

**CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
January 12, 2026 – 5:30pm**

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, January 12, 2026, 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, and Interim City Manager Danny Warwick.

Invocation by Council President Sims.

Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Councilman Dickerson to approve the amended agenda. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Dickerson with a second from Council President Sims to excuse Mayor Hall's absence. AYES: All.

Public hearing was opened to anyone who wished to comment and/or object to the weed abatement of six (6) properties. No citizens were present to comment.

Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Council Member Spratlin 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 12/6/2025-1/5/2026	\$862,946.79
General Fund	524,306.81
Corrections Fund	27,909.97
Municipal Airport	6,692.75
Capital Projects Trust Fund	304,037.26

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Councilman Denney to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2025. AYES: All.

Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Council Member Spratlin to table the discussion regarding the nominations for Council President and Council President Pro Tempore. It was noted by Council President Sims that the next Council President and Pro Tem would assume office in February.

Motion by Councilman Denney with a second from Council Member Spratlin to approve the Mardi Gras Parade route and temporary road closure request submitted by Lauren Deal, Ritz Theatre. AYES: All.

Ordinance #1967 authorizing the installation of a speed hump at a specified location on McMillian St. in the City of Talladega

Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Council Member Spratlin for the Reading of the Heading Only of Ordinance #1967. AYES: All.

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION OF A SPEED CUSHION AT A
SPECIFIED LOCATION ON MCMILLAN STREET IN THE CITY OF TALLADEGA**

Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Councilman Denney for Immediate Consideration of Ordinance #1967. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Councilman Denney for the Adoption of Ordinance #1967. AYES: All.

Weed Abatements

~~Resolution #6567 approving the weed abatement for property located at 243 Long St.~~

~~Resolution #6568 approving the weed abatement for property located at VL on Long St.~~

~~Resolution #6569 approving the weed abatement for property located at 2187 Allison Mill Rd.~~

~~Resolution #6570 approving the weed abatement for property located at 1531 Allison Mill Rd.~~

~~Resolution #6571 approving the weed abatement for property located at 101 Higgins St.~~

~~Resolution #6572 approving the weed abatement for property located at 224 Grogan Rd.~~

Resolution #6573 approving the weed abatement for property located at 265 Grogan Rd.
Resolution #6574 approving the weed abatement for property located at 121 E. Lancaster St.
Resolution #6575 approving the weed abatement for property located at 66 Turner St.
Resolution #6576 approving the weed abatement for property located at 331 Highland Ave.
Resolution #6577 approving the weed abatement for property located at 308 Maine St.

Motion by Councilman Denney with a second from Councilman Dickerson for the approval of Resolution #6569 and Resolution #6573 to Resolution #6577. AYES: All.

Resolution #6578 declaring 315 Westwood Circle a public nuisance for weeds
Resolution #6579 declaring 411 Shaw Ave. a public nuisance for weeds
Resolution #6580 declaring 409 Shaw Ave. a public nuisance for weeds
Resolution #6581 declaring vacant lot on 18th St. and Burr Ave. a public nuisance for weeds
Resolution #6582 declaring 413 Dumas Ave. a public nuisance for weeds
Resolution #6583 declaring vacant building on Dumas Ave. and 19th St. a public nuisance for weeds
Resolution #6584 declaring 867 Mountainview Rd. a public nuisance for weeds

Motion by Councilman Denney with a second from Councilman Dickerson for the approval of Resolution #6578 to Resolution #6584. AYES: All.

Resolution #6585 authorizing intervention in Simplified Seller Use Tax (SSUT) litigation

Finance Director Phillips provided a brief overview of the Simplified Seller Use Tax (SSUT), noting that the tax applies to internet sales made by sellers without a brick-and-mortar presence. She explained that the SSUT is currently distributed at an eight percent (8%) rate based on population, which is advantageous to the City. She further stated that the pending litigation seeks to revise the current distribution structure, which would primarily benefit larger municipalities, and that the City benefits under the existing structure.

Motion by Councilman Dickerson with a second from Councilman Denney for the approval of Resolution #6585. AYES: All.

Travel Requests

Resolution #6586 approving the travel request for Avery Burr to attend Background Investigation Class on February 9, 2026 to February 10, 2026 in Pelham, Alabama

Resolution #6587 approving the travel request for Timothy Wood to attend Peer Support Training on March 16, 2026 to March 19, 2026 in Hoover, Alabama

Resolution #6588 approving the travel request for Timothy Wood to attend Crisis Intervention Teams training on April 13, 2026 to April 17, 2026 in Fultondale, Alabama

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Councilman Dickerson for the approval of Resolution #6586 to Resolution #6588. AYES: All.

Resolution #6589 authorizing the purchase of Fire vehicles, equipment, software, and related services utilizing HRSA Grant Funds

Motion by Councilman Denney with a second from Council Member Spratlin for the approval of Resolution #6589. AYES: All.

Resolution #6590 recognizing January as human trafficking prevention and awareness month

Finance Director Phillips addressed the Council regarding the recognition of January as Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Month, noting a particular focus on human trafficking awareness and education. She stated that informational efforts were taking place during the month and that a presentation would be provided by law enforcement.

Detective Tyler Sharp provided an informational presentation, explaining that human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery that occurs in all states. Information from the National Human Trafficking Hotline was shared, including contact information and general awareness guidance. The presentation included discussion on prevention measures and public awareness, available training

opportunities, and general safety practices. Statistical information was presented regarding reported human trafficking data statewide for 2024. It was noted that there were no reported human trafficking cases within the City of Talladega, and emphasis was placed on continued vigilance.

Motion by Council President Sims with a second from Council Member Spratlin for the approval of Resolution #6590. AYES: All.

Resolution #6591 approving the travel request for Brian Hutton to attend a swim meet on January 16 to January 18 2026 in Auburn, Alabama

Motion by Councilman Dickerson with a second from Council President Sims for the approval of Resolution #6591. AYES: All.

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second by Councilman Dickerson 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 12/6/2025 to 1/5/2026	\$873,612.38
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Water/Sewer Fund	873,612.38
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Interim City Manager Warwick provided an update regarding the previously approved forensic audit, stating that staff has been in contact with multiple firms and is working to identify a firm that meets the qualifications requested by the Council. He reported that a firm located in Birmingham has expressed interest and that additional information has been requested. He further stated that a cost proposal will be obtained and presented to the Council. He also provided an update on the recruitment process for the City Manager position. He stated that applications will close on the 25th of the month and that, by the 27th, approximately ten to twelve candidates are expected to be presented to the Council for review. He noted that approximately fifty-five applications have been received to date and that applications remain open until the closing date.

City Attorney O'Brien addressed the Council regarding the Interim City Manager's contract, explaining that the current interim term is set to expire later in January. He stated that the Interim City Manager serves at the pleasure of the Council and that a proposed contract may be presented for Council consideration to employ Mr. Warwick as City Manager following the expiration of the interim term, with the understanding that his employment would be terminable at will upon the appointment of a permanent City Manager and that the proposed contract would not include a severance provision. He advised that any such contract would be brought before the Council for approval and would require agreement by Mr. Warwick.

Interim City Manager Warwick further stated that the consulting firm assisting with the City Manager recruitment remains available to speak with Council Members and emphasized the importance of selecting the best candidate for the position. Council President Sims thanked staff for the update and proceeded with Council Member comments.

Councilman Dickerson addressed the Council, stating that, for the record, additional research and time are still needed regarding matters related to part-time retired employees. Interim City Manager Warwick (DW) confirmed that additional research is required. Councilman Dickerson also extended holiday well wishes and noted that the City will be approaching the upcoming federal holiday in recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He stated that multiple requests have been received regarding participation in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day parade and publicly encouraged Council participation in the celebration. It was noted that the parade is scheduled for Monday, January 19.

Councilman Denney addressed the Council regarding general Council operations and project follow-through. He expressed concern that certain matters previously approved by the Council, including projects funded through the budget and capital improvement process, have not progressed as anticipated. He noted the frequency with which items are tabled and stated that some matters are not subsequently brought back for consideration. He encouraged improved follow-up and coordination to ensure timely implementation of Council actions.

Councilman Denney also addressed concerns related to homelessness within the City, stating that the City is experiencing an increase in homeless individuals and may lack adequate resources to

address associated needs. He expressed the importance of working with City staff, legal counsel, and public safety to explore potential approaches.

Interim City Manager Warwick advised that a summary of accomplishments for 2025 would be provided by the end of the week.

Council Member Spratlin stated that she had no comments.

Council Member Hall inquired regarding the status of a potential building donation on Court Street. City Attorney O'Brien responded that the matter has not yet been presented for Council consideration and is expected to be brought forward at the next meeting, pending receipt of necessary information. He stated that the matter appears to be on schedule. Council President Sims noted that the required documentation must be completed before Council action can occur.

Council President Sims reported that he recently attended an event at the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind recognizing Dalton Harris upon achieving the rank of Eagle Scout and noted the accomplishment. He stated that the *Daily Home* was present and expressed hope that the achievement would be featured as a human-interest story. Council President Sims further stated that he understood frustrations expressed by Council Members regarding certain items that have been tabled and explained that the nomination of the incoming Council President was tabled at this meeting due to insufficient information being available.

Council Members discussed the handling of tabled items and the need for a process to ensure that previously tabled matters are tracked and reconsidered. Councilman Denney stated that a clearer method is needed to bring tabled items back before the Council, referencing a previously discussed youth-related initiative. Councilman Dickerson suggested the inclusion of an "Old Business" section on future agendas as a temporary measure to allow the Council to revisit tabled items.

Council Member Spratlin requested that the previously tabled Airport Board matter be returned to the agenda. City Attorney O'Brien advised that a draft resolution had been prepared in September and transmitted to the Airport Board's legal counsel and that questions were subsequently received. He stated that a meeting between the City Attorney, Council President, and Interim City Manager is needed prior to responding. Council President Sims stated that he would request the Interim City Manager to schedule such meeting and noted that Council involvement would be appropriate.

Council President Sims stated that, beginning with future agendas, an "Old Business" section would be included to allow for consideration of previously tabled matters.

City Attorney O'Brien advised that an individual previously expressing interest in the demolition of the Wehadkee Yarn Mill had withdrawn after failing to provide required documentation, including workers' compensation and E-Verify information. Interim City Manager Warwick stated that the individual remained interested and that staff would follow up regarding outstanding requirements. Council President Sims stated his desire to see the matter progress, if possible.

Council Members discussed emergency medical services and ambulance response concerns. Interim City Manager Warwick confirmed that the City's ambulance services contract applies to 911 emergency calls and that hospitals may utilize other ambulance providers as needed.

Council President Sims provided updates regarding ongoing City initiatives, including planned street paving in all wards and improvements within the Parks and Recreation Department, and encouraged renewed focus on advancing previously approved projects.

Donnie Miller, representing the Chamber of Commerce, provided comments regarding ongoing economic development efforts and potential development sites within the City. Council President Sims stated that the Interim City Manager would serve as the primary point of contact for coordination with the Chamber.

Councilman Dickerson addressed the Council regarding procedural and governance matters, stating that the City Manager serves as the primary representative and decision-maker for the City under established guidelines. He discussed the selection process for the incoming Council President.

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, January 12, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the City of Talladega, Alabama City Hall Council Chambers.



Joanna Medlen, City Clerk