

CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
June 23, 2025 – 5:30pm

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, June 23, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Talladega City Hall Chambers. The meeting was called to order and the following were present: Council President Hugh Sims, Councilman Steve Dickerson, Council Member Vickey Hall, Council Member Betty Spratlin, City Manager Derrick Swanson, and Mayor Ashton Hall.

Moment of Silence.

Public hearing was opened for anyone who wished to comment and/or object to the ten (10) properties set for weed abatement. No one was present to comment and the public hearing was closed.

Motion by Councilman Dickerson with a second from Council Member Hall to approve invoices and expenditures. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Total Invoices & Expenditures from 6/3/2025-6/11/2025	\$274,810.72
General Fund	161,994.98
Corrections Fund	20,493.85
Municipal Airport	2,833.45
Capital Projects Trust Fund	89,488.44

Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Council Member Spratlin for the approval of the minutes of the Work Session and the Regular Meeting on June 9, 2025. Roll Call. AYES: All.

A representative of Talladega 7, a local nonprofit organization, addressed the Council. He explained that the organization’s mission is to increase graduation rates at Talladega High School by providing students with support and resources beyond the classroom. Many students face economic and social challenges, and the organization assists through a free ACT prep program for 30 students, mentoring opportunities, and college campus tours. He noted that over the past four years, Talladega 7 has played a direct role in improving graduation rates and raising ACT scores. The group is hosting its first annual “Commitment to Drive” golf tournament, with 100% of proceeds to benefit the community and support for Talladega City Schools. He thanked the Council for their time and asked that the organization be considered for support. Council President Sims noted that the sponsorship packet included seven different levels and asked if any other Council Members had questions or wished to discuss the matter. Council Member Hall stated that this organization likely was not aware of the City's appropriation process. She requested that, moving forward, the City advertise the appropriation period in the newspaper and on the City’s website, including the deadline for submitting requests. She noted that it is unfair to deny funding to groups who were not informed of the process.

Council Member Dickerson asked the other Council Members to consider reviewing their discretionary budgets to see if they are able to contribute toward the sponsorship. He stated that he would be reviewing his own budget to determine what he might be able to contribute and suggested that, if others are interested, they could coordinate at a later time.

Reverend Hugh Morris appeared before the Council to provide a report on the appropriation granted to the NAACP. He stated that the funds were used to provide a scholarship to Robyn Lewis. He also noted that additional scholarships, funded separately by the NAACP, were awarded to Kamiya Ball, Tranee Curry, and Tameria Twyman.

Resolution #6278 approving the weed abatement for property located at 110 E. Damon Ave.

Resolution #6279 approving the weed abatement for property located at 514 East St. South

Resolution #6280 approving the weed abatement for property located at 2187 Allison Mill Rd.

Resolution #6281 approving the weed abatement for property located 105 Milliard St.

Resolution #6282 approving the weed abatement for property located at 103 Milliard St.

Resolution #6283 approving the weed abatement for property located at 331 Highland Ave.

Resolution #6284 approving the weed abatement for property located at 330 Highland Ave.

Resolution #6285 approving the weed abatement for property located at 308 Maine St.

Resolution #6286 approving the weed abatement for property located at 121 Debbie St.

Resolution #6287 approving the weed abatement for property located at 215 Brecon Circle

Motion by Council Member Hall with a second from Council President Sims for the approval of Resolution #6278 to Resolution #6287. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #6288 approving the travel request for Summer Ammons to attend the Alabama Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA) State Softball Tournament on June 27 to June 29, 2025 in Arab, Alabama

Resolution #6289 approving the travel request for Summer Ammons to attend the Alabama Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA) Sports Committee meeting on July 9, 2025 in Montgomery, AL

Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Council Member Spratlin for the approval of Resolution #6288 and Resolution #6289. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #6290 approving an agreement with Pyro Shows of Alabama for the 2025 July 4 celebration in the amount of \$13,500.00

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Councilman Dickerson for the approval of Resolution #6290. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Council President Sims with a second by Council Member Spratlin to approve invoices and expenditures for the Water Department. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Water Department Expenditures for 6/3/2025 to 6/11/2025 **\$900,448.56**

Water/Sewer Fund 900,448.56

Resolution #6291 approving an amended contract with GFL Environmental for residential waste collection and disposal increase at a cost of \$23.92 per customer, per month, and a second cart at a cost of \$10.41 per customer, per month

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Councilman Dickerson for the approval of Resolution #6291. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #6292 approving a contract with Servline for utility protection services

Council Member Dickerson requested additional information regarding the proposed services offered by Servline. Water and Sewer Director Fuller explained that the City currently provides adjustments for water leaks and pool credits based on the highest bill. She stated that these adjustments are costing the City approximately \$50,000 to \$60,000 annually. It was noted that under the proposed Leak Protection Program with HomeServe, customers would enroll directly and pay HomeServe for coverage. Customers would be eligible for one leak adjustment per twelve-month period. To qualify, the leak must result in an additional charge of at least two times the customer's average bill over the previous twelve months. For a qualifying leak, the customer would only be responsible for paying their average bill. The leak adjustment would be reimbursed to the Water and Sewer Department for the adjustment, up to the selected protection limit, minus the customer's average bill. The Water Department would not be obligated to make any bill adjustments outside of the program. Customers must have the leak repaired and provide proof of the repair before any adjustment is considered.

Council Member Dickerson stated that he was not sure if the rest of the Council shared his position, but this was how he personally felt. He expressed concern about allowing a company to sell insurance to water customers and noted that if a customer has a leak, they should take responsibility by reporting it to the Water Department and the property owner, if applicable, and ensuring the issue is repaired. He emphasized that his priority is protecting the citizens of Talladega and Ward 1. He also remarked that the \$50,000 in adjustments referenced earlier is a small percentage of the total annual water and sewer revenue. He concluded by stating that unless a workshop is held to further discuss the matter, he would not support the proposal. Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Councilman Dickerson to table Resolution #6291 until the next meeting where there will be a discussion during a work session. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Mayor Hall welcomed everyone and expressed appreciation for their continued involvement and investment in the community. He thanked Ms. Falkner and her team for organizing the recent employee

benefits fair, noting that he attended and found it to be a great experience for City staff. He also recognized Mr. Swanson and Ms. McClurkin for their work on the road signage project along the highway, including their efforts in contacting ALDOT. He next stated that he looks forward to providing future updates to the Council and the public on the project.

Council Member Dickerson thanked all of the individuals and organizations that presented during the meeting, as well as everyone in attendance. He expressed appreciation to the Mayor, Chief McElrath and the Talladega Police Department, Mr. Pointer and his team, Council Member Hall, Mr. Swanson, and Ms. Ammons for their support of the organization that sponsored the Juneteenth program. He noted that although the event was eventually rained out, it was still a success and thanked everyone who contributed to making it possible. He also asked Mr. Swanson to follow up with him regarding a phone call related to a rental contract, stating that it may have already been addressed but he wanted to confirm. Council Member Dickerson congratulated all of the scholarship recipients and their parents or guardians who were present, and thanked them for the support they provide to students in the City of Talladega. He also thanked Reverend Morris for taking the time to present the scholarship awards during the meeting. He concluded by extending his thanks to the Fire Chief.

Council Member Spratlin requested that Mr. Swanson provide a list by the next Council meeting of all buildings owned by the City. She also asked that the list include all parking lots and City-owned properties, along with information indicating whether utilities are active at each location or if the property is currently in use.

Council President Sims stated that he received the same call as Councilman Dickerson and tried to explain to the caller that the Council had approved a new policy regarding the rental of City buildings, and that the caller needed to follow that procedure. He expressed hope that the caller will comply. President Sims then recognized City Attorney O'Brien to speak.

City Attorney O'Brien requested a brief meeting with the Council to provide an update on potential litigation. He noted that this would be a non-action item and that in his legal opinion, qualifies as an exception to the Open Meetings Act, allowing the Council to enter into a closed session. He anticipated the meeting would take no longer than ten minutes and recommended inviting Tanna Falkner to attend. Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Council Member Hall to enter into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation at 6:05pm. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Council returns to Chambers at 6:09pm with no action taken.

Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Council Member Hall to adjourn the meeting. AYES: All.

AUTHENTICATION

I, Joanna Medlen, 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, June 23, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in the City of Talladega, Alabama City Hall Council Chambers.


Joanna Medlen, City Clerk