

CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
15 December 2008

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, 15 December 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 Stampfle.

Invocation given by Rev. Glen Horn, Pastor, Bemiston United Methodist Church. Rev. Jimmy Cook, Welcome Springs Baptist Church.

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

Total Invoices & Expenditures for 11/29/2008 to 12/12/2008		\$654,784.02
General Fund		\$548,956.25
General Fund – EBT		69,214.99
Corrections Fund		35,791.28
Municipal Court Fund		121.50
Law Enforcement Fund		700.00

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 1, 2008 with corrections. AYES: All.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented by Fire Chief Warwick and Police Chief Watson to representatives of Jack's Restaurant and the Huddle House for their donations of coffee and food to the Fire and Police Departments during recent fire emergencies.

The following City Board/Commission members were sworn in by Mayor Brian York:

William Baylor – Historic Preservation Commission
Hubert Hubbard – Municipal Airport Board
Rex Griffin – Municipal Airport Board
John Stephens – Municipal Airport Board
Daniel Picard – Talladega Heritage Commission
Ann Graham – Talladega Heritage Commission
George Hartsfield – Talladega Heritage Commission

Dr. Truitt Evans of the Fair Housing Center of Northern Alabama spoke to the Council about the problem of predatory lenders in the Talladega area which has lead to numerous foreclosures. Dr. Evans indicated that the Fair Housing Center was a non-profit, privately funded organization who offered their services for free. He concluded his presentation by requesting that the Council think about funding, perhaps through a CDBG, having the Center representatives come to the Talladega area to provide informational workshops to citizens on how to deal with predatory lenders and other fairing housing matters.

Motion by Councilman Miller with a second by Councilman Tucker to approve the request for a roadblock by the Talladega High School Track Team for fundraising purposes. AYES: All. Councilman Davis commented that different methods of fundraising, such as providing services for donations, should be explored instead of using roadblocks which borders on begging.

Resolution #1782 – approving the FY 2009 Amendment to the Grant Agreement for Services for the Elderly with the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission.

Resolution #1783 – approving three year golf car leasing plan with Club Car in the amount of \$21,528.00 per year.

Resolution #1784 – approving a contract with Goodwin Mills & Cawood for engineering services for the Golf Course Renovation Project for an estimated cost of \$22,600.00.

Resolution #1785 – approving the purchase of a 2009 Ford Explorer from Sunny King Ford for a total cost of \$23,843.28.

Resolution #1786 – approving a separate bank account to be set up for the Capital Improvement Bond funds.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second by Councilman Grissett for approval of Resolutions #1782 to #1786. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Ordinance #1651 – An ordinance approving a \$3.6 million Capital Improvement Bond.

In reference to Ordinance #1651, the bond attorney with Morgan Keegan, made a brief presentation to the Council and stated that the terms of the bond are good despite the current state of the national economy with a term of 25 years at 4.8% interest rate. The attorney further stated that this bond was possible because the City had managed its money well over the last few years.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Miller for immediate consideration of Ordinance #1651. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Davis for reading of the heading only of Ordinance #1651. Roll Call. AYES: All.

An Ordinance to provide for the issuance of \$3,650,000 aggregate principal amount of General Obligation Warrants of the City of Talladega, Alabama.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Davis for adoption of Ordinance #1651. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Ordinance #1652 – An ordinance adopting an official listing of species, maintenance and location of trees on public grounds.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second from Councilman Grissett for immediate consideration of Ordinance #1652. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Davis for reading of the heading only of Ordinance #1652. Roll Call. AYES: All.

An Ordinance adopting an official listing of species, maintenance and location of trees on public grounds.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Davis for adoption of Ordinance #1652. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Davis to approve invoices and expenditures for the Water Department. AYES: Councilman Davis, Councilman Grissett, Council President Patterson, Councilman Miller; NAY: Councilman Tucker.

Total Invoices & Expenditures for 11/29/2008 to 12/12/2008 \$222,934.78

The Council agreed to change the second regular meeting in January 2009 from January 19th (Monday) to January 22nd (Thursday) because of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

The Council was informed of the City's Certified Local Government certification being renewed for 2009 and were presented with a copy of the Historic Preservation Commission's annual report.

Council was informed of an agreement for a flashing beacon at the intersection of Alabama Highway 21 and South Bemiston Road that has been signed and returned to Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) – Resolution #1663 dated May 19, 2008 authorized the installation and maintenance expenditures for this agreement.

City Manager Stampfler presented the Council with progress reports from the Purchasing Department, Finance Department, and the Water Department. There was some discussion as to the additional revenue generated by the Revenue Officer's efforts and the savings realized by the Centralized Purchasing Policy. Council President Patterson suggested that the department accomplishments become a part of the official minutes of the meeting. Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis that from here forward memos concerning departmental accomplishments will be included as part of the official minutes AYES: All. Departmental reports (memos) for this Council Meeting (December 15, 2009) are attached as Exhibit A.

City Manager Stampfler presented to the Council with a copy of a letter sent to Alabama Department of Transportation concerning the intersection of Tinney Street and Highway 21 and stating that further attention was needed to the issue before a tragedy occurred. Councilman Miller indicated that he had heard from Mr. Tims of ALDOT and the request for millions had been denied for the intersection of Tinney Street and Highway 21. Councilman Miller stated that there was some good news from ALDOT in that funding had been appropriated to continue the work on Highway 21 and the 275 Bypass. City Manager Stampfler indicated that when he see the letter ALDOT concerning these issues he will have a better idea as to what steps need to be taken next.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second by Councilman Grissett to approve the charges by the Civil Service Board attorney. AYES: All.

Councilman Grissett asked for an update on the railroad crossing work. City Manager indicated that he didn't think anyone knew the status, including the railroad company. There had been some delays on the promised crossing work, but continued improvements should be coming in the next few months. Councilman Grissett stated that the flashing intersection beacon on the South Bemiston Road was long time coming as government works slowly but thankful that it would soon become a reality. Councilman Grissett's comments also included citizens' complaints about the loss of the amnesty drop-off site, stating that many citizens preferred delivering their garbage to the drop-off site instead of leaving it on the side of the road. Councilman Grissett also noted that he had not received complaints about the increase in garbage fees, but basically complaints about poor service by the garbage company.

Councilman Tucker's comments included the following:

- Request for some information about the status of sidewalks on Avenue H
- Flooding and drainage pipe problems on Russell Drive
- What progress had been made on the Family Life Center –
- Give the employees half day for Christmas Eve
- Raven Morris Fund is set up at First National Bank – letter had been sent out to churches by himself and Council President Patterson asking for the offering of the 3rd Sunday in December to be donated to this fund
- Flags need to be set up along Stephen J. White Blvd. The City does not need to wait for Memorial Day to take such an action.
- Requested status of speed breakers in his ward.
- Requested the City have truck that will pick up leaves instead of just sweep them around. Commended City employees on getting debris out of drains after the last rain, but continually picking up leaves will prevent the drains from getting clogged in the first place.

Councilman Miller requested a status on the flood insurance issue for citizens around the McMillan Park area.

Councilman Miller informed the Council of the death of Ms. Shirley Keith, a part-time City employee at the Library, and a relative of his. Sympathy and condolences for Ms. Keith's family were expressed.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Miller to go into Executive Session to discuss property acquisition and a good name and character issue. AYES: All.

Council entered into executive session at 6:35 pm and returned at 7:33 pm.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis to proceed with property acquisition Phase II. AYES: All.

Council meeting was adjourned.

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

Elizabeth Cheeks
Acting City Clerk

Exhibit A