

**CITY OF TALLADEGA**  
**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**November 10, 2025 – 5:30pm**

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, November 10, 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, Interim City Manager Danny Warwick, and Mayor Ashton Hall.

Invocation by Council President Sims.

Council President Sims introduced Jim Fannin, who in turn presented and recognized members of the Alabama School for the Deaf soccer team. Team members recognized included Blake Tucker, Pedro Garcia, Noah Garica, Micah Renfro, Eli Lewis, Charles Williams, Zalia Cook, Jaylah Allen, Sierra Motley, Alana Williams, Chelsea Rhodes, and Paschal Lopez. Council President Sims commented the team on their participation in the City’s recreation league and congratulated them on their eighth championship game.

Council President Sims turned the floor over to Interim City Manager Warwick for the presentation of donations in support of the City’s annual Christmas on the Square event. Interim City Manager Warwick invited each donor representative to come forward individually for a photo with the City Council, followed by a group photo. Council President Sims announced the first donation, stating that Mr. Chad Thomas with the First Bank of Alabama presented a contribution in the amount of \$10,000.00. Interim City Manager Warwick then recognized additional sponsors and expressed appreciation for their support. Donations were received from the following organizations: Alabama Power, Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (AIDB), Baptist/Orlando Healthcare, Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative, Graham Davis of Davis Builders, DynaSafe, First Bank of Alabama, Georgia Pacific, InSite Engineering, Evelyn McGehee, Presbyterian Home for Children, R.K. Allen Oil Company, Inc., Talladega College, Talladega Insurance Agency, Talladega Main Street, Talladega Superspeedway, and TOP Trails. A group photo was taken of all sponsors present. Council President Sims thanked all sponsors for their generous contributions and continued support of the Christmas on the Square event.

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

|                                                                     |                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Total Invoices &amp; Expenditures from 10/17/2025-10/31/2025</b> | <b>\$724,910.86</b> |
| General Fund                                                        | 245,711.02          |
| Corrections Fund                                                    | 9,640.30            |
| Municipal Airport                                                   | 55,202.79           |
| Capital Projects Trust Fund                                         | 414,356.75          |

Motion by Council Member Hall with a second from Council Member Spratlin for the approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 27, 2025. AYES: All.

Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Councilman Denney to approve Charlie Diggs’ application to the Talladega Redevelopment Authority. AYES: All

Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Councilman Dickerson to accept the resignation of Andrea Herbster and Merri Jane Miller from the Talladega Public Library Board. AYES: All.

Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Councilman Dickerson to approve Melissa McEwen’s application to the Heritage Hall Commission. AYES: All.

Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Councilman Denney to approve Cheryl Cate and Dr. Jimmy Davis’ application to the Talladega Public Library Board. AYES: All.

**Ordinance #1965** declaring and deeming certain municipal property surplus and not needed for public purposes and authorizing the conveyance thereof to the Talladega Redevelopment Authority

Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Council Member Spratlin for the Reading of the Heading Only. AYES: All.

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING AND DEEMING CERTAIN MUNICIPAL PROPERTY SURPLUS AND NOT NEEDED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES AND AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE THEREOF TO THE ALABAMA REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Councilman Denney for Immediate Consideration of Ordinance #1965. AYES: All.

Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Councilman Dickerson for the Adoption of Ordinance #1965. AYES: All.

**Resolution #6476** accepting donations for the 2025 Christmas on the Square event

Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Council Member Spratlin for the approval of Resolution #6476. AYES: All.

**Resolution #6477** declaring 822 Coffee St. a public nuisance for weeds

**Resolution #6478** declaring 312 E. Sloan Ave. a public nuisance for weeds

**Resolution #6479** declaring 515 Court St. N. a public nuisance for weeds

**Resolution #6480** declaring 215 Brecon Circle a public nuisance for weeds

**Resolution #6481** declaring 821 Mt. Olive Circle a public nuisance for weeds

**Resolution #6482** declaring 615 Ave F a public nuisance for weeds

**Resolution #6483** declaring 617 Ave F a public nuisance for weeds

**Resolution #6484** declaring 415 Park Circle a public nuisance for weeds

**Resolution #6485** declaring 418 Spring St. N. a public nuisance for weeds

**Resolution #6486** declaring 410 Broome St. a public nuisance for weeds

Motion by Councilman Denney with a second from Council Member Spratlin for the approval of Resolution #6477 to Resolution #6486. Roll Call. AYES: All.

**Resolution #6487** approving the travel request for Summer Ammons to attend the ARPA State Soccer Tournament on November 14-November 16, 2025 in Gadsden, Alabama

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Councilman Denney for the approval of Resolution #6487. AYES: All.

**Resolution #6488** approving an agreement with Alabama Extension Office for a FY2026 appropriation of \$30,000.00

Motion by Councilman Dickerson with a second from Councilman Denney for the approval of Resolution #6488. Roll Call. AYES: All.

**Resolution #6489** approving an agreement with the Boys and Girls Club for a FY2026 appropriation of \$5,000.00

Motion by Councilman Dickerson with a second from Councilman Denney for the approval of Resolution #6488. Roll Call. AYES: All.

**Resolution #6490** approving an agreement with Diaper Row for a FY2026 appropriation of \$5,000.00

Motion by Councilman Denney with a second from Councilman Dickerson for the approval of Resolution #6490. Roll Call. AYES: Councilman Dickerson, Council Member Hall, Council Member Spratlin, and Councilman Denney ABSTAIN: Council President Sims

**Resolution #6491** approving an agreement with First Family Services for a FY2026 appropriation of \$6,000.00

**Resolution #6492** approving an agreement with Hall of Heroes for a FY2026 appropriation of \$25,000.00

**Resolution #6493** approving an agreement with Heritage Hall for a FY2026 appropriation of \$61,650.00

**Resolution #6494** approving an agreement with Historic Ritz Theatre for a FY2026 appropriation of \$55,135.00

**Resolution #6495** approving an agreement with Liberty Learning for a FY2026 appropriation of \$1,000.00

**Resolution #6496** approving an agreement with NAACP for a FY2026 appropriation of \$4,000.00

**Resolution #6497** approving an agreement with Palmer Place for a FY2026 appropriation of \$20,000.00

**Resolution #6498** approving an agreement with Presbyterian Home for a FY2026 appropriation of \$10,000.00

**Resolution #6499** approving an agreement with Red Door Kitchen for a FY2026 appropriation of \$20,000.00

**Resolution #6500** approving an agreement with Samaritan House for a FY2026 appropriation of \$10,000.00

**Resolution #6501** approving an agreement with Talladega Seven for a FY2026 appropriation of \$5,000.00

**Resolution #6502** approving an agreement with Talladega City Schools for a FY2026 appropriation of \$75,000.00

**Resolution #6503** approving an agreement with Talladega College for a FY2026 appropriation of \$25,430.00

**Resolution #6504** approving an agreement with Talladega County Drug Task Force for a FY2026 appropriation of \$86,000.00

**Resolution #6505** approving an agreement with Talladega County Economic Development Authority for a FY2026 appropriation of \$10,000.00

**Resolution #6506** approving an agreement with Talladega Pilgrimage Council for a FY2026 appropriation of \$5,000.00

**Resolution #6507** approving an agreement with United Way for a FY2026 appropriation of \$40,000.00

**Resolution #6508** approving an agreement with VCCA for a FY2026 appropriation of \$1,500.00

**Resolution #6509** approving an agreement with the Willie and Betty Farrior Scholarship Fund for a FY2026 appropriation of \$2,000.00

**Resolution #6510** approving an agreement with Connect Strong Community Development for a FY2026 appropriation of \$2,000.00

**Resolution #6511** approving an agreement with Umbrella of Hope for a FY2026 appropriation of \$5,000.00

**Resolution #6512** approving an agreement with the Talladega Redevelopment Authority for a FY2026 appropriation of \$50,000.00

Motion by Councilman Dickerson with a second from Councilman Denney for the approval of Resolution #6491 to Resolution #6512. Roll Call. AYES: All.

**Resolution #6513** approving the façade grant for 136 East St. North in the amount of \$10,000.00

Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Council Member Spratlin for the approval of Resolution #6513. Roll Call. AYES: Council President Sims, Councilman Dickerson, Council Member Hall, and Council Member Spratlin ABSTAIN: Councilman Denney

**Resolution #6514** approving an agreement with the Alabama Department of Transportation for ADA pedestrian paths and sidewalks along Battle St. East from East St. S. to Haynes St.; Project #TAPUC-TA26(918); CPMS Ref#100080928 and 100080929

Motion by Councilman Dickerson with a second from Council Member Spratlin for the approval of Resolution #6514. Roll Call. AYES: All.

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

**Water Department Expenditures for 10/17/2025 to 10/31/2025      \$22,071.39**

Water/Sewer Fund      222,071.39

Interim City Manager Warwick encouraged everyone to support the City's Winter Coat Drive, sponsored by the City of Talladega. He announced that donations of coats, gloves, and blankets may be dropped off at City Hall, the Talladega Public Library, and the Spring Street Recreation Center. Manager Warwick also reminded everyone of the ongoing Food Drive, which runs from October 1 through the end of October, with donations being accepted at the City Clerk's Office. He noted that Veterans Day would be observed the following day and that City offices would be closed in observance of the holiday. Manager Warwick extended appreciation and best wishes to all veterans, stating that a poster recognizing City employees who are veterans had been displayed. He also announced that the Hall of Heroes program would be held the following day at 11:00 a.m. at the Ritz Theatre and invited anyone interested to attend.

Mayor Hall greeted everyone and offered several comments. He thanked Councilman Dickerson for representing him at an event held at Talladega College over the weekend while he was out of town. The event was part of the College's Founders' Day celebration, during which a sorority marked its 100th Centennial. He also expressed appreciation to all who donated to Christmas On the Square and stated that he looks forward to a successful event. He also reminded everyone that the Mayor's Ball will be held on December 20 at the Bottling Works, noting that several in attendance had already purchased tickets. Mayor Hall further recognized the evening's photographer, a graduate student at Talladega College, and stated that he looks forward to working with him in the future. He concluded by saying that he had no further comments.

Councilman Dickerson stated that during a previous meeting, the Council had discussed engaging a firm to assist the City in its search for a permanent City Manager. He reported that he had met with representatives from several companies and recommended that the City proceed with hiring Municipal Services to assist in securing a City Manager at a cost not to exceed \$24,900. Motion by Councilman Dickerson with a second from Councilman Denney to approve utilizing Municipal Services to assist with the City Manager search process. AYES: All.

Councilman Dickerson next expressed appreciation to the Council for the opportunity to attend the League's recent training, noting that it was informative and beneficial. He further requested that the Interim City Manager prepare a report addressing several items that had been requested previously, including the status of the automotive repair shop and whether the shop is now fully operational, the current condition of the motor pool and fleet vehicles, and a comprehensive report on take-home vehicles. He noted that he was aware that several take-home vehicles are assigned as recruitment incentives for the Police Department and some are required for employees responding to emergencies and requested information on any take-home vehicles that have not been reported to the City within the past year. Councilman Dickerson also recognized and congratulated the Talladega ASD soccer team and noted that the football team had advanced to the playoffs. Parks and Recreation Director Ammons reported that the team had competed in a championship game but did not win. She added that she would be taking a combined team of ASD and Parks and Recreation players to Gadsden for an upcoming game.

Councilman Dickerson further remarked that it was a significant accomplishment to go from having no team during the COVID-19 pandemic to fielding a team that advanced all the way to the playoffs this year, and he commended the coaches who volunteer their time. He also expressed appreciation to all sponsors who contributed to Christmas On the Square, noting both financial donations and volunteer time given to support the City of Talladega. Additionally, he thanked individuals who serve on various boards, particularly those who had been recently appointed or reappointed, for their service to the City. He concluded by extending congratulations to all veterans.

Councilman Denney expressed appreciation to everyone who contributed to Christmas On the Square. He also shared his impressions of the unveiling of the Ritz Theatre board, describing the event as beautiful and meaningful, noting that he was proud to share the experience with his son.

He next discussed several operational matters at the City's sports complex. He, Councilman Dickerson, Interim City Manager Warwick, Parks and Recreation Director Ammons, and Community

Services Director Pointer met to review current activities. He noted that certain tasks, such as lawn maintenance, were being performed by staff not typically assigned to these duties, including lifeguards, and asked that the Interim City Manager examine this situation.

He highlighted successful city projects, including the automotive repair shop, and suggested reviewing the possibility of hiring in-house plumbers and HVAC personnel to address water leaks and maintenance needs rather than contracting out these services.

Councilman Denney also spoke about a potential long-term investment for the City. He noted discussions with John Waites regarding property on the Stephen J. White Blvd., which is approximately 61 acres, as well as conversations with Finance Director Phillips regarding potential grants and bonds. He expressed interest in exploring the acquisition of the property to develop a sports complex with a splash pad, emphasizing that such a facility could provide recreational opportunities for citizens and generate revenue for the City. He indicated that he had also consulted with an architect at JSU to assist with planning and asked for support to explore the feasibility and financial impact of the project.

Councilman Denney stated that his ideas were preliminary but emphasized the importance of investing in the City's recreational facilities for the benefit of the community.

Council President Sims remarked that, in his opinion, the location discussed for the proposed sports complex would be ideal.

Councilman Dickerson added, for informational purposes, that there had been an incident in Ward 1 in which a medical emergency reportedly took forty minutes to receive a response. He stated that he had spoken with the Interim City Manager Warwick and that an investigation had been opened. He also emphasized that timely response to medical emergencies is important and that the matter was being actively reviewed to ensure appropriate emergency response in the future.

Councilman Denney concluded his remarks by noting that he had asked Finance Director Phillips to provide preliminary, ballpark numbers for the proposed sports complex and splash pad project. He stated that he believes the project could serve as a fresh start for Talladega, potentially paying for itself financially while also generating additional revenue for local restaurants and hotels. Councilman Denney emphasized the importance of exploring ways to make the project a reality and encouraged collaboration among the City Council, staff, and directors to move forward.

Council Member Spratlin expressed excitement that Whitson Road in Ward 4 had been paved and noted that homeowners in the area were very pleased. She stated that she had personally observed the paving work being completed and thanked all individuals involved in finishing the project.

Council Member Spratlin also recognized City Clerk Medlen, highlighting her dedication and availability in supporting the City Council. She noted that she had recently achieved the Master Municipal Clerk designation and praised her hard work and commitment to serving the City and its officials.

Council President Sims also wished to congratulate City Clerk Medlen on her designation. He also reported that the participated in the recent college parade and attended a basketball game following the parade. He also reported that the Talladega College is launching a "Launch and Learn Lab" startup and accelerator program and suggested that interested parties contact Dr. Todd or Dr. Michaels for additional information. He also addressed parking on the Square, noting that County employees were occupying spaces intended for local businesses. He suggested that a letter be sent to the County Commission requesting that these spaces remain available for patrons and indicated that consideration be given to reinstating enforcement, such as a metered parking, if necessary.

Council Member Spratlin noted that an event would be held at the Ritz Theatre the following day and deferred to Lauren Deal from the Ritz Theatre for details.

Ms. Deal stated that the Veterans Day program would begin at 11:00 a.m. at the Ritz Theatre. She noted that light refreshments would be provided and that the event would include a ceremony and an open house, and she invited everyone to attend.

Council President Sims stated that the Council had previously discussed conducting an audit for the City. He reported that he contacted the Department of Public Accounts in Montgomery to determine if they could conduct the audit. While the Department indicated that they could, they require justification to conduct such an audit. Council President Sims noted that it may be necessary to hire an outside auditing firm instead. He referenced that the last audit had been conducted by Warren Averett, the largest auditing firm in Alabama, but suggested that the Council might consider other firms for this audit.

He emphasized that the Council wants a comprehensive audit and requested that Finance Director Phillips provide recommendations for firms that could perform a full audit, including areas such as Animal Control and other City departments.

Motion by Councilman Dickerson with a second from 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, November 10, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in the City of Talladega, Alabama City Hall Council Chambers.

  
Joanna Medlen, City Clerk