

**CITY OF TALLADEGA
PRE-COUNCIL MEETING**
May 3, 2010

The City Council honored the Zora Ellis Jr. High Color Guard (Ellis Emeralds) and the Talladega High School Colorguard (Dega Darlings) as Alabama State Champions.

Ms. Sharon Burton of the First Family Services Smoking Cessation program introduced Tabitha Phillips of the Talladega High School Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) who spoke on the addiction of smokeless tobacco and the flavored smokeless tobacco that was being offered to entice those too young to legally smoke. Ms. Phillips asked that the City consider an ordinance to place smokeless tobacco products behind counters at convenience stores and retail establishments just like cigarettes and cigars. Council President Patterson asked to have City Attorney Michael O'Brien look into the legality of the request.

Baron Sandlin, Executive Director of the Northeast Alabama Community Development Center, gave an overview of a proposal to pull together a consortium of counties to take advantage of HUD program funding for affordable housing. Council President Patterson asked that Mr. Sandlin get together with Chris Stone, Community Development Director, to see what the City could do and to have a report back to the Council.

**CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**
May 3, 2010

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, May , 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 Donnie Miller, Councilman Eddie Tucker, Councilman Lance Grissett, Councilman Jimmy Davis, Mayor Brian York and Assistant City Manager Brian Muenger.

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

Total Invoices & Expenditures for 4/6/2010 to 4/30/2010	\$ 1,371,215.86
General Operating Fund	1,231,023.47
Senior Nutrition	740.72
Law Enforcement	10,858.40
Corrections Fund	69,621.22
Capital Improvement	440.00

Brownfield Grant Fund	22,904.40
Oil Trust Fund	35,627.65

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis for approval of minutes of the called meeting of March 4, 2010. AYES: All.

Councilman Tucker stated that his request for a streetlight was denied by the City's administration for 603 Brecon Access Road but that he felt that a street light was needed there and that his request should be granted.

Motion by Councilman Tucker with a second from Councilman Grissett for a streetlight at 603 Brecon Access Road. AYES: Councilman Tucker, Councilman Grissett, Council President Patterson. ABSTAIN: Councilman Miller and Councilman Davis.

Councilman Tucker also stated that no progress had been made on the condemned house at 113 Jemison Street. Chris Stone stated that the only choice now is to get bids for repair and then charge the repairs to the home owner and that bid specifications could be compiled in 7-10 days.

Chris Sellers, Engineer with Neel-Schaffer, presented an update on the Veterans' Park Improvements project and the paving projects. Mr. Sellers stated that on the Veterans' Park project they were awaiting approval from Alabama Historical Commission and FEMA before they would advertise for bids. On the Paving Project, Mr. Sellers stated that on the pavement resurfacing the plans and specifications had been approved and they were only waiting for the official approval letter from ALDOT before advertising for bids. The Bridge section of the Paving Project was separate and required a few more approvals before proceeding such as Corps of Engineers, and moving of utilities that are attached to the bridge (Alagasco and Alabama Power) and Neel-Schaffer will handle the relocation of the City's water and sewer lines from the bridge. When asked about the quality of the asphalt for this paving project, Mr. Sellers indicated that the goal was to fix the base of the road before the asphalt goes down to solve the problem of crumbling asphalt.

Mayor Brian York swore in Mr. Tom Lutchendorf onto the Municipal Airport Board.

Mr. Richard Wade asked the Council for an extension on his condemned property because he was in the process of selling the property to Jacks Restaurant. The owner of Jacks' Restaurant was present and promised that once the purchase of the property was complete that the condemned structure would be removed. The Council granted a 60-day extension.

Mr. Stone discussed Ms. Deidra Butler's request for another extension on the condemnation of 200-202 26th Street structures. Council President Patterson stated that one more attempt should be made to contact Ms. Butler about the situation or a resolution to continue the condemnation would be on the next agenda.

Mr. John Childers was present to discuss the speeding problem on McMillan Street. Councilman Davis stated that it was his Ward and he realized there was a problem with speeding on McMillan Road but that he had some concerns about placing speed bumps. Chief Watson stated that he believed speed bumps caused more problems than they fixed and suggested that certain patrols be set up to catch the speeders. Council President Patterson stated that the request for speed bumps was denied because of the proximity to the schools, but that patrols would be increased during the time the high school was dismissing for the day. Mr. Childers also stated that the two streets (Alice and Arnold Streets) that flow onto Highway 77 are not wide enough for two way traffic.

Councilman Miller requested that the amount originally approved for the expenses of the City's 175th Anniversary Celebration be re-instated to \$32,500 (\$30,000 was approved decreasing it from the initial request of \$37,000) with the additional funding of \$2,500 coming from the unused budgeted 2010 Speedway Sponsorship.

Motion by Councilman Miller with a second from Councilman Davis approving \$2,500 for 175th Anniversary Celebration expenses. AYES: All.

Resolution #2047 to approve the granting of an easement to Aladdin Manufacturing Corporation to permit an encroachment into the West Street right-of-way.

Resolution #2048 approving a contract with A&G Fence to install a security fence around the Water Storage Tanks at two sites in the Brecon area for a total price of \$13,350.00

Resolution #2049 approving an updated City Vehicle Policy to be included in the Employee Handbook.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second from Councilman Grissett to approve Resolutions #2047-2049. Roll Call. AYES: All.

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

Water Department Expenditures for 4/8/10 to 4/29/2010	\$ 547,714.48
General Fund	509,757.84
Coleman Circle Project	37,956.64

Ms. Cathy Fuller presented a listing of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades since December 2009. Council President Patterson commented on the improvements he noted in the most recent tour of the facilities. Councilman Davis noted that Mr. Brian Miller's leadership and positive attitude had made a difference.

There was some discussion on the North Street Parking lot and the legalities of making any changes to the engineer's design. City Attorney Michael O'Brien was present and stated that if the Council decides to change the engineer's plans or go contrary to the engineer's advice then the City is liable.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Tucker to adhere to the City Attorney's opinion on this matter and not to make any changes to the North Street Parking lot. AYES: All.

Council President Patterson stated he was "not a happy camper" to see that the cost of getting the Coleman Circle pavement back to its original condition would cost approximately \$180,000. Council President Patterson requested that the City Manager's office or Chris Stone send letters to the residents explaining what the City is up against and to look for funding opportunities to make good on the promise to repair the road.

Chief Watson stated that the North Street truck route signs would be put up by ALDOT.

Council President Patterson asked Councilman Grissett and Councilman Tucker to get together on the signage drawings and come back to the council with suggestions.

The take home vehicle policy was discussed. Ms. Fuller stated that Water Department employees who take home a vehicle are on call.

A work session was set for May 20, 2010.

Councilman Miller commented that after the last NASCAR race at the speedway that State Troopers diverted traffic from heading into Talladega and that because of that the City is losing revenue from restaurants and gasoline purchases. Council President Patterson also requested that the City Manager check into the lodging taxes and the fee structure for the City.

Motion by Councilman Tucker 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, May 3, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall in the City of Talladega, Alabama.

Elizabeth Cheeks
City Clerk