

CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL PRE-COUNCIL MEETING
August 10, 2009

Mr. Tom Wofford, Director of the Ritz Theater and Chairperson of the Talladega 175th Birthday Celebration, presented a budget for the 175th Birthday project with a breakdown of projects and projected costs. Councilman Miller stated that this celebration is to show that Talladega is the place to come for this type of entertainment and further stated that the cost was a conservative estimate needed to get two headliners to draw a lot of people into Talladega. Council President Patterson stated that the council was not prepared to talk about finalizing approval for this much money at this meeting and tabled the request for further consideration.

Ms. Barbara Fuller, 322 Dumas Avenue, presented her request for matching funds from council for her FEMA application. The Council consensus was to not approve Ms. Fuller's request on an individual basis but to combine her property with several other properties and make application to FEMA for the whole area in question. Council requested updates from Chris Stone, Community Development Director, as the application proceeded over the next application year.

D,M to excuse Dr. Grissett AYES: All.

CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
August 10, 2009

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, August 10, 2009 at 5:30 p.m., in the City Hall Auditorium. The meeting was called to order and the following were present: Council President Horace Patterson, Councilman Donnie Miller, Councilman Jimmy Davis, Mayor Brian York, City Manager Michael Stampfler and Councilman Eddie Tucker arrived after the vote on the Water Department invoices and expenditures.

Invocation given by Pastor Paul Thompson, First Brecon Church.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second from Councilman Miller to excuse Councilman Grissett's absence for the August 10, 2009 regular meeting. AYES: All (Council President Patterson, Councilman Davis and Councilman Miller)

Motion by Councilman Miller with a second by Councilman Davis to approve invoices and expenditures. AYES: All (Council President Patterson, Councilman Davis and Councilman Miller)

Total Invoices & Expenditures for 7/27/09 to 8/07/09	\$724,334.36
General Operating Account	499,657.46
Capital Improvement Project	187,939.84
Corrections Fund	32,070.34
Municipal Court	3,375.95
Law Enforcement Fund	581.38
Senior Nutrition Fund	614.44
Police Dept. Grant	94.95

Resolution #1912 rescinds Resolution #1870 and approves the revised application for financial assistance to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, Law Enforcement/Traffic Safety Division.

Resolution #1913 authorizing the City to enter into an agreement with C.D. Roberts & Associates of Talladega, Alabama for professional services pertaining to The Crossings Utility Extension Project.

Motion by Councilman Miller with a second from Councilman Davis to approve Resolutions #1912 and #1913. AYES: All (Council President Patterson, Councilman Davis and Councilman Miller)

Resolution #1914 authorizing a contract with East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission for professional services in accordance with the Brownfields Site Assessment Grant over a three year period not to exceed \$115,780.

Motion by Councilman Miller with a second from Councilman Davis to approve Resolution #1914. Roll Call. AYES: All (Council President Patterson, Councilman Davis and Councilman Miller)

Motion by Councilman Miller with a second by Councilman Davis to approve invoices and expenditures for the Water Department. AYES: All (Council President Patterson, Councilman Davis and Councilman Miller)

Expenditures for 7/30/09 to 8/06/09	\$ 468,437.76
General Fund	467,411.76
Coleman Circle Project	1,037.00

Update on North Street Parking lot indicated that Griffin Excavating would start demolition/construction within the week. The contract calls for the parking lot to be placed in service within sixty (60) days. Final inspection of the parking lot will be handled "in-house."

A ground breaking ceremony on the Coleman Circle project, followed by a dedication ceremony of the new playgrounds, is planned for Friday, August 21, 2009.

A report was presented on the cost of temporary employees currently working for the City. There was some discussion on the hiring freeze that was approved at a previous meeting. Councilman Davis stated that the Council acted in haste without taking into consideration the need to replace police officers and firemen and fill other necessary positions if they become vacant.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second from Councilman Miller to rescind the hiring freeze. AYES: Councilman Davis, Councilman Miller and Councilman Tucker. ABSTAIN: Council President Patterson.

There was some discussion on the Talladega 175th Birthday Celebration. Councilman Davis indicated that he would like to see some private money used as well as the City's funds. Councilman Miller stated that this was a very important project to promote the City and that the Council needed to show its support for the hard-working, enthusiastic volunteers on the Talladega 175 Committee.

City Manager Stampfler presented a Preliminary Report and Recommendations concerning the investigation of the Police Department Corruption and Racism allegations made by Councilman Eddie Tucker that was compiled from several interviews with police officers and written correspondence from Steven D. Giddens, District Attorney and Major Jerry Conner, Chief, Alabama Bureau of Investigations. Manager Stampfler's recommendations include continued sensitivity training for members of the Police Department, creation of a Deputy Chief of Police position that, if possible, be filled with a minority candidate and develop a strong minority recruitment and hiring program. Councilman Tucker stated that he was not "interviewed" for this report and that he did not feel an investigation had been done. There was further discussion of the report and recommendations presented. Councilman Tucker indicated that he was requested to put his complaints about the Police Department in writing and that is what he did. Council President Patterson recommended that Talladega College be contacted by the City Manager as a partner in diversity training for City employees. Councilman Davis requested that any action taken on the Manager's recommendations for the Police Department be delayed until Councilman Grissett could be involved in the discussion. Councilman Tucker stated that he did not agree that an investigation had occurred but did agree that the recommendations are a good start.

Extensive discussion of the 2009-2010 budget as presented by the City Manager. Council President Patterson indicated that expenditures were higher than expected revenue and that the City's fund balance was being applied in order to balance the budget for 2009-2010. Councilman Miller requested work sessions to go over ideas. Council President Patterson indicated that he wanted to go ahead with the Police Department/City Hall renovations. City Manager Stampfler indicated that the budget did not include any layoffs of personnel. Council President Patterson requested a memo from Finance Director, Teri St. James, to explain how the deficit was being address in the budget.

Street light approval process was discussed. Council President Patterson indicated that he thought the procedure was for the Council member to make a recommendation to the City Manager who

would then confer with the Public Works Department and then the City Manager would make the final decision on whether a street light should be installed. Councilman Davis requested a policy be set up. City Manager Stampfler stated that it would be best if the Council Member made a recommendation to the City Manager who would then investigate the situation and come back to the Council for final approval. That this procedure would satisfy Alabama Power's requirements. Council President Patterson requested that the issue be put on the agenda for the next council meeting.

Councilman Davis recommended that in view of the hard economic times for the City that Council Members take a 20% reduction in pay. Councilman Tucker did not agree.

Councilman Tucker's comments included his desire to have the investigation of the Police Department come to a close and that what had happened so far was not a real investigation. He added that he felt the City should come up with more recommendations to improve the customer service with the Police Department.

Councilman Tucker commented positively on the new playground equipment, fitness equipment and programs at the Parks & Recreation centers. He thanked the Parks & Recreation Department for getting Edythe Sims Park ready for the back-to-school program where free school supplies were distributed to needy students. Councilman Tucker also thanked Ms. Karen Phillips, Interim Public Works Director, for her help in Knoxville, investigating flooding problems, sewage problems and patching potholes. Councilman Tucker also thanked the Police Department for their helping in blocking off streets in Knoxville for a church revival.

Councilman Miller's comments included appreciation for the playground equipment and the work of the Community Appearance Department. Councilman Miller requested that the City Manager write a letter to the railroad company about the crossing bridge near Mt. Canaan Church and find out what their plans are for that area.

Council President Patterson requested that the City Manager start the procedure for renaming Garvin Street to Canaan Way, indicating that Mt. Canaan Church owns the property on both sides of the street and that no residences are located on the street.

Councilman Tucker recommended that the Talladega College National Champions be indicated on a sign coming into the City. Council President Patterson requested that the City Manager explore the costs of such a sign and that further information would be needed to debate/discuss entrance signs into the City.

Councilman Davis 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, August 10, 2009, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall in the City of Talladega, Alabama.

Elizabeth Cheeks
City Clerk