

**CITY OF TALLADEGA
PRE-COUNCIL MEETING
22 January 2009**

Presentation made by Patricia Surrett, Project Coordinator for Metro Mail & Printing, who is under contract with the Talladega Emergency Management Agency (EMA) to distribute free emergency alert radios to every address in within the limits of the City of Talladega.

**CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
22 January 2009**

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Thursday, 22 January 2009 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 Stampfler.

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

Total Invoices & Expenditures for 1/03/2009 to 1/16/2009	\$1,139,569.60
General Fund	1,111,674.08
Corrections Fund	22,813.15
Cash Bond Account	1,200.00
Senior Nutrition Fund	177.00
Police Dept. Technology Grant	3,705.37

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 22, 2009. AYES: All.

Mayor York presented a proclamation to Dr. George Ricker, former Director of Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center, honoring his accomplishments with the Center and acknowledging his positive influence on the citizens of the City of Talladega. Dr. Ricker thanked the Council for the honor and said he dreamed of the day when Talladega would be an All American City.

Mayor York presented a proclamation to Talladega Healthcare Center, accepted by Mary Tuberville, honoring the facility's five star federal rating and the decades of service to citizens of the City of Talladega.

Mr. and Mrs. John D. Lawler came before the Council and voiced their concern about a ditch behind their property that needed to be cleaned out. Mr. Stampfler indicated to the Council that Mr. and Mrs. Lawler had been informed that the property belonged to the railroad and that Brian Muenger, his assistant, had been in contact with the railroad representative who assured him that the ditch would be cleaned out. Council President Patterson requested that Mr. and Mrs. Lawler be given the contact information for the railroad so that in the future they could contact the railroad directly about keeping the ditch clean out.

Mr. Stampfler presented a letter from Eastern Alabama Railway concerning the railroad crossing rehabilitation on West Battle Street. The letter indicated that work would begin on January 27th and be completed by January 30, 2009 contingent on weather conditions and receipt of necessary crossing material.

Resolution #1787 – approving agreements with A-1 Tree Service and Greene's Tree Service for the City's 2009 tree services per bid specifications.

Resolution #1788 – approving agreements with Industrial Chemical, Harcos Chemical and Brenntag for the City's 2009 pool chemicals per bid specifications.

Resolution #1789 – approval of City employee Holiday Policy.

Resolution #1790 – approval to accept the Department of Justice Bullet Proof Vest grant award which pays for half of the cost of bullet proof vests purchased by the Police Department during the next five years up to a total cost of \$11,825.00.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second from Councilman Grissett to approve Resolutions #1787 to #1791. 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 1/3/2009 to 1/15/2009 \$367,153.80

City Manager's comments included the following:

- In response to Councilman Tucker's question on the frequency of repairs made to the pavement at the Tinney/Davis Street location, this is a result of an inadequate infrastructure and will probably continue until the system can be updated and money found to upgrade underground facilities.
- Announced the awarding of a National Parks and Recreation Association grant for \$4000.00 to offset the cost of the 2008 football season.
- Presented the Council with a spreadsheet that listed all grants applied for and the status of those applications.
- Commented on the Coleman Circle project putting the City in a difficult position, but the City is proceeding on the easement issues. Our goal is to have the project completed by February 1, 2010. This is going to be a difficult deadline with the one easement outstanding, but if we fail to meet the deadline the City cannot apply for any other block grants and there is a potential to lose \$500,000 plus in future grants. Now that the grant has been awarded the City is ready to enter the judicial situation to resolve the easement issues.
- Work to be done with a possible United States Tennis Association (USTA) grant depends on how much is awarded and it may include renovation of the courts.
- Presented the Council with audits done by Edgar & Associates on the City's Senior Nutrition and Transportation Programs.
- School groups fundraising alternatives were explored and to have students work directly for the city raised several liability issues. Consensus of the Council was that alternative fundraising other than roadblocks needed to be considered, that raising funds by working directly for the City was not feasible, and that the City Council could not become involved in the fundraising except on a personal individual level.
- Costs to initiate flood map revisions was approximately \$50,000 for engineering costs per project area (McMillan Street and Avenue H) and that having a map revised does not guarantee that there would be lowering of flood insurance rates. Individual property owners could hire a professional engineer themselves and have their individual property revised on the federal flood plain map. Councilman Miller stated that prior council members told these people that their flood insurance would change, but that someone at city hall changed the plans and FEMA did not approve it and that if promises were made the City needed to follow through on them. Councilman Tucker indicated that he did not remember promising anyone lower flood insurance, but if it can be found in the minutes, then follow through on it.
- City has an attorney, Ms. Christina Poff, working on a new franchise agreement with Charter Communications. Councilman Grissett voiced his frustration with the lack of competition for cable services and how Charter Communications was able to "hold us hostage" for services. There was a great deal of on this issue.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Tucker to contact our Congressman concerning the problems with Charter Communication and ask what options were available for the City. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second from Councilman Grissett to approve revised job descriptions for City Clerk and the Finance Director. AYES: All.

The Executive Session scheduled for tonight was postponed until a Called Council Meeting on Monday, January 26, at 5:00 pm.

Councilman Miller requested an update on the Costner Street issue and was informed that there was nothing to report tonight, but that it would be checked into again.

Councilman Grissett's comments included the following:

- Centralized purchasing is working to save the City money as shown in the memos concerning the contracts for tree service and pool chemicals.
- Noted that Pell City had advertised for census takers and asked if the City's census efforts were underway. Councilman Tucker stressed the importance of making sure that citizens that were not counted last census were counted this time. Council President Patterson requested that the Mayor meet with the Census Bureau representative.
- Asked for an update on the playground equipment and Mr. Stampfler indicated that if all went well the bid specifications would be ready on February 3rd with the bid opening on February 20th and then possibly ready for Council approval on March 2nd.

Councilman Davis's comments included the following:

- Stated that he had met with Kent Evans of Talladega Ranger District and discussed the possibility of doing joint grants to promote tourism for the "jewel in our backyard", the Talladega National Forest.
- Discussed the possibility of the City Council organizing a walk on a local trail to help promote the area.
- Requested that the citizens in his ward let him know what areas he needed to look at while he is out riding his bike.
- Stressed that recycling is a quality of life issue that needed to be promoted.
- Discussed the possibility of a Community Garden and that he had a location in mind and asked that volunteers contact him to get the project organized.
- Commented on the three meetings that the Council has already had with the School Board and requested that the Board present the Council with its plan to deal with the current challenges. There was a great deal of discussion on this issue.
Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Tucker to formally request the status of the long term plan to be shared with the Council as soon as possible.

Council President Patterson requested an update on paving of streets and what streets are to be targeted. City Manager Stampfler stated that there would be an update by the February 16th meeting.

Motion by Councilman Grissett for adjournment at 7:30 pm.

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 Thursday, 22 January 2009, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall in the City of Talladega, Alabama.

Elizabeth Cheeks
Acting City Clerk