

**CITY OF TALLADEGA**  
**CITY COUNCIL CALLED MEETING**  
March 22, 2010

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a called meeting on Monday, March 22, 2010 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 Eddie Tucker, Councilman Donnie Miller, Councilman Lance Grissett, Councilman Jimmy Davis, Mayor Brian York and City Manager Michael Stampfler.

Parks & Recreation Director Parvin Neloms completed his presentation of programs that his department was working on. This was a continuation of the presentation he had started at the last council meeting. Mr. Neloms again noted that there were several vacancies in his department including a secretary. Councilman Miller discussed the hours of operation for the Brecon Recreation Center and asked why it was not open on Saturdays or after school. Councilman Miller further commented that he felt the athletics needed to be advertised more and that family discounts needed to be set up.

There was some discussion on what needed to be done to keep an 8% general fund balance. Councilman Miller stated that the City could start by parking city vehicles and eliminating the take home policy. Councilman Davis also suggested cutting the Council's travel budget and possibly even the telephone budget. Councilman Tucker objected to cutting the telephone budget as he as Councilman needed the city cell phone he had. Manager Stampfler stated that the four ideas he had presented a few weeks ago (privatization of the Water Department, department reorganization, closing of Bemiston and Brecon Recreation Centers and hiring a Public Works Director and Assistant Police Chief) would get the City within about 2% of the required general fund balance. Mr. Stampfler further stated that eliminating the take home policy for vehicles was not of the magnitude that the council needs to be looking at, but that the larger economies such as the new phone system that could possibly save \$48,000 a year were more on the scale of what was needed. Mr. Stampfler further went on to state that other efforts such as savings through the purchasing system and the renegotiated Veolia contract had saved over \$450,000. Mr. Stampfler summed up his recommendations by stating that closing of the two recreation centers, reorganization, filling the positions of Public Works Director and Assistant Police Chief would give proper oversight to save money and with the additional leadership in place it would save enough money to avoid layoffs. Councilman Davis also commented that retirement costs were increasing each year. Mr. Stampfler stated that he believed that by 2013 the cost of retirees would be about \$250,000.

Councilman Grissett stated that he was worried about the legal issue of closing down Bemiston Recreation Center. Mr. Stampfler indicated that the City attorney would be present at the meeting to discuss that matter.

Councilman Miller voiced his concerns over the cost of legal services and stated that he felt it was better to start out with the League of Municipalities with their free legal advice and then, if that was insufficient, move on to the City attorney and his opinions.

There was further discussion on how to cut costs. Councilman Tucker suggested that every department be cut by 10% across the board. Council President Patterson asked for more staffing information be provided at the next meeting.

Councilman Grissett made a nomination of Mr. Tennyson Malone for the Municipal Airport Board. Councilman Tucker objected stating that the vacancy on the Airport Board was for his ward. After some further discussion the decision was made to delay the filling of the vacancy on the Airport Board until the next meeting giving all parties time to discuss the matter further.

**Resolution #2039** authorizing demolition of the structure at 906 Ola Avenue

**Resolution #2040** authorizing demolition of the structure at 412 Henderson Street

Motion by Councilman Miller with a second from Councilman Davis to approve Resolutions #2039 and \$2040. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Councilman Miller reminded all council members to attend the activities for the 175<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration during the upcoming weekend. Councilman Tucker added a reminder to attend the Talladega College parade the morning of Saturday, March 27, 2010.

Councilman Grissett honored Ms. Virgie Warner who was buried today stating his condolences to her family and commenting on Ms. Warner faithful and dedicated service to the community, the county and the state. Councilman Grissett wished to correct a newspaper editorial that stated the council was proposing the close the Brecon and Bemiston Recreation Centers. The council did not make the proposal and he was opposed to closing the Bemiston Recreation Center.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Davis to approve travel and expenses for the Police Department staff person to attend the CALEA conference in Dallas, Texas for certification purposes. AYES: All.

Council President Patterson stated that the Work Session on Monday, March 29 was cancelled and that the next regular Council meeting would be moved to Thursday, April 8, 2010. Councilman Tucker requested that at the April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting the Talladega College basketball teams be honored.

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, March 22, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall in the City of Talladega, Alabama.

---

Elizabeth Cheeks  
City Clerk