

CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
21 July 2008

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, 21 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: Council President Horace Patterson, Councilman Donnie Miller, Councilman Lance Grissett, Councilman Jimmy Davis, Mayor Brian York and City Manager Michael Stampfler.

Invocation given by Pastor Ted Peterson, First United Methodist Church.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis to excuse Councilman Tucker's absence at tonight's meeting. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Miller to excuse Councilman Tucker from the called meeting and the joint School Board meeting on July 14, 2008 and to excuse Councilman Davis from the called meeting on July 14, 2008. AYES: All.

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

SUMMARY OF INVOICES & EXPENDITURES

Payroll Deductions, Benefits & Taxes	144,172.45
Refunds	880.00
City Council	2,123.06
City Manager's Office	314.52
Finance Department	1,323.00
City Clerk's Office	9,134.02
Police Department	28,592.00
Police Communications	98.69
Animal Control	5,218.65
Municipal Court Office	1,377.53
Fire Department	2,751.54
Public Works Department	16,491.23
Community Appearance Department	12,919.47
Parks & Recreation Department	22,201.52
City Building Expenditures	5,952.37
Non-Departmental Expenditures	107,462.25
Debt Service	170,032.68
Total Invoices & Expenditures	531,044.98

Councilman Donnie Miller presented Teri St. James with a Certificate of Merit plaque for her work as Acting City Manager.

Mayor York presented Certificates of Recognition and Appreciation to West Hudson and Robert Stamps for their military service.

Council Members signed the Code of Ethics which would be hung in the Council Chambers. The Code of Ethics signed by the previous Council will be moved to hang in the Armstrong/Osborne Public Library.

Finance Director Teri St. James presented an update on the Ritz Theater Renovation summarizing the initial \$42,000 emergency renovation of bathrooms and the approved \$75,000 to meet all safety regulations. An additional \$39,000 will need to be appropriated to cover the entire cost of the renovation already completed. Motion by Councilman Miller with a second by Councilman Davis to amend the budget by \$39,000 to cover the cost of the renovation at the Ritz Theater. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Miller with a second by Councilman Grissett to approve purchase of football equipment for the Parks & Recreation Department's football league program. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis for adoption of revised job descriptions and pay grades for City Clerk and Purchasing/Safety Director. AYES: All.

Mayor York presented a Letter of Commendation to Boyd McGehee who was honored as "Young Agent of the Year." Council President Patterson stated what an honor it was to have young people return to Talladega to work.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis to approve the settlement agreement presented by Charter Communications for back franchise fees. AYES: All. Councilman Miller announced the public hearing schedule for August 7, 2008 at 5:30 pm at the Ritz Theater. A Charter Communication representative would be present and the public's comments were welcome.

Resolution #1697 to approve the renewal of the Section 5311 grant application for the Public Transportation program and designating East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission as the local implementing agency.

Resolution #1698 to approve a contract with Eagle 1 Resources to investigate all current and proposed railroad crossings for which the City is paying easement fees.

Resolution #1699 to amend the Krebs contract to include \$16,750 for engineering work on the Highway 77/275 water project.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second by Councilman Miller to approve Resolutions #1697 and #1699. Roll Call. AYES: All.

After some discussion, motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis to approve Resolution #1698. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Miller to approve invoices and expenditures for the Water Department. AYES: All.

Expenditures for July 7-17, 2008

\$ 318,299.22

The City Manager addressed several topics under other business for the Council:

- The issue of the bond for paving is almost complete. Paving should start as early as late October.
- The removal of unsafe playground equipment has been completed.
- As for the issue of the ATAP fence at the Airport, the attorney wishes to investigate property rights and needs to take additional time before advising the Council.
- The draft of the garbage collection bid specifications has been completed and perhaps within four weeks there will be a new contract. There was some discussion of biodegradable bags used to bag leaves and using the City's trucks for emergency situations such as cleanup after storms.
- Requested that a professional firm look into the water pressure issues at Shocco Springs.
- School Board requested several flashing lights at school areas and the goal is to have these changes completed before the opening of school on August 7th.
- Updated the Council on the Water Main Extension and Elevated Storage Tank Project that is estimated at \$6,103,600.00. Contacted Senator Preuitt concerning additional funding and indicated that a small rate increase may be necessary to finance this project.

Council President Patterson requested that the City Manager look into the Brecon Recreation Center hours as he had phone calls from several senior citizens concerning the Center.

Councilman Davis indicated that he felt additional meetings with the Board of Education were needed. Council President Patterson agreed that ongoing meetings with the Board were needed and that the City needed to have an accurate accounting of what was currently being provided by the City to the Board of Education so far as audit fees, insurance, garbage collection, etc. Councilman Grissett asked for an update on the property to be turned over to the Board for a bus maintenance area. There was also some discussion on the ownership of the football stadium.

Councilman Davis indicated that many citizens still are unaware of the City's recycling efforts and that more promotion in this area was needed.

Councilman Grissett asked for an update on the fencing project at Veteran's Park. City Manager Stampfler indicated that the fencing project was currently on hold as a more long-term solution was being evaluated.

Heidi Edwards of the Talladega County Chamber of Commerce presented the planned festivities for the Sales Tax Free Holiday to include sidewalk sales, live music, and free hotdogs. Chamber's website included a list of tax free items.

Councilman Miller asked for an update on the Brecon and Spring Street Recreation Center ventilation fans.

There was a great deal of discussion concerning the City's storm water ditches so far as ownership, responsibility to mow, EPA guidelines for spraying vegetation in the ditches and near water sources, safety issues and proper maintenance practices.

City Manager Stampfler indicated that the work session on Thursday night was to come up with 10 or 12 top goals to be achieved during the fiscal year 2009 and from there come up with the numbers in the budget to achieve these goals.

Council President Patterson asked for someone to represent the City at the Talladega County Improvement Foundation.

Councilman Grissett motioned for adjournment at 6:55 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, 21 July 2008, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall in the City of Talladega, Alabama.

Elizabeth Cheeks
Acting City Clerk