

**CITY COUNCIL OF TALLADEGA
REGULAR MEETING
July 1, 2019-5:00 pm**

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, July 1, 2019 at 5:00 p.m., at the Talladega City Hall Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order and the following were present: Council President Horace Patterson, Councilman Jarvis Elston, Councilman Ricky Simpson, Councilman Gerald Cooper, Councilman David Street, Mayor Jerry Cooper, and City Manager Elizabeth Cheeks.

Invocation by Rick Patrick of First Baptist Church.

Council President Patterson wished to recognize the presence of City Attorney O'Brien.

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

Total Invoices & Expenditures for 6/17/2019 to 6/28/2019 **\$560,261.03**

General Fund	462,853.14
Corrections Fund	1,769.77
Cemetery	56.98
Library Fund	2,071.71
\$.04 & \$.05 Gas Tax Fund	709.50
Capital Projects Trust Fund	92,799.93

Motion by Councilman Elston with a second from Councilman Simpson for the approval of the regular minutes of June 17, 2019. AYES: All. There was some discussion by Councilman Street that in the previous meeting he had mentioned requesting to tour all the property not just the Public Works building as it is stated in the minutes. However, he also stated that if this was not amended that it would be fine as well.

Brought before the Council was the approval of a private cemetery license located at 430 Old Shocco Road. Councilman Simpson questioned if the City would have to take responsibility for the private cemetery if approved. City Manager Cheeks stated that unless the City purchases the land then it is not the City's responsibility. The property owner would be liable. Motion by Councilman Elston with a second from Councilman Cooper for the approval of the private cemetery on 430 Old Shocco Road. AYES: All.

It was brought to the Council's attention that the championship signs for the Talladega High School 2019 4-A Basketball Champions were installed at four of the Talladega City Limit signs.

The Council was informed that the July 4th celebration would begin at 6pm with fireworks at 9pm. City Manager Cheeks also stated that this event would be held at Veterans Park and would include DJ music, food vendors and games for the children.

Brought before the Council by City Manager Cheeks was a recommended schedule for the City Council meeting for August and September. It was stated that due to a conference and holidays, the suggested dates were August 12, August 26, September 9, and September 23. It was agreed that the indicated dates were satisfactory.

Resolution #4786 through #4801 to assess weed abatement liens.

Motion by Councilman Elston with a second from Councilman Cooper for the approval of Resolution #4786 through #4801. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Elston with a second from Councilman Simpson to approve the invoices and expenditures for the Water Department. AYES: All.

Water Department Expenditures for 6/17/19-6/28/19 **\$326,562.54**
Water/Sewer Fund 326,562.54

Council President Patterson deferred to Councilman Elston concerning the City Manager evaluation form. Councilman Elston wished to thank the City Manager for being patient and stated that there is another document which dictates the instructions. It was also agreed upon that the evaluation be submitted in 10 business days which would be July 12th and the City Attorney would have 5 days to calculate the forms. It was stated that the evaluation would be presented on August 12th.

City Manager Cheeks commented that she received a call from Angela Dawson concerning a quest, if Council will allow. Angela Dawson came before the Council to request a contribution for the Talladega 8 and Under Softball Team to help them in going to the State Tournaments. There was some discussion upon this matter. Councilman Elston, Councilman Simpson, Councilman Street, and Council President Patterson indicated they would like to make a personal donation to them for this trip.

City Manager Cheeks deferred to Police Chief Busby concerning a report on the street crimes unit which had been started 2 weeks ago. Chief Busby stated that the unit has two full time officers and as of last Thursday; the unit has sized some guns, arrested people with warrants, and has been in four car chases. It was also stated that in the last two weeks, no shots were fired or have been reported to them. Chief Busby also commented that they would be adding officers to this unit once they are fully trained. Council President Patterson wished to express his appreciation for this effort. Councilman Elston encouraged the good work to continue. Councilman Street and Councilman Simpson also wished to echo his appreciation. Council President Patterson questioned if the confiscated fire arms would end up back in the community. Chief Busby stated that the fire arms were tested to see if they match other crimes, others if recovered stolen will be given back to its rightful owner. Others attached to a case will be held until the case is completed. Those will be sold at an auction, not open to the public.

City Manager Cheeks commented that she was proud of that program. She also wished to thank the Daily Home on the article pertaining to the recycling center and stated that the changes to the recycle center will hopefully be done by August 1. It was also stated that City Hall would be closed Thursday and Friday for the 4th of July holiday. She also encouraged everyone to purchase locally as the tax dollars would stay in the community. She also recognized the Mayor by reading a letter from Trinity Baptist Church thanking the Mayor for his attendance in honoring Dr. C.O. Grinstead.

Mayor Cooper wished to congratulate the Police Department stating that a friend of his was in need of their services and that the officers were prompt and professional. He also stated that he would be running for Mayor again.

Councilman Street commented that his request in the minutes of the previous meeting was a speed limit sign on Brignoli and not a stop sign as it is written. He also asked if there were any totals received of recycled materials coming through to the recycle center. City Manager Cheeks stated that as part of the contract with the trash company, bins are provided and taken away but the market is so bad that they are losing money. Councilman Street then stated that he was glad to hear that a measure was taking place because the recycle center has been abused too long. He next wished to ask the Council to reconsider the paving project; stating that the budget had been amended for other reasons before and perhaps setting aside other projects that hadn't been funded and put that into the paving project. Stating that he was disappointed that more money was not committed to this project. Council President Patterson deferred to Public Works Director Phillips concerning the selection process for the paving project. Director Phillips stated that what is earmarked for paving is about \$250,000 a year which is why the City is on a four-year cycle for paving for a total of \$1 million. The roads are then looked at according to traffic, type of road, complaints, accidents, and if there is patch that could be done. It is then given a ranking and then a line is drawn according to the money available. It was stated that the process follows the national standard. Councilman Street also stated he had requested documentation on some of the streets and was not satisfied with what he was given and asked if Council was satisfied with what is being paved. It was commented that all would love to pave more streets in the City but they could not afford to do so. Councilman Street commented that he had requested what the last round of raises did to the annual budget and what each one would make, and was given vague information and also requested information on the sale of timber. It was agreed upon that City Manager Cheeks respond in writing to Councilman Street of his request for the 11 salary raises and the revenue from the timber sales. Councilman Street also stated that he believed that the Council had passed illegal raises based upon an email received from GEDI. Council President Patterson requested a copy of the aforementioned email. Councilman Street requested information concerning the light pole at the Knoxville Park. It was stated that the City has been working the contractor to get in the necessary equipment but it is not guaranteed that the work would be done by Wednesday. There was much discussion upon this matter. Motion by Councilman Street with a second from Councilman Simpson to allocate \$1500 from the Council's appropriation fund to aid in providing lighting to the Knoxville for Life Reunion. AYES: Council President Patterson, Councilman Street, Councilman Simpson, and Councilman Cooper
ABSTAIN: Councilman Elston

Councilman Street wished to inform Director Phillips of a pothole on Hillandale which was reported last week and still was not repaired. Director Phillips stated that she would look in to it. Councilman Street also inquired about a guard rail request on Thornton St. which was done during the last City Manager's tenure and also inquired about the sidewalk across from Alabama Power Company. City Manager Cheeks stated that the concrete was poured on Thursday and after it is cured, work for finishing up the edges would be done.

Councilman Elston informed the Council that the celebration of Dr. Patterson's 45th pastoral anniversary would be held on July 14th. He also commented that he would not be seeking re-election and wished to thank everyone for all their support.

Council President Patterson requested an investigation of the alleged illegal raises given. He also stated that the Splash pad would be an asset to the City and deferred to City Manager Cheeks, who commented that while at a class, an architectural firm reached out to her and offered free renderings of the proposed splash pad.

Motion by Councilman Elston to adjourn.

AUTHENTICATION

I, Joanna Medlen, 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, July 1, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. at the Talladega City Hall Council Chambers in the City of Talladega, Alabama.