

**CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
September 29, 2025 – 10:00am**

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, September 29, 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 Betty Spratlin, Councilman Shane Denney, Interim City Manager Danny Warwick, and Mayor Ashton Hall.

Moment of Silence.

Council President Sims opened the meeting by noting that the City has gone thirteen (13) months without a permanent Police Chief. At this time, Judge Nelson was present to administer the oath of office to Chief Ron McElrath, who was sworn in as Chief of Police. Chief McElrath, who has been with the Talladega Police Department since 2001, expressed appreciation to the Council for its support and for the opportunity to serve as Chief

Ordinance #1963 approving the official annual budget for the City of Talladega, Alabama, for the fiscal year beginning 1 October 2025 and ending 30 September 2026 *Listed on the agenda, but was not considered, and no action was taken.*

Resolution #6424 approving a contract with Central Alabama Training Solutions for Personal Protective Equipment for the Fire Department per bid specifications

Resolution #6425 approving a contract with Suburban Propane for propane per bid specifications

Resolution #6426 approving a contract with Dunn's HVAC Electric and Plumbing for HVAC maintenance per bid specifications

Resolution #6427 approving a contract with Vulcan Material Construction for stone products per bid specifications

Resolution #6428 approving a contract with Brenntag, Industrial Chemical, Pencco, Affinity Chemical, and Service Chemicals for water treatment chemicals per bid specifications

Resolution #6429 approving a contract with Ferguson, Empire Pipe, Consolidated Pipe, and Core & Main for water construction supplies per bid specifications

Resolution #6430 approving a contract with Kirkpatrick Concrete for concrete per bid specifications

Resolution #6431 approving a contract with Advanced Asphalt Products for cold mix per bid specifications

Resolution #6432 approving a contract with Taylor Sudden for generator maintenance per bid specifications

Resolution #6433 approving a contract with Thomas Vaults for grave opening and closing services per bid specifications

Resolution #6434 approving a contract with Crawford Office Supplies for janitorial supplies per bid specifications

Resolution #6435 approving a contract with Staples for office supplies per bid specifications

Resolution #6436 approving a contract with Knox Pest Control for pest control services per bid specifications

Resolution #6437 approving a contract with Mitchell Mowing for nuisance overgrown lots per bid specifications

Resolution #6438 approving a contract with Alexander Construction for sidewalk restoration per bid specifications

Resolution #6439 approving a contract with Cherokee Environmental for sludge removal services per bid specifications

Resolution #6440 approving a contract with B&S Sporting Goods, United Apparel, and KROWN USA for sports uniforms per bid specifications

Resolution #6441 approving a contract with Alexander Construction for street patching per bid specifications

Resolution #6442 approving a contract with Living Water Services, LLC and Guardian Systems for water sewer testing per bid specifications

Resolution #6443 approving a contract with CVR Computer Services for ink and toner per bid specifications

Motion by Councilman Dickerson with a second from Councilman Denney for the approval of Resolution #6424 to Resolution #6443. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Councilman Denney to appropriate an additional \$20,000.00 to the Alabama Extension Office. Roll Call. AYES: All. *Amended October 27, 2025 to correct the amount appropriated to the Alabama Extension Office from \$10,000.00 to \$20,000.00*

Resolution #6444 – A approving a contract with Holiday Lights and Designs for the **purchase** of Christmas decorations and installation per bid specifications *Included on the agenda but was not considered and no action was taken.*

Resolution #6444 – B approving a contract with Holiday Lights and Designs for the **rental** of Christmas decorations and installation per bid specifications *Included on the agenda but was not considered and no action was taken.*

Councilman Denney noted that the Council did not have a full estimate of the costs associated with purchasing new holiday decorations versus renting them. He stated that before a decision could be made, it will be necessary to have a complete account of the anticipated expenses. Council President Sims inquired about the status of decorations that were previously purchased, asking if any could be repurposed and if the Council had approved the purchase of a Christmas tree. Finance Director Phillips responded that an inventory of existing holiday decorations could be provided and that she believed cost estimates could be obtained with the assistance of City Manager Swanson.

Motion by Councilman Dickerson with a second from Councilman Denney to appropriate \$25,430.00 to Talladega College. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Denney with a second from Council President Sims to appropriate \$1,000.00 to Liberty Learning. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Councilman Denney to contribute \$1,000.00 to the Alabama Extension Office and \$439.30 to the Talladega High School Cheerleaders from Council President Sims' allotted discretionary funds. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Councilman Denney to authorize Council Member Hall and Council Member Spratlin to expend the remainder of their discretionary funds for such organizations as they deem appropriate. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Council President then asked Mayor Hall if he had any comments. Mayor Hall congratulated Chief McElrath on his appointment as Police Chief and announced that a community event, Barbes Against Bullets, would be held at the bottling works at 6:00pm that evening. He encouraged all citizens to attend.

Councilman Dickerson extended greetings and acknowledged that he, along with Council Member Hall, Finance Director Phillips, and City Manager Swanson, recently attended a conference in Washington, DC. During the trip, they visited the offices of Congressman Mike Rogers, Senator Katie Britt, and Senator Tommy Tuberville. Councilman Dickerson stated that there were very promising discussions and that a formal report would be provided to the Council later when the entire body was present. He further noted that while the City has not yet adopted a budget the discussions in Washington included several potential opportunities. He indicated that updates would be provided once more information was available and encouraged staff and Council to continue their work. He also congratulated Chief McElrath on his appointment.

Councilman Shane Denney commended Chief McElrath for his many years of service, training, and dedication, stating that the City made a wise choice in his appointment. He expressed confidence that the Chief will do a fantastic job and noted regret that it took thirteen months for the Council to finalize the decision. Councilman Denney also reflected on his experience since being elected, remarking that entering office had been a "crash course" in government. He described early discussions with the City Manager and reiterated his support for the Chief throughout the appointment process.

Regarding financial matters, Councilman Denney observed that the budget was forty-five days late. He emphasized the responsibility of the Council to safeguard taxpayers' dollars, commended

Finance Director Phillips for her work, and called for accountability and transparency in both spending and communication. He further expressed frustration at delays in receiving responses to budget inquiries, stating that the Council should not be expected to approve a \$24 million budget without proper review. He affirmed his commitment to honesty, integrity, and responsible decision-making, cautioning against reliance on unverified rumors. In closing, Councilman Denney stated that his role is not to be popular but to ensure that every tax dollar is properly accounted for. He emphasized that his motion to relieve the City Manager of duties was based on contract obligations and accountability in the budget process. Motion by Councilman Denney with a second from Council President Sims to relieve Derrick Swanson of his duties for violation of his employment contract. Roll Call. AYES: Council President Sims, Councilman Denney, and Council Member Spratlin NAY: Councilman Dickerson

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Councilman Denney to appoint Chief Danny Warwick as Interim City Manager. Roll Call. AYES: Council President Sims, Councilman Denney, and Council Member Spratlin ABSTAIN: Councilman Dickerson

Council President Sims scheduled a Special Called Meeting for Wednesday, October 1, 2025 at 12pm.

Motion by Council President Sims 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 29, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the City of Talladega, Alabama City Hall Council Chambers.


Joanna Medlen, City Clerk