

**CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
March 23, 2026 – 5:30pm**

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, March 23, 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 Steve Dickerson, Council Member Vickey Hall, Councilman Hugh Sims, Council Member Betty Spratlin, Councilman Shane Denney, City Manager Danny Warwick, and Mayor Ashton Hall.

Invocation by Pastor Sharon Epps.

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

Motion by Councilman Sims with a second by Councilman Denney to approve invoices and expenditures. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Total Invoices & Expenditures from 2/26/2026-3/12/2026	639,566.57
General Fund	575,438.78
Corrections Fund	34,824.72
Municipal Airport	2,326.07
Capital Projects Trust Fund	26,977.00

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second by Councilman Denney to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 9, 2026. AYES: All.

Council President Dickerson informed the Council that the Statement of Economic Interests is to be completed by April 30.

Mayor Hall administered the oath of office to Dr. Wille L. Todd, Jr., for service on the Industrial Development Board.

Dr. Todd expressed appreciation for the appointment and offered brief remarks regarding the importance of industry and community growth.

Motion by Councilman Sims with a second by Councilman Denney to approve the request for a roadblock and special event permit for the April in Talladega Block Party, including closure of Court Square East and Court Square North. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Sims with a second by Councilman Denney to approve the parade and roadblock permit request from Melvin Wilson. AYES: All.

Discussion was held regarding the community and economic impact of the event, including support for local schools and businesses.

Ordinance #1969 declaring and deeming certain municipal property located at 125 North Street East surplus and not needed for public purposes

Motion by Councilman Sims with a second by Council Member Hall for Reading of the Heading Only of Ordinance #1969. Roll Call. AYES: All.

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING AND DEEMING CERTAIN MUNICIPAL PROPERTY SURPLUS AND NOT NEEDED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES

Motion by Councilman Sims with a second by Council Member Hall for Immediate Consideration of Ordinance #1969. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Denney with a second by Councilman Sims for the Adoption of Ordinance #1969. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Ordinance #1970 naming an unnamed road located in the north one half of the northeast quarter of Section 27, Township 18, Range 5, South of the Southern Railroad Track in the City of Talladega as Broome Place

Motion by Council Member Hall with a second by Councilman Sims for Reading of the Heading Only of Ordinance #1970. Roll Call. AYES: All.

AN ORDINANCE TO NAME THAT UNNAMED ROAD LOCATED IN THE NORTH ONE HALF OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 27, TOWNSHIP 18, RANGE 5, SOUTH OF THE SOUTHERN RAILROAD TRACK IN THE CITY OF TALLADEGA

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second by Councilman Denney for Immediate Consideration of Ordinance #1970. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Denney with a second by Council Member Spratlin for the Adoption of Ordinance #1970. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Ordinance #1971 to establish for the Office of Mayor of the City of Talladega, Alabama compensation for services pursuant to Ala Code 1975 11-43A-15; and to repeal Ordinance No. 1531 and all prior ordinances in conflict therewith

Motion by Councilman Denney with a second by Councilman Sims for Reading of the Heading Only of Ordinance #1971. Roll Call. AYES: All.

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH FOR THE OFFICE OF MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TALLADEGA, ALABAMA COMPENSATION FOR SERVICES PURSUANT TO ALA. CODE 1975 11-43A-15; AND TO REPEAL ORDINANCE NO. 1531 AND ALL PRIOR ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH

Motion by Councilman Sims with a second by Council Member Hall for Immediate Consideration of Ordinance #1971. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Sims with a second by Councilman Denney for the Adoption of Ordinance #1971. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Weed Abatement

Resolution #6651 assessing the cost of weed abatement and placing a lien on property located at 2187 Allison Mill Rd.

Resolution #6652 assessing the cost of weed abatement and placing a lien on property located at 308 Maine St.

Resolution #6653 assessing the cost of weed abatement and placing a lien on property located at 331 Highland Ave.

Resolution #6654 assessing the cost of weed abatement and placing a lien on property located at 66 Turner St.

Resolution #6655 assessing the cost of weed abatement and placing a lien on property located at 121 E. Lancaster St.

Resolution #6656 assessing the cost of weed abatement and placing a lien on property located at 265 Grogan Rd.

Motion by Councilman Denney with a second by Council Member Spratlin to approve Resolution #6651 through Resolution #6656. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Discussion was held regarding enforcement consistency and concerns about equitable treatment of property owners in the abatement process.

Travel Requests

Resolution #6657 approving the travel request for Joanna Medlen and Emily Light to attend the District IV City Clerk's Quarterly Meeting on March 10, 2026 in Jacksonville, Alabama

Motion by Councilman Sims with a second by Council Member Spratlin to approve Resolution #6657. AYES: All.

Resolution #6658 approving the travel for Summer Ammons and Eric Walker to attend the 2026 ARPA State Basketball Tournament on March 13, 2026 to March 15, 2026 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Motion by Councilman Sims with a second by Council Member Spratlin to approve Resolution #6658. AYES: Council President Dickerson, Council Member Hall, Councilman Sims, and Council Member Spratlin NAY: Councilman Denney

Resolution #6659 approving the travel request for Joanna Medlen and Emily Light to attend the 2026 Annual Alabama Women Leading Government Conference on May 13, 2026 and May 14, 2026 in Birmingham, Alabama

Motion by Councilman Sims with a second by Councilman Denney to approve Resolution #6659. AYES: All.

Resolution #6660 approving the purchase of Axon body worn cameras, taser devices, and related software and services for the Talladega Police Department

Motion by Councilman Denney with a second by Councilman Sims to approve Resolution #6660. AYES: All.

City Manager Warwick reported that the Council had previously been briefed on the contract. Discussion included clarification regarding the functionality of the equipment and associated services.

Resolution #6661 approving the purchase of Axon fleet in-car camera systems and related software and services for the Talladega Police Department

Motion by Councilman Denney with a second by Councilman Sims to approve Resolution #6661. AYES: All.

Resolution #6662 approving the travel request for Robert Curtis to attend Real Deal Leadership/Pinnacle Teamwork and Networking Across the Different Generations training on April 8, 2026 and April 9, 2026 in Anniston, Alabama

Resolution #6663 approving the travel request for Dennis McDaniel to attend Real Deal Leadership/Pinnacle on April 8, 2026 and April 9, 2026 in Anniston, Alabama

Motion by Councilman Denney with a second by Councilman Sims to approve Resolution #6662 and #6663. AYES: All.

Resolution #6664 approving the travel request for Summer Ammons to attend the ARPA State Recreational Sports Committee Meeting on April 1, 2026, May 6, 2026, and July 8, 2026 in Montgomery, Alabama

Motion by Councilman Sims with a second by Council Member Hall to approve Resolution #6664. Roll Call. AYES: Council President Dickerson, Council Member Hall, Councilman Sims, and Council Member Spratlin NAY: Councilman Denney

Discussion was held regarding Parks and Recreation operations including concerns about facility conditions and future expenditures, and the need for a comprehensive improvement plan.

Motion by Councilman Denney with a second by Council Member Spratlin to approve invoices and expenditures for the Water Department. AYES: All.

Water Department Expenditures for 2/26/2026 to 3/12/2026	\$330,181.64
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Water/Sewer Fund	330,181.64
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Prior to the City Manager's report, Council President Dickerson reminded the Council that certain offices serve at the pleasure of the Council, including the City Manager, City Clerk, and Council representation. He advised that any concerns should be directed through the appropriate channels and requested that Council Members address matters through the Chair to maintain order during the meeting.

City Manager Warwick reported on ongoing projects and initiatives within the City. He provided an update on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) demolition project, stating that as of March 10, an additional nine (9) structures have been removed, bringing the total to fifty-five

(55) structures completed under the grant amount. He advised that the City is preparing to bid out the remaining structures to close out the projects and potentially reapply for future funding.

Discussion was held regarding the demolition process, including ownership verification, right-of-entry requirements, asbestos abatement, and challenges associated with properties involving heirs or state ownership.

City Manager Warwick further reported that Code Enforcement and the Police Department are reviewing existing ordinances related to nuisance properties and abandoned vehicles to ensure they meet current needs. He stated that the City will be moving forward with additional enforcement efforts to address property maintenance concerns.

He also informed the Council of the upcoming Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner scheduled for May 12 at 5:30 p.m. and discussed participation by the Council Members. Additional discussion was held regarding property identification for demolition, coordination with economic development representatives, and ongoing efforts to improve conditions throughout the City.

Mayor Hall congratulated Dr. Willie L. Todd, Jr., on his appointment to the Industrial Development Board and commended his willingness to serve the community.

He encouraged Council Members to engage with their constituents and provide opportunities for residents to voice concerns, including hosting town hall meetings within their respective wards. He emphasized the importance of accessibility and ensuring citizens understand how to seek assistance and communicate with their elected officials.

Councilman Sims stated that he believes he was elected to represent the entire City and not solely his ward. He discussed the importance of establishing priorities, identifying road conditions, including paving and striping, as a top priority.

He further discussed the need for caution when accepting property, noting concerns about acquiring properties that may later require demolition or maintenance. He referenced ongoing projects, including the Pocket Park and demolition efforts.

Councilman Sims inquired about the status of sidewalk improvements from Talladega College to Walmart. He also raised concerns regarding conditions behind local businesses, including debris and encampments, and suggested review of ordinances or cleanup efforts.

City Manager Warwick advised that demolition work has begun on the Wehadkee property and confirmed that a meeting regarding sidewalk improvements is scheduled.

Councilman Denney addressed concerns regarding Parks and Recreation facilities, stating that the City is not currently supporting parks at a level comparable to surrounding municipalities. He emphasized the need for a comprehensive plan to improve facilities and stated he would not support additional expenditures related to Parks and Recreation until a plan is developed.

He also discussed the importance of Talladega College, highlighting recent athletic achievements and emphasizing the need for increased support and recognition of the institution's impact on the community.

Council Member Hall requested an update regarding the City's previously approved agreement with Next Site and inquired as to the status and any progress related to economic development efforts associated with that engagement.

Donnie Miller advised that there is a meeting scheduled and that site visits and photographs were planned with additional follow up anticipated in May. City Manager Warwick explained the process for site review, noting that designated staff will accompany the representative to evaluate potential properties.

She also inquired about a building previously acquired by the City and noted that no determination has been made regarding its future use.

City Manager Warwick advised that an interested party has viewed the property and is considering purchasing or lease, pending further action by the City.

Councilman Sims inquired about potential future uses of the building, including a warming station. City Manager Warwick stated that the matter will be taken into consideration and noted that the building requires cleanup prior to future use.

Council Member Hall expressed appreciation to staff for their assistance and ongoing work on City projects.

Mayor Hall expressed appreciation to Council Members and community partners for their support of recent events, including a basketball tournament and acknowledged contributions made by Council Members.

Council President Dickerson discussed meeting procedures and emphasized the importance of maintaining order and addressing concerns through proper channels. He noted that Council Members are elected by ward and discussed the importance of collaboration across all wards while maintaining representation responsibilities. Council President Dickerson encouraged partnerships with nonprofit organizations and community groups to assist with community needs, including property maintenance and support of residents. He also discussed the importance of Talladega College and other local institutions, highlighting their contributions to the community and encouraging continued support.

Councilman Sims inquired about the status of the City Manager search. City Manager Warwick advised that a second report of applicants has been provided and that the consultant will schedule a meeting with the council to discuss next steps.

Council President Dickerson deferred to City Attorney O'Brien concerning Executive Session.

City Attorney O'Brien advised that an executive session was requested to discuss potential litigation, noting that no action would be taken.

Motion by Councilman Denney with a second by Councilman Sims to convene into Executive Session for approximately ten (10) minutes for the purpose of discussing potential litigation. Roll Call. AYES: All.

The Council entered into Executive Session at 6:46pm and reconvened in Open Session at 6:57pm with no action taken following Executive Session.

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second by Councilman 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, March 23, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the City of Talladega, Alabama City Hall Council Chambers.



Joanna Medlen, City Clerk