

**CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
December 15, 2025 – 5:30pm**

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, December 15, 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 Councilman Denney.

Motion by Council Member Hall with a second from Council Member Spratlin to approve the amended agenda. AYES: All.

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

Total Invoices & Expenditures from 11/22/2025-12/5/2025	\$151,644.24
General Fund	43,894.24
Capital Projects Trust Fund	107,750.00

Motion by Councilman Denney with a second from Councilman Dickerson to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 24, 2025 and December 1, 2025. AYES: All.

Thomas Wheatt, Operations Manager for NorthStar EMS, appeared before the Council to address the proposed ambulance services agreement. Mr. Wheatt requested Council approval of the agreement. Council President Sims deferred the matter to Interim City Manager Warwick. Mr. Warwick advised the Council that the City is currently under contract for ambulance services through August and that no action was required at this time. He further recommended that the matter be addressed after a new City Manager is in place. City Attorney O'Brien confirmed that the Council could not take action to change the agreement while the current contract remains in effect. No action was taken.

Council President Sims turned the next item over to Interim City Manager Warwick and Mayor Hall for a presentation. Mr. Warwick directed attention to the monitors for a presentation honoring Mary Sood, Public Information Officer. Following the presentation, Mr. Warwick thanked the family and deferred to Mayor Hall. Mayor Hall presented a proclamation to Ms. Sood's daughters and family. Council President Sims thanked the family for allowing the City to share in honoring Ms. Sood.

Ordinance #1966 to provide for traffic control at the intersection of South St. E. and Elm St.

Motion by Council Member Hall with a second from Councilman Dickerson for the Reading of the Heading Only of Ordinance #1966. AYES: All.

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONTROL OF TRAFFIC ENTERING THE INTERSECTION OF SOUTH STREET EAST AND ELM STREET WHILE TRAVELING EASTERLY AND WESTERLY ON SOUTH STREET EAST AND NORTHERLY ON ELM STREET; TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUBSTITUTION AND REPLACEMENT OF THE TRAFFIC LIGHT WITH A THREE-WAY "STOP" SIGN; TO PROVIDE FOR AND REQUIRE THAT ALL TRAFFIC, VEHICULAR OR OTHERWISE, COME TO A FULL AND COMPLETE STOP BEFORE ENTERING THE INTERSECTION OF SOUTH STREET EAST AND ELM STREET WHILE TRAVELING EASTERLY AND WESTERLY ON SOUTH STREET EAST AND NORTHERLY ON ELM STREET; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ERECTION OF A STOP SIGN ON SOUTH STREET EAST AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SOUTH STREET EAST AND THE NORTHWEST INTERSECTION OF ELM STREET; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ERECTION OF A STOP SIGN ON ELM STREET AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF ELM STREET AND THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SOUTH STREET EAST; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ERECTION OF A STOP SIGN ON THE NORTH SIDE OF SOUTH STREET EAST AT A POINT NORTH OF THE INTERSECTION OF ELM STREET AND SOUTH STREET EAST; AND TO PROVIDE PUNISHMENT FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF

Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Councilman Dickerson for Immediate Consideration of Ordinance #1966. AYES: All.

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Councilman Dickerson for the Adoption of Ordinance #1966. AYES: All.

Weed Abatements

Resolution #6552 approving the weed abatement on property located at 822 Coffee St.

Resolution #6553 approving the weed abatement on property located at 415 Park Circle

Resolution #6554 approving the weed abatement on property located at 418 Spring St. N.

Resolution #6555 approving the weed abatement on property located at 615 Ave F

Resolution #6556 approving the weed abatement on property located at 617 Ave F

Resolution #6557 approving the weed abatement on property located at 215 Brecon Circle

Resolution #6558 approving the weed abatement on property located at 410 Broome St.

Resolution #6559 approving the weed abatement on property located at 821 Mt. Olive Circle

Resolution #6560 approving the weed abatement on property located at 515 Court St. N.

Motion by Councilman Denney with a second from Council Member Spratlin for the approval of Resolution #6552 to Resolution #6560. AYES: All.

Travel Requests

Resolution #6561 approving the travel request for Avery Burr to attend FTO Conference on May 3, 2026 to May 8, 2026 in Gulf Shores, Alabama

Resolution #6562 approving the travel request for Summer Ammons, Brian Hutton, Lucas Thomas, and Eric Walker to attend the 2026 ARPA State Conference on February 1, 2026 to February 3, 2026 in Orange Beach, Alabama

Resolution #6563 approving an agreement with Kompan for playground replacement at Pope Hill Park at a cost of \$68,347.03

Resolution #6564 authorizing the execution of a Master Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement and Equipment Schedule with Ford Motor Credit Company LLC for police vehicles and authorizing the granting of a security interest in said vehicles

Resolution #6565 authorizing the purchase of a Sutphen Fire Apparatus through Sourcewell and Approving the Purchase Agreement Utilizing HRSA Grant Funds

Motion by Council Member Hall with a second from Councilman Denney for the approval of Resolution #6561 to Resolution #6565. AYES; All.

Resolution #6566 authorizing temporary approval authority for receipt registers and payables during the absence of the City Clerk

Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Councilman Denney for the approval of Resolution #6566. AYES: All.

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

Water Department Expenditures for 11/22/2025 to 12/5/2025	\$100,858.20
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Water/Sewer Fund	100,858.20
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Interim City Manager Warwick reported that Council Members should receive a call by the end of the week regarding the City Manager search process so that a profile may be created and stated that

weekly email updates would be provided regarding the status of the search. City Attorney O'Brien advised the Council regarding statutory time limitations associated with the interim City Manager appointment and the City Manager search process, including the 120-day limitation. Mr. O'Brien stated that he could not provide a definitive legal opinion at that time regarding options beyond the statutory period and advised that a resolution could be adopted requesting an interpretation from the Attorney General. Council Members requested additional legal research and clarification regarding the applicable law and contractual provisions. The Council discussed the anticipated timeline for receiving candidate names from the search firm, including background check considerations, and emphasized the importance of remaining within statutory time requirements. No action was taken.

Interim City Manager Warwick reported that Christmas on the Square was successful and thanked City employees and others who worked to make the event a success. He requested that those involved stand to be recognized and expressed appreciation for their efforts.

Council President Sims also thanked those who participated in the weekend events and acknowledged the weather conditions.

Mayor Hall thanked City staff, vendors, and participants for their involvement with Christmas on the Square and expressed appreciation for community participation. He also thanked those who attended the vigil honoring Mary Sood and noted an upcoming scholarship ball to be held at the Bottling Works, thanking those who purchased tickets and made donations.

Councilman Dickerson thanked Mayor Hall for his efforts related to the mayoral scholarship ball benefitting educational scholarships for students in the City of Talladega and encouraged community support. He expressed condolences to the family of Mary Sood and to the Miller family following the passing of a long-serving member of the Airport Board. Councilman Dickerson also thanked the committee and participants involved with Christmas on the Square and acknowledged its success. He further encouraged communication with elected officials and the public, emphasizing accountability to residents, property owners, voters, and business owners within the City, and invited constituents to share concerns and input regarding matters affecting the City.

Councilman Denney expressed appreciation for the successful Christmas on the Square event and thanked City staff and participants. He inquired about the City's authority to regulate the number and location of certain businesses, including payday lending and vaping shops. City Attorney O'Brien advised that he did not recall a current ordinance addressing the matter and stated that the issue could be reviewed, including potential zoning considerations. Councilman Denney discussed the upcoming City Manager appointment and proposed consideration of a temporary hiring pause to allow the incoming City Manager an opportunity to evaluate departmental needs. Motion by Councilman Denney to implement a temporary hiring freeze for 30 days. *The motion failed for lack of a second.*

Interim City Manager Warwick and Human Resources Director Falkner advised that several departments currently have active vacancies and that a hiring pause could impact operations.

Councilman Denney also raised concerns regarding the City's audit history and requested consideration of a forensic audit of all departments. The Council discussed options for conducting an audit, including outside firms and state involvement. Council President Sims directed Interim City Manager Warwick to contact at least three auditing firms and report back to the Council. Motion by Councilman Denney with a second from Councilman Dickerson to authorize a forensic audit of all City departments. AYES: All.

Councilman Denney next requested discussion regarding a potential public forum to allow community input on the City School's proposed school building project, including an opportunity for school officials to present information and for citizens to ask questions. Attorney O'Brien advised that the Council could schedule a public forum by resolution, provided no action is taken at that forum. Council President Sims directed the Interim City Manager to contact school officials to explore scheduling a forum at a suitable venue.

Councilman Dickerson requested that the Interim City Manager research the impact of the recent employee pay increase on retirees who have returned to City employment and report back to the Council.

Council Member Spratlin thanked City employees for their work on Christmas on the Square and referenced upcoming holiday schedules. Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Council President Sims to amend the City's holiday schedule to add January 2, resulting the City being closed on that day in addition to January 1. Roll Call. AYES: Council President Sims, Councilman Dickerson, Council Member Hall, and Council Member Spratlin NAY: Councilman Denney

Motion by Councilman Denney with a second from Councilman Dickerson to authorize the use of \$300.00 from Councilman Denney's discretionary fund to support the Mayoral Ball. AYES: All.

Council President Sims and Council Members expressed appreciation for recent community events, including the Christmas parade.

Motion by Councilman Denney 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, December 15, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in the City of Talladega, Alabama City Hall Council Chambers.



Joanna Medlen, City Clerk