

**CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
July 8, 2021 – 5:00 pm**

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in the Talladega City Hall Chambers. The meeting was called to order and the following were present: Council President Betty Spratlin, Councilman Horace Patterson, Council Member Vickey R. Hall, Councilman Trae Williams, Councilman Joseph K. Power, Jr., and City Manager Seddrick Hill.

Invocation by Councilman Patterson.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Councilman Power for the approval of the amended agenda. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Williams with a second from Councilman Patterson to approve invoices and expenditures. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Total Invoices & Expenditures from 6/21/2021-6/30/2021	\$28,591.68
General Fund	28,257.42
Cemetery	60.60
Municipal Airport	273.66

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Councilman Williams for the approval of the Regular Meeting of June 21, 2021 with the additional statement that June 7-June 14, 2021 invoices and expenditures were not yet available. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Councilman Patterson introduced Representative Steve Hurst concerning an update on tourism. Representative Hurst wished to inform the Council of exciting forth coming ideas and projects to help the City increase tourism such as revamping Battle Street. He also wished to offer his services and would be willing to speak with the Council concerning what was addressed today.

Motion by Councilman Williams with a second from Councilman Power for the approval of Keela Brown's application to the Planning Commission. AYES: All.

Council President Spratlin swears in Keela Brown to the Planning Commission.

The request for the use of the Chamber of Commerce parking lot requested by Ms. Shernoca Jenkins was not considered as the Council requested further information and the applicant was not present.

Council President Spratlin informed the Council that Reverend Hugh Morris' update on scholarship awards would be moved to the next meeting.

Police Officer Kyle Evitts came before the Council requesting a resolution for a compensation issue in the Police Department. City Manager Hill stated that the increase was approved by a prior City Manager and that he could not override the decision. However, the City has implemented a hazard pay to correct such issues and mentioned was an upcoming study by GEDI to correct the matter. Councilman Patterson wished to apologize for the unfair exclusion and requested that the results from the GEDI study be looked into by City Attorney O'Brien. It was also requested that City Manager Hill look into setting guidelines for situations such as this. City Attorney O'Brien encouraged City Manager Hill to meet with the Employee Committee and some employees in each department for recommendations and those recommendations be drafted up for hiring practices and placement practices for new hires to be put into an ordinance. Councilman Power inquired if there was a documentation that aided in the decision for this placement. City Manager Hill stated that he would check with Human Resources.

Council President Spratlin deferred to Water and Sewer Director Fuller and InSite Engineer James Cassidy concerning the water and sewer projects. Director Fuller presented to the Council upgrades needed for the water and sewer system.

Walter Lewis from Piper Sandler presented to the Council information concerning the City's current bond debt and issues and suggested that the existing debt could be refinanced to yield savings of about \$6.1 million.

Mac Underwood presented to the Council the findings of the rate study done by Raftelis. It was recommended that the minimum usage for residential customers be decreased from 3,000 gallons a month to 2,000 gallons a month beginning in August and a 7.5% increase in the water bill, equaling to around a \$3 increase in the monthly water bill. Councilman Power inquired about pay-go. Mr. Underwood stated that pay-go was money that is generated to be used for repairs without having to acquire a loan. Audience member Dr. Winfrey informed the Council that Congress had passed a bill giving municipalities funds annually for items such as what was discussed. City Manager Hill commented that the City would apply for those funds but they are not guaranteed.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Councilman Williams for the approval of a sponsorship to the Civilian Marksmanship Park (CMP) in the amount of \$1,500. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Ordinance #1888 approving job description for Public Information Officer

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Council Member Hall for the Reading of the Heading Only of Ordinance #1888. Roll Call. AYES: All.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TALLADEGA TO PROVIDE A JOB/POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE CITY OF TALLADEGA; AND TO AMEND ORDINANCES 1835, 1845, AND 1869 IN PART

Motion by Councilman Williams with a second from Council Member Hall for the Immediate Consideration of Ordinance #1888. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Councilman Williams for the Adoption of Ordinance #1888. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second by Council President Williams to approve invoices and expenditures for the Water Department. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Water Department Expenditures for 6/21/2021 to 6/30/2021	\$ 149,448.53
Water/Sewer Fund	149,448.53

City Manager Hill wished to thank the Council for approving the Public Information Officer job description as it is important to start displaying positive news. He commented that he had a productive meeting with the new City School Superintendent, thanked Dr. Winfrey for putting together a meeting with a development crew from Cleveland, Ohio, mentioned an upcoming bid event for local businesses to learn the bid process, toured wards that have received constant complaints upon, held meet and greet meetings with all staff, mentioned that there would be a suggestion box set up in the front for those who wish to voice concerns, sent birthday and anniversary cards to staff, had a great meeting with America's First Federal Credit Union concerning education for ways to qualify for loans in real estate and businesses, met with Terry Smiley from Alabama Power regarding the LED transition, met with East Central Area Health Center for free Covid-19 testing and vaccinations for the next two years, met with City Manager Sam Gaston, Brian Muenger and the Manager for Anniston, had a call with Merchant McIntyre Associates concerning federal funding for items such as infrastructure, community development, public safety, and community health and wellness; also mentioned was a letter of support from Mike Roger's office for HUD, a meeting with Coca Cola United for a partnership to sell those items in City buildings and community businesses in hopes of residual income, and a renovation of Amanda Bingham Park by Coca Cola, American Rescue Plan application was submitted, met with a group to help build an internship program for 11th, 12th and college aged students. He also wished to thank Umbrella Hope for doing an event for Juneteenth. Also mentioned was the new classification study slated to start in 2 weeks, the CDBG Blight Removal Grant which garnered 11 applications from citizens. He also wished to commend the Police Department as he had received a glowing letter from Lincoln Police Chief Griffin expressing gratitude to Lieutenant Thompson for the training course, he held for them.

Council Member Hall wished to thank Community Appearance for cutting the grass at Knoxville and Ave H.

Councilman Patterson inquired about the status of the Chamber building. It was stated that the project would be started once everything was approved. Councilman Patterson next inquired about strengthening the litter laws and requested that advertising be started to make the community aware of the Amistad Murals at Talladega College. He also asked if there was a policy for renting space in the parks. Director Ammons stated that the rentals on City parks were \$50 for 2 hours however it was always mentioned that money could not be made on City property but was not sure if that applied to the Chamber parking lot. Councilman Patterson requested that a strict policy be had to create responsibilities for those sponsoring events on City property. He next inquired how it was possible for youths to purchase a gun because someone is selling it to them and also asked how a culprit for such violence could be arrested and later be released to cause more problems. He requested City Manager Hill to meet with the DA or whomever could find out what penalties exist or if something could be done. Also mentioned were litter laws to which City Manager Hill commented that he was scheduled to meet with the County about what their policy and what they are trying to do to prevent litter. Also mentioned was the launch of the Adopt a Highway program. Councilman Patterson next inquired if anything could be done about the loose dogs in the City. City Manager Hill stated he would look into the matter.

Councilman Power also commented about a complaint he had received about loose dogs on Margaret St. He also inquired if the City was well protected against ransomware and asked if nonprofit organizations could participate with the Christmas on the Square event. City Manager Hill stated that nonprofit organizations could definitely participate; also mentioning that sponsorship packets were being sent out.

Council President Spratlin informed the Council that Bobbye Trammell, the founder of Hall of Heroes, would be celebrating her birthday on Sunday with a proclamation to be presented to her at that time.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Councilman Williams to go into Executive Session to discuss the general character of an employee not required to fill out a Statement of Economic Interest or an elected official, purchase of real estate, and security issue and discipline at 7:02pm.

Council returned to the Chambers at 7:38pm with no action taken.

Motion by Councilman Patterson with a second from Council President Williams for adjournment. AYES: All.

AUTHENTICATION

I, Joanna Medlen, 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 Thursday, July 8, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. in the City of Talladega, Alabama City Hall Council Chambers.