

CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
September 22, 2025 – 5:30pm

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, September 22, 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, Councilman Shane Denney, City Manager Derrick Swanson, and Mayor Ashton Hall.

Moment of Silence.

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Council Member Hall for the approval of the amended agenda. Roll Call. AYES: All.

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

Total Invoices & Expenditures from 8/30/2025-9/12/2025		\$391,917.44
General Fund	177,343.24	
Corrections Fund	20,494.17	
Municipal Airport	21,269.08	
Capital Projects Trust Fund	172,810.95	

Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Councilman Dickerson for the approval of the Called Canvass Meeting on September 2, 2025, and the Regular Meeting on September 8, 2025. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Council President Sims stated that although the following matter was not listed on the agenda, he deferred to Mr. Donnie Miller of the Chamber of Commerce to provide remarks. Mr. Miller addressed the Council and first expressed his appreciation to the Council for voting to proceed with the NextSite analysis for the City. He noted that the decision was already generating interest from property owners, particularly in connection with the sale of the Kroger Shopping Center, and he indicated that such interest could help open doors for future development. Mr. Miller explained that he had spoken with representatives earlier in the day and that the contract would be finalized once executed by the appropriate parties. He next proceeded to update the Council on upcoming Chamber of Commerce activities. He stated that the Chamber would be hosting its inaugural golf tournament for the Chamber Ambassadors, a youth focused program intended to engage younger residents in civic and professional development. Proceeds from the tournament would be used to support scholarships and other related opportunities. He added that sponsors and participants were welcome and encouraged to take part in the event. Mr. Miller further reported that the Chamber would sponsor a holiday breakfast with Santa on December 6, to be held in the Chamber parking lot from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. He stated that pancakes and sausages would be served free of charge to attendees. He also noted that the annual Christmas parade would take place as scheduled and that the tree lighting ceremony had already been coordinated to follow the parade. In addition, the Chamber would be conducting a decorating contest for both businesses and residents, with cash prizes to be awarded in the amounts of \$200 and \$100. Mr. Miller emphasized that these events, along with youth trips to Montgomery and other outreach efforts along with youth trips to Montgomery and other outreach efforts, were part of the Chamber’s ongoing efforts to strengthen community involvement and morale.

At this time, Council President Sims inquired whether there were any activities planned for Halloween. Mr. Miller responded that Main Street would host a Trunk-or-Treat event on October 31 in the Chamber parking lot. He noted that arrangements were being made with the Police Department to block off East Street and Coffee Street to accommodate the event.

Council President Sims also observed that, although not on the agenda, the Library Board was currently operating with four members and that several applications had been received from citizens who were willing to serve. Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Councilman Denney to appoint Leeann Scarborough to the Talladega Public Library Board. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Mayor Hall swears in Leeann Scarborough to the Talladega Public Library Board.

Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Councilman Dickerson to approve the contribution request from College City Temple #823 for their annual Breast Cancer Awareness Walk in the total amount of \$800.00. The allocation was designated as \$300.00 from Council Member Hall, \$300.00 from Council President Sims, and \$200.00 from Council Member Spratlin. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Council Member Hall with a second from Councilman Dickerson to approve the FY2026 Holiday Schedule. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Councilman Dickerson for the approval of the Talladega High School Homecoming Parade request. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Travel Requests

Resolution #6388 approving the travel request for Councilman Steve Dickerson to attend the ALM Orientation Training in Montgomery, Alabama on October 29 to October 30, 2025

Resolution #6389 approving the travel request for Sandra Beavers to attend the Annual Senior Center Manager Training in Oxford, Alabama on September 23, 2025

Resolution #6390 approving the travel request for Dennis McDaniel, Ron McElrath and Bob Curtis to attend The Power of Trust Based Law Enforcement Leadership training in Gadsden, Alabama on October 3, 2025

Motion by Councilman Denney with a second from Council Member Hall for the approval of Resolution #6388 to Resolution #6390. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Contract Extensions

Resolution #6391 approving a contract extension for the second year with RK Allen Oil Company, Inc. for aviation jet fuel per bid specifications

Resolution #6392 approving a contract extension for the second year with Fleet Analytics for fleet tracking services per bid specifications

Resolution #6393 approving a contract extension for the second year with Mitchell Mowing for ground maintenance for the Water Department facilities per bid specifications

Resolution #6394 approving a contract extension for the second year with Mitchell Mowing for ground Maintenance at Oak Hill Cemetery per bid specifications

Resolution #6395 approving a contract extension for the second year with RK Allen Oil Company, Inc. for petroleum per bid specifications

Resolution #6396 approving a contract extension for the second year with Alabama Ventures for tree cutting and stump removal services per bid specifications

Motion by Councilman Dickerson with a second from Council President Sims for the approval of Resolution #6391 to Resolution #6396. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Annual Contracts

Resolution #6397 approving a contract with Central Alabama Training Solutions for Personal Protective Equipment for the Fire Department per bid specifications

Resolution #6398 approving a contract with Suburban Propane for propane per bid specifications

Resolution #6399 approving a contract with Dunn's HVAC Electric and Plumbing for HVAC maintenance per bid specifications

Resolution #6400 approving a contract with Vulcan Material Construction for stone products per bid specifications

Resolution #6401 approving a contract with Brenntag, Industrial Chemical, Pencco, Affinity Chemical, and Service Chemicals for water treatment chemicals per bid specifications

Resolution #6402 approving a contract with Ferguson, Empire Pipe, Consolidated Pipe, and Core & Main for water construction supplies per bid specifications

Resolution #6403 approving a contract with Kirkpatrick Concrete for concrete per bid specifications

Resolution #6404 approving a contract with Advanced Asphalt Products for cold mix per bid specifications

Resolution #6405 approving a contract with Taylor Sudden for generator maintenance per bid specifications

Resolution #6406 approving a contract with Thomas Vaults for grave opening and closing services per bid specifications

Resolution #6407 approving a contract with Crawford Office Supplies for janitorial supplies per bid specifications

Resolution #6408 approving a contract with Staples for office supplies per bid specifications

Resolution #6409 approving a contract with Knox Pest Control for pest control services per bid specifications

Resolution #6410 approving a contract with Mitchell Mowing for nuisance overgrown lots per bid specifications

Resolution #6411 approving a contract with Alexander Construction for sidewalk restoration per bid specifications

Resolution #6412 approving a contract with Cherokee Environmental for sludge removal services per bid specifications

Resolution #6413 approving a contract with B&S Sporting Goods, United Apparel, and KROWN USA for sports uniforms per bid specifications

Resolution #6414 approving a contract with Alexander Construction for street patching per bid specifications

Resolution #6415 approving a contract with Living Water Services, LLC and Guardian Systems for water sewer testing per bid specifications

Motion by Councilman Denney with a second from Council President Sims to table Resolution #6397 to Resolution #6415. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #6416 approving a contract with Waites Construction for demolition of condemned structures per bid specifications

Resolution #6417 approving a contract with CVR Computer Services for ink and toner per bid specifications

Resolution #6418 – A approving a contract with Holiday Lights and Designs for the **purchase** of Christmas decorations and installation per bid specifications

Resolution #6418 – B approving a contract with Holiday Lights and Designs for the **rental** of Christmas decorations and installation per bid specifications

Motion by Councilman Denney with a second from Council President Sims to table Resolution #6418 – A and Resolution #6418 – B. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #6422 amending the employment agreement with Derrick Swanson as City Manager

Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Councilman Dickerson for the approval of Resolution #6422. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #6423 approving the travel request for Councilman Shane Denney to attend the ALM Orientation Training in Montgomery, Alabama on October 29 to October 30, 2025

Motion by Councilman Denney with a second from Council Member Hall for the approval of Resolution #6423. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Dickerson with a second by Council Member Spratlin to approve invoices and expenditures for the Water Department. Roll Call. AYES: Council President Sims, Councilman Dickerson, Council Member Hall, and Council Member Spratlin NAY: Councilman Denney

Water Department Expenditures for 8/30/2025 to 9/12/2025

\$14,900.01

Water/Sewer Fund

14,900.01

Resolution #6419 approving an agreement with Mike Morgan Industrial, LLC for the Dam Road Remediation project at a cost of \$245,701.00

Motion by Council President Sims to reject the resolution and to consider other options for the project. *The motion failed for lack of a second.*

Motion by Councilman Dickerson with a second from Council Member Hall for the approval of Resolution #6419. Roll Call. AYES: Councilman Dickerson and Council Member Hall NAYS: Council President Sims, Council Member Spratlin, and Councilman Denney *Motion fails.*

Council President Sims inquired about obtaining a drawing of the road leading to the dam. He asked specifically how the road would run and whether it would go straight down, noting that he would like additional details. Water Director Fuller responded that she would try to obtain the drawing. Council President Sims requested that the drawing be presented back to the Council for review once it was available.

City Manager Swanson reported that the City had received confirmation of a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant, which will extend from the downtown area toward Walmart. He expressed appreciation for the award, noting the competitive nature of the process, and explained that the City's portion of the cost would be twenty percent. He further stated that he was awaiting the final amount from the Governor's Office and had received correspondence regarding four additional pending items. City Manager Swanson also noted that, as mentioned during the budget hearing, the City has in place a master paving project plan, a master sidewalk plan, and a master ADA transition plan, all of which have now been completed. He added that the City is still awaiting literature or email confirmation regarding the master transportation safety plan. He emphasized that these plans provide valuable information, particularly in pursuing grants, and help the City to move projects forward efficiently.

Council President Sims asked whether the pedestrian improvement project, with expenditures of approximately \$17,000, was connected to the TAP grant. City Manager Swanson clarified that it was a separate project and explained that the TAP funding is tied to the area extending from the downtown square to Walmart. Council President Sims stated that he had not yet seen any work begin on that project. City Manager Swanson assured the Council that funding would not be jeopardized, noting that some of the expenditures reflected in reports are payments to engineering companies working to advance the project to the implementation stage. Council President Sims asked whether the \$17,000 expenditure was going to GMC, the company performing the bid work. City Manager Swanson explained that some of the work is eligible for reimbursement under various grants. He noted that, to receive reimbursement, the City must ensure that all required measures are put in place. He further stated that he can provide the Council with the reimbursed amount so that members may see exactly what is covered.

Mayor Hall stated that he had a couple of announcements and explained that Darius Swain, Director of Talladega College, was unable to be present. On behalf of Mr. Swain, Mayor Hall thanked the Council for donations of water to the Talladega College band and encouraged attendance at the next meeting. He expressed gratitude for the donation and reported that this past Saturday's Alumni Day was a great success, with many citizens coming out to enjoy the event together. He noted that the Talladega High School campus was filled with activity and commended Chief McElrath and the Police Department for their efforts in keeping the area safe, emphasizing that this is something the City hopes to continue. Mayor Hall also thanked the officers who spearheaded the event. He announced that on Monday, September 29, he and Councilman Shepperd would serve as panelists for the Barbers Against Bullets program.

Council President Sims asked Mr. Miller to confirm the date of the annual Chamber golf tournament. Mr. Miller responded that the event would be held on October 27.

Councilman Dickerson began by echoing Mayor Hall's remarks and noted that there had been an enjoyable time at Duncan Pinkston Park. He expressed thanks to all involved and congratulated City Manager Swanson on the TAP grant award recently received, as well as other grants the City is pursuing. He then addressed the residents of Ward 1, emphasizing that his comments were intended for the entire City. He referenced an incident that occurred a few weeks earlier at Duncan Pinkston Park, where shots were fired into occupied vehicles. Because the matter remains under investigation, he stated he could not comment in detail, but explained that many of those involved were minors, particularly teenage girls. He noted that he had spoken with the Chief of Police regarding the ongoing investigation

and expressed hope that warrants would be issued soon. He stressed that crime and violence will not be tolerated in the City and urged parents, aunts, uncles, and other family members to encourage children to make positive choices. He emphasized that parents must not allow teenage girls to be taken to the park for fighting and stated that this behavior must come to an end. Councilman Dickerson closed his comments by expressing hope and prayer that a quick and firm resolution would be reached in this matter.

Councilman Denney stated that he wished to discuss an ordinance he had mentioned at a prior meeting. He proposed the adoption of an ordinance to allow all children who are residents of Talladega, age fourteen and under, to use the public pool and gym at no charge. He explained that, under current practice, children without money may still be allowed to participate, but he believed all children should be treated equally. Councilman Denney emphasized that it is unfair for one child to be embarrassed because he or she does not have money while another child does, particularly when taxpayers are already supporting these facilities. He stated that children should not have to pay for swimming and other recreational activities at City facilities and that all children in Talladega should be treated the same. Motion by Councilman Denney with a second from Council President Sims to direct City Attorney O'Brien to draft an ordinance providing that all children who are residents of the City of Talladega, age fourteen and under, may use the public pool and gym at no charge. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Council Member Spratlin stated that she was excited to report progress on a roadway in need of paving. She advised that two quotes have been obtained and made a motion to accept one of the bids for work on Whitson Road, with the matter to be coordinated through City Manager Swanson. City Manager Swanson responded that he would need the Council to establish a specific funding amount so that he would have a directive to proceed. Council President Sims inquired about the cost, and Council Member Spratlin reported that the bid was in the amount of \$145,000 and that work could begin immediately. City Attorney O'Brien noted that any project more than \$100,000 must be bid through a formal public works process. City Manager Swanson confirmed that the quotes Council Member Spratlin had received were informal and City Attorney O'Brien reiterated that a formal bid process would be required. Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Councilman Dickerson to move forward with the bid for paving Whitson Rd. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Mayor Hall also reported that the City is continuing to work towards its goal in partnership with the Red Cross project. He noted that volunteers are still being accepted and encouraged anyone interested to contact himself, City Manager Swanson, or Ms. McClurkin, or Chief Warwick for information on how to sign up. He explained that the project will establish a team of approximately 25 volunteers to assist during disasters, storms, fires, or other emergencies, and he urged citizens to sign up to help meet this important community need.

Motion by Council Member Hall with a second from Councilman Dickerson 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, September 22, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the City of Talladega, Alabama City Hall Council Chambers.


Joanna Medlen, City Clerk