

CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
4 September 2008

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Thursday, 4 September 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 Lance Grissett, Councilman Jimmy Davis, Mayor Brian York and City Manager Michael Stampfler. Councilman Donnie Miller arrived at 5:55 pm.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Davis to approve invoices and expenditures. AYES: All (4).

SUMMARY OF INVOICES & EXPENDITURES

Payroll Deductions, Benefits & Taxes	247,361.20
Refunds	87.00
City Council	25.70
City Manager	7,662.93
Finance Department	1,499.50
City Clerk's Office	1,068.64
Police Department	27,173.61
Police Communications	2,446.19
Animal Control	2,634.37
Municipal Court Office	628.14
Fire Department	1,104.53
Public Works Department	12,436.17
Community Appearance Department	3,583.28
Parks & Recreation Department	26,743.60
City Building Expenditures	23,401.01
Non-Departmental Expenditures	2,801.45
Debt Service	11,101.45
Total Invoices & Expenditures	373,758.77

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis to approve the minutes of August 18, 2008 with corrections. AYES: All (4).

Council President Patterson stated that it was the Council's desire to explore grant funding for the construction and operation of a Knoxville Family Life Center.

Mr. Thomas Beavers, owner of Ft. Lashley Auto, stated that he believed he and his clients were being harassed by the police over his use of dealer tags and fleet insurance on cars loaned to his clients. A client of Mr. Beavers, Steven Hester, was present and stated that he had been fined over \$400 by the judge while driving one of Mr. Beaver's loaner cars. Mr. Beavers requested that the police be informed that his use of dealer tags and fleet insurance was correct and stop issuing tickets to his clients. Council President Patterson requested that the City Manager look into the matter and get back with Mr. Beavers. The Manager indicated that he would look into it, but emphasized to Mr. Beavers that the judge had signed an order and that the fine should be paid and not to wait on any comments from the City administration.

Mayor York nominated Mr. Ed King and Mr. Julius Thomas to fill the two vacancies on the Historic Preservation Commission. Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Davis to accept the nominations. AYES: All (4).

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Davis to approve the request for a roadblock for fundraising for the Talladega High School Track Team. AYES: All (4).

Resolution #1708 assessing lien against property at 211 Welch Ave. for weed abatement.
Resolution #1709 assessing lien against property at 621 Knox Street for weed abatement.
Resolution #1710 assessing lien against property at 412 15th Street for weed abatement.
Resolution #1711 assessing lien against property on Avenue H for weed abatement.

Resolution #1712 authorizing demolition of structure at 106 North Franklin Drive.
Resolution #1713 authorizing demolition of structure at 20 Hollingsworth Street.
Resolution #1714 authorizing demolition of structure at 162 Lide Road.
Resolution #1715 authorizing demolition of structure at 914 Lancaster Street.
Resolution #1716 authorizing demolition of structure at 504 West Coosa Street.
Resolution #1717 authorizing demolition of structure at 411 Hill Street.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Davis to approved Resolutions #1708 through #1717. Roll Call. AYES: Councilman Davis, Councilman Grissett, Council President Patterson, and Councilman Tucker.

Mr. Thomas Smith came forth to speak for his mother, Gloria Smith, who owns the property at 914 Lancaster Street. Mr. Smith asked for more time to complete his repairs on the property. Motion by Councilman Davis with a second from Councilman Grissett to grant a 30-day extension on the condemnation. AYES: All (4) Council President Patterson indicated to Mr. Smith that he must obtain permits and have the structure meet full compliance within 30 days or demolition will proceed.

Resolution #1718 authorizing the surplus of City property for auction.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second by Councilman Grissett to approve Resolution #1718. Roll Call. AYES: Councilman Davis, Councilman Grissett, Council President Patterson, and Councilman Tucker.

Resolution #1719 approving policy regarding appropriations for human service agencies.
Resolution #1720 committing to maintain a General Fund balance of 8%-10%.
Resolution #1721 approving that the base water and sewer rates are to be tied to Consumer Price Index and adjusted automatically.

Motion by Councilman Davis with a second by Councilman Grissett to approve Resolutions #1719 through #1721. Roll Call. AYES: Councilman Davis, Councilman Grissett, Council President Patterson, and Councilman Tucker.

Ordinance #1645 adopting the official annual budget for fiscal year 2008-2009.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Davis for immediate consideration of Ordinance #1645. Roll Call. AYES: Councilman Davis, Councilman Grissett, Council President Patterson, and Councilman Tucker.

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second from Councilman Davis for reading of the heading only of Ordinance #1645. Roll Call. AYES: Councilman Davis, Councilman Grissett, Council President Patterson, and Councilman Tucker.

An ordinance adopting the official annual budget for the City of Talladega, Alabama, for the fiscal year beginning 1 October 2008 and ending 30 September 2009;

Motion by Councilman Grissett with a second by Councilman Davis for adoption of Ordinance #1645. Roll Call. AYES: Councilman Davis, Councilman Grissett, Council President Patterson, and Councilman Tucker.

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, NAY: Councilman Tucker
Expenditures for August 15-28, 2008 **\$ 168,817.00**

Parking enforcement around the Courthouse Square was discussed in length. Council President Patterson indicated that several citizens had contacted him about certain social agencies and other businesses around the Square whose clients needed more than the allowed 2 hour parking to conduct their business. Councilman Grissett and Councilman Tucker also indicated that they had heard complaints/comments from citizens receiving parking tickets on the Square. Councilman Tucker indicated that the beauty parlor on the Square needed to have more than two hours allotted to their customers in order to conduct business. Discussion included setting a moratorium on ticket writing until further analysis of the situation could be done, no tickets off the Square, using shopping passes in the car windows, and how far down the streets leading from the Square are included in the ordinance. The City Manager suggested that the Council should ask the downtown merchants' organization for their opinion on how the parking enforcement was working for them. It was agreed to have the downtown merchants' organization representatives come to the next council meeting and to continue with the current parking enforcement in the interim.

Mayor York read a letter dated 2 September 2008 from Dr. Horton of the Talladega City Board of Education: *"Dear Mayor York and City Council Members: Please be advised that the Talladega City Board of Education members at a special meeting on Thursday, August 28, 2008, approved to accept the property (8.81 acres) being conveyed to Talladega City Board of Education by the City of Talladega with the two stipulations to construct and maintain a school bus shop and maintenance facility. We appreciate each of you and your willingness to work with the Talladega City Schools in our efforts to move the system forward. If you have questions, please contact me. Sincerely, Joanne Horton, ED.D., Superintendent."*

Mayor York also read a letter date 29 July 2008 from State of Alabama, Department of Education, *"Dear Mayor York: This will confirm the Administrative Review of your Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) conducted on July 22-23, 2008, by Teresa Kelley of the Child Nutrition Programs staff. This review was discussed with Ms. Brenda Lee. There were no exceptions noted in your review. Congratulations on successfully providing a needed service to the children of your community. Should you have any questions regarding program administration, please contact Pre-School Nutrition. If you have any questions regarding the review, you may contact our office. Sincerely, Perry W. Fulton, Director, Child Nutrition Programs."*

Councilman Miller apologized for being late to the meeting. Councilman Miller commented that the commentary/article in the *Daily Home* newspaper indicated that the funding to the Ritz Theater had been increased by an additional \$155,000, but that was incorrect. The total project cost was \$155,000.

Councilman Tucker wished to thank the *Daily Home* for the editorial about the Knoxville Family Life Center.

Councilman Davis announced that the Joint Meeting with the City School Board would be held on Tuesday, September 23 at 5:30 pm at Presbyterian Oaks III. Councilman Davis requested that the Council have some items prepared to go on the agenda. Suggestions included asking the Board to share information on programs that they have developed that would directly impact student drop-out rate and the strategies to increase student achievement on standardized tests. Council President Patterson requested the School Board's five year plan on capital improvements. Further suggestions for the joint meeting agenda are to be given to the City Manager.

Councilman Davis asked that since the City now had a Manager, if it was necessary to continue having liaisons for each department, stating that he felt it gave a mixed message to employees and citizens. There was a great deal of discussion concerning the role of liaisons, open lines of communication and having the council go through the City Manager with all issues. Consensus of the Council was to "relax" the role of liaisons and to re-evaluate in one year.

Councilman Davis asked how selection of which streets to be paved was decided. Council President Patterson stated that historically the Public Works Director made

recommendations on which streets to pave, but that this should go through the City Manager. Councilman Davis expressed a hope that the paving would be on a most needed basis instead of dividing up equally between Wards. Councilman Grissett suggested a civil engineer be consulted for suggestions of which streets were most in need of paving. The City Manager indicated that the state requires a licensed engineer work on the paving done with state funding.

Councilman Davis commented on having all employees use direct deposit, noting that currently it is voluntary. Councilman Davis indicated that he had gone by the Spring Street Recreation Center and noted that the area for the hurricane refugees appeared to be well run.

Councilman Davis asked for an update on the garbage collection bid. The City Manager indicated that negotiations had started with the only bidder.

Councilman Miller asked for an update on the Shocco Springs project. The City Manager indicated that the report was due tomorrow.

Council President Patterson asked about the time frame for the equipment for the playgrounds and whether layout sketches would be presented. City Manager indicated that now that the budget was approved and starting on October first, the project could go forward with design (including sketches), bidding and installation of the playgrounds. The budget also included piping the ditch at Veterans' Park. Councilman Tucker indicated that there was a drainage ditch at Edythe Sims Park that also needed to be addressed with possible grant funding. City Manager indicated that in the budget was the beginning of a five year plan of capital improvements including the storm water program which will not cure the problem in one year or even five years but will definitely remove a lot of the problems and improve the appearance of the community.

There was some discussion on promoting the City as a retirement community. The City Manager indicated that the City should also be marketed as having a young work force capable of sustaining numerous businesses.

Councilman Grissett motioned 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 Thursday, 4 September 2008, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall in the City of Talladega, Alabama.

Elizabeth Cheeks
Acting City Clerk