	<b>68,243.96</b>
<b>City Manager's Office</b>	<b>62.46</b>
<b>City Clerk's Office</b>	<b>338.38</b>
<b>Police Department</b>	<b>37,037.69</b>
<b>Animal Control</b>	<b>623.56</b>
<b>Municipal Court Office</b>	<b>32,799.29</b>
<b>Fire Department</b>	<b>6,445.82</b>
<b>Public Works Department</b>	<b>13,380.74</b>
<b>Community Appearance Department</b>	<b>14,713.41</b>
<b>Parks &amp; Recreation Department</b>	<b>34,610.84</b>
<b>City Building Expenditures</b>	<b>3,991.12</b>
<b>Non-Departmental Expenditures</b>	<b>89,096.40</b>
<b>Debt Service</b>	<b>16,394.73</b>
<b>Total Invoices &amp; Expenditures</b>	<b>611,820.53</b>

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis to approve the minutes of 16 June 2008. AYES: All

Mayor Brian York administered the oath of office to Mr. Bill McGehee for the Historic Preservation Commission.

Mayor Brian York presented a City of Talladega Certificate of Merit to Doc Russell, Jr. and proclaimed June 28<sup>th</sup> as "Black Music Month Celebration Day".

Mr. Paul Davis presented a petition to the Council for speed bumps to be installed on Eastwood and Haywood Avenues in the section between Cherry and Lancaster Streets. It was noted that all the citizens living on the avenue had signed the petition. Councilman Davis indicated that the street was in his ward and he agreed that the street was narrow and dangerous and needed a speed limit less than the standard 25 MPH.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second from Councilman Miller to install speed bumps on Eastwood/ Haywood Avenue and to have an ordinance prepared to lower and post a speed limit of 15 MPH. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Tucker to approve roadblocks at North & Court Streets and at Six Points for fund raising purposes for the Talladega County Central High School Cheerleaders for July 26 and August 9, 2008. AYES: All

Heidi Edwards from the Talladega County Chamber of Commerce spoke about the Sales Tax Holiday on August 2-3 and the festivities planned for the downtown area to encourage residents to "Shop Talladega First" and save time, money and gas. Saturday night a free concert is planned from 7-9 pm with two bands, one of the north side of square and another in the Chamber building parking lot. The plan is to get the School System involved, with school sponsored vendors and booths. The Chamber intends to give away about 2000 hotdogs. Ms. Edwards was asking the City for some financial support of about \$1,000 for the event.

**Resolution #1687** to rescind Resolution No. 1686 to surplus a water tank owned by the City of Talladega, Water and Sewer Department, at the Municipal Airport due to a previous commitment concerning an attached telecommunication device.

**Resolution #1688** to enter into an agreement with Barnes Heating and Air Conditioning to replace the heating and air conditioning unit at the B.N. Mabra Center per bid specifications for a total cost of \$5,600.

**Resolution #1689** to enter into a lease/purchase agreement Regions Bank for three backhoes for the Water Department at 3.9 APR for a total cost of \$119,961.

**Resolution #1690** to enter into an agreement with Atlas Fence to enclose the Water & Sewer Department's Mt. Olive Water Tank per bid specifications for a total cost of \$5,200.

**Resolution #1691** to enter into an agreement with Atlas Fence for fencing along the drainage ditch at Veterans' Park per bid specifications for a total cost of \$15,100.

**Resolution #1692** to enter into an agreement with Atlas Fence for removing existing damaged fencing and erecting fencing around the baseball field at Westgate Park per bid specifications for a total cost of \$3,875.

**Resolution #1693** to enter into an agreement with Hutto Construction to refurbish two sets of stairs on both sides of the pool observation bleachers at the Spring Street Recreation Center pool per bid specifications for a total cost of \$10,300.

**Resolution #1694** to enter into an agreement with Specialty Contracting & Supplies to provide monthly maintenance for the Spring Street Recreation Center pool heater per terms of contract for a total cost of \$85.00 per month for one year with the option for yearly renewals.

**Resolution #1695** declaring the weeds and vegetation on five private properties as a public nuisance and authorizing the cutting and removal of weeds and vegetation with the

understanding that the total cost of abating the nuisance will later be assessed as a lien on the property.

**Resolution #1696** declaring fourteen (14) City vehicles as surplus and authorizing sale thereof.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Davis for approval of Resolutions #1687-1696. 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 June 14 to July 3, 2008** **\$ 295,699.69**

Councilman Miller had appointed a committee consisting of Jerome Curry, Terry Hanner and Teri St. James to put together a presentation on the overall plan for playground equipment for six parks (Veterans', Bemiston, Duncan Pinkston, Edythe Sims, Amanda Bingham and Harmon Park) as requested by the Council at a previous meeting. Terry Hanner narrated a PowerPoint presentation outlining a different playground equipment configuration for each park and the estimated cost which is \$228,000 for all six parks. Councilman Tucker indicated that he wanted to have a different package of equipment at Edythe Sims Park and that his representative on the Parks & Recreation Board needed to have input on the design for that park. Councilman Tucker also wanted to challenge the idea that Veteran's Park was the most used park in Talladega, though he did agree that it should probably be the City's "showcase park". He indicated that he felt Edythe Sims Park was the most used. Mr. Trent Lumpkin from KorKat Inc. also made a presentation of material on playground equipment that was produced by his company. Mr. Lumpkin was assured that his corporation would be included on the list of vendors to receive bid packages. Councilman Miller indicated that he felt this need to be set into motion soon as so much of the playground equipment has been removed for safety reasons. There also was discussion on how to fund the equipment possibly through grants, private contributions, corporate sponsorship, and adopt-a-park program.

Chief Watson indicated that he had met with Teri St. James and Wayne Hall, County Administrator, concerning an agreement to handle the County's animal control issue. Currently the City bills the County for animals collected, but there is no contract with the county as there was in the past for sharing the cost of vehicle, maintenance of building, utilities, etc. There was also discussion on how the rising cost of gasoline would be compensated for in a fixed contract price. Council President Patterson suggested that an inclusion be made in the contract to re-negotiate in six months if fuel costs increase drastically. Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Miller to continue with the negotiations for an Animal Control Contract with Talladega County. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Davis to accept the City employee "Temporary Assignment Pay Policy". AYES: All.

Mayor York stated that he had spoken with several assistant District Attorneys who were worried about funding the Drug Task Force especially with as much as 85% of all crime related to drugs. Mayor York requested that if possible perhaps a portion of the Honda Bond money could be used for the Drug Task Force. Council President Patterson requested that Councilman Grissett contact Senator Preuitt and set up a meeting with the City Manager to discuss the Honda Bond money and perhaps other funding.

Councilman Miller's comments included:

- Set up of the Town Meeting on July 17th at 5:30 at the Ritz Theater
- Complimented Mary Nash on the great job of setting up the 4th of July celebration, realized that some people may have been upset about the lateness of the fireworks but everything had to be double checked as a safety issue after the rain.
- There is a water pressure problem on Shocco Road that needs to be addressed
- Charter Communication franchise fees update - still not received. Found out that Charter is talking about closing their office in Talladega on July 17th and their contract specifically states that they must maintain an office in the City.
- Biodiesel fuel - get with AIDB and combine forces to get a grant for a biodiesel fuel facility.

- Received several complaint phone calls about the garbage service - need a new contract bid out as soon as possible.

Councilman Tucker commented that the door may be open to go with another cable company and get some competition for cable and high-speed internet services. Councilman Tucker also indicated that he wanted to be involved with any playground equipment decisions for Edythe Sims Park.

Councilman Grissett's comments included:

- A request for an update on the Coosa River Annex for the next meeting.
- Commended Mr. Bast and the Community Appearance Department for cleanup done on Battle, North and Coffee Streets
- Commended Mr. Swinford for addressing the safety issue of the ditch at Veteran's Park
- Commended Chief Watson on the improvement that code enforcement has done so far as overgrown yards.
- Currently most every department is on or under budget with two months left in the fiscal year.

Councilman Davis' comments included:

- The talk of playground equipment is good, but that the fitness problem does not end at age 12. There needs to be some recreational activities available for adults. Interested in seeing the city streets having bike lanes and making it easier for kids to ride their bikes to school.
- Economic and Commercial development needs to move forward. There is a fair amount of vacant land within the City limits that needs to be developed.
- Need to stop the trend of people leaving Talladega - revitalization is needed. There are a fair amount of condemnations that need to be done also.
- Encouraged by the meetings with the School Board, people want a positive change in the schools.

Council President Patterson requested the two fire department employees (Robert Stamps and Wes Hudson) who have returned home from military duty in Kuwait be recognized and our gratitude expressed at the next council meeting. Council President Patterson also requested an update on the fence at Veterans' Park and was told that the bids would be awarded next week.

City Manager Michael Stampfler commented that he was pleased with the exuberance and "can do" attitude of the Council. He stated that preparation was being made for the upcoming budget and that he looked forward to the comments from the citizens and the council on the goals for spending and how the goals will be brought into focus by the budget. He also stated that he expected the next 60 to 90 days to be very exciting.

Councilman Miller made a final comment about complaints on fireworks being fired off from inside the cemetery and recommended that for future celebrations the cemetery be locked to avoid this happening again.

Councilman Grissett 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, 7 July 2008, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall in the City of Talladega, Alabama.

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Elizabeth Cheeks  
Acting City Clerk