

CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL CALLED BUDGET MEETING
September 25, 2026 – 10:00am

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Friday, September 25 2026, at 10:00 a.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 Charles D. Keith, and City Manager Danny Warwick.

Invocation by Councilman Sims.

Council President Dickerson stated that the purpose of the meeting was to review the proposed budget and budget summary. He invited City Manager Warwick and Finance Director Phillips to lead the discussion. City Manager Warwick deferred to Ms. Phillips.

Ms. Phillips presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 General Fund budget of approximately \$20.21 million, with projected revenues exceeding expenditures by approximately \$318,000. Personnel costs totaled approximately \$11.14 million, representing about 56% of General Fund expenditures. The remaining 44% of General Fund expenditures was attributable to departmental operations and nondepartmental expenditures. The proposed budget included a 3.14% cost of living adjustment for current employees and a corresponding 3.14% adjustment to the City's pay scale. Police and Fire represented approximately 39% of General Fund expenditures.

Ms. Phillips reported that the Water Fund was approximately \$11.32 million, with approximately \$10.7 million in projected revenue, and referenced approximately \$1.24 million in excess of expenditures.

The largest capital project presented was a combined paving project totaling approximately \$2.7 million. The project was described as the largest paving project undertaken by the City in at least a decade and possibly the largest in the City's history.

Ms. Phillips recognized members of the Finance Department for their work in preparing the proposed budget.

The Council proceeded with its review of proposed appropriations and departmental budgets. Proposed revisions identified during the meeting were to be incorporated into the budget for consideration at the September 28, 2026, regular meeting.

The Council reviewed the proposed General Fund allocations and appropriations.

The proposed allocations included \$55,135 for the Ritz Theatre; \$20,000 for the Alabama Extension Office; \$5,000 for Diaper Row; \$5,000 for the Boys & Girls Club; \$86,000 for the Drug Task Force; \$61,650 for Heritage Hall; \$40,000 for the Talladega County Economic Development Authority; \$10,000 for Samaritan House; \$4,000 for the Talladega County NAACP; \$115,000 for Talladega City Schools; \$5,000 for the Talladega Pilgrimage Council; \$20,000 for Palmer Place; \$20,000 for Red Door Kitchen; and \$1,500 for Volunteer CCA.

The Council also reviewed proposed allocations of \$40,000 for United Way; \$25,000 for Council discretionary funds; \$6,000 for First Family Services; \$25,000 for Hall of Heroes; \$10,000 for the Presbyterian Home for Children; \$10,000 for AIDB; \$3,500 for Umbrella of Hope; \$2,000 for the Willie and Betty Farrior Foundation; \$5,000 for Talladega Seven; and \$5,000 for Crime Stoppers. No appropriation was proposed for Senior Rx, Talladega College, Talladega Main Street, the Talladega Redevelopment Board, or Liberty Learning.

The Council reviewed the proposed amounts and identified changes and additional matters for inclusion in the revised budget.

RITZ THEATRE

The Council reviewed the proposed appropriation of \$55,135 for the Ritz Theatre. It was reported that the City would also continue paying utilities for the facility, averaging approximately \$36,000 annually.

Motion by Councilman Sims with a second by Councilman Keith to approve the \$55,135 appropriation for the Ritz Theatre.

During consideration of the motion, information was provided regarding grant funded restroom and marquee improvements. Council President Dickerson requested that action on individual appropriations be deferred until the Council completed its review of the proposed allocations. Councilman Sims withdrew his motion.

The proposed \$55,135 appropriation remained included in the proposed budget for consideration as part of the Fiscal Year 2027 budget.

ALABAMA EXTENSION OFFICE

The Council reviewed the proposed \$20,000 appropriation for the Alabama Extension Office. The proposed amount remained included in the budget.

DIAPER ROW

The Council reviewed the proposed \$5,000 appropriation for Diaper Row. Councilman Sims abstained from consideration of the appropriation. The proposed amount remained included in the budget.

DRUG TASK FORCE

The Council reviewed the proposed \$86,000 appropriation for the Drug Task Force. The proposed amount remained included in the budget.

HALL OF HEROES

The Council reviewed the proposed \$25,000 appropriation for Hall of Heroes. Councilman Keith abstained from consideration of the appropriation.

TALLADEGA CITY SCHOOLS

The proposed appropriation for Talladega City Schools was \$75,000. Following review, the Council reached consensus to increase the proposed appropriation to \$115,000, with the school system determining the allocation and use of the funds. No separate amount was designated for individual athletic programs. The revised amount of \$115,000 was to be incorporated into the Fiscal Year 2027 budget for final consideration.

TALLADEGA COLLEGE AND ATHLETIC FIELD IMPROVEMENTS

The Council reviewed a potential partnership with Talladega College involving the use and improvement of a City-owned athletic field. Improvements necessary for the proposed use were estimated at approximately \$35,000. Ms. Phillips reported that a \$25,000 current-year appropriation remained undrawn and that any reallocation of Fiscal Year 2026 funds would require Council action before October 1, 2026.

The Council considered addressing the proposed field improvements through the Parks and Recreation budget. The matter was considered further during the departmental budget review.

TALLADEGA MAIN STREET

The proposed budget contained no appropriation for Talladega Main Street. Ms. Phillips reported that Talladega Main Street had requested \$50,000. Martha Jordan addressed the Council regarding the organization's operations and funding request. Council President Dickerson requested that City Manager Warwick arrange for Ms. Phillips and Councilman Keith to review the request and develop a recommendation prior to the September 28, 2026, regular meeting. No appropriation amount for Talladega Main Street was established at this meeting.

UMBRELLA OF HOPE

The proposed appropriation for Umbrella of Hope was \$5,000. Following review, the Council directed that the proposed appropriation be revised to \$3,500 for inclusion in the revised Fiscal Year 2027 budget.

WILLIE AND BETTY FARRIOR FOUNDATION AND TALLADEGA SEVEN

The Council reviewed the proposed appropriations of \$2,000 for the Willie and Betty Farrior Foundation and \$5,000 for Talladega Seven. The proposed amounts remained included in the budget.

CRIME STOPPERS AND PUBLIC SAFETY

The Council reviewed the proposed \$5,000 appropriation for Crime Stoppers. City Manager Warwick provided information regarding the City's participation in Crime Stoppers and reported that the Police Chief supported continued participation.

The Council also reviewed public-safety needs, including cameras and other resources for law-enforcement purposes. City Manager Warwick reported that the Police Department was evaluating areas where additional cameras were needed. The proposed Crime Stoppers appropriation remained included in the budget.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

Vickie Harkins addressed the Council concerning City funding for the Public Library and the potential effect of local funding levels on state funding. Ms. Phillips reported a proposed Library budget of approximately \$383,950, an increase of approximately 28%. The proposed budget included salaries, benefits, utilities, and other operating expenses. No separate \$40,000 appropriation was added to the Library budget during the meeting.

The Council recessed for approximately seven minutes and thereafter reconvened.

COUNCIL DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

The proposed budget included a total of \$25,000 in Council discretionary funds, representing \$5,000 for each Council member. Ms. Phillips recommended increasing the amount by \$2,000 per Council member. The Council reached consensus to increase each Council member's proposed discretionary allocation to \$7,000, resulting in a total discretionary fund allocation of \$35,000 and an increase of \$10,000 over the amount originally proposed.

The Council also considered reallocating unused Council travel funds to discretionary accounts at the end of the fiscal year.

TALLADEGA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The proposed appropriation for the Talladega Economic Development Authority was \$10,000. Following review, the Council reached consensus to increase the proposed appropriation to \$40,000. The revised amount of \$40,000 was to be incorporated into the Fiscal Year 2027 budget for final consideration.

DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS

Ms. Phillips reviewed the proposed budgets for the City Council, City Manager, Finance, City Clerk, Human Resources, Police, Animal Control, Fire, Public Works, Community Appearance, Nondepartmental, and Public Library operations.

Ms. Phillips also reviewed the proposed Water and Sewer departmental and nonoperating budgets.

Ms. Phillips reported that Purchasing and Safety had been combined with the Finance Department.

The City Council budget was to be revised to reflect the proposed increase in discretionary funds and revisions to community appropriations.

The increase in the City Clerk's proposed budget was attributed primarily to election expenses.

Increases in the Police and Fire budgets were attributed primarily to personnel expenses, including Police overtime associated with events.

The reduction in Nondepartmental expenses reflected the removal of previously budgeted emergency medical service expenditures.

ANIMAL CONTROL

During review of the Animal Control budget, the Council considered a potential agreement or partnership with Talladega County. City Manager Warwick reported that he had recently discussed the matter with a County Commissioner and would provide additional information following completion of the budget process.

PARKS AND RECREATION

The Council reviewed the proposed Parks and Recreation budget, including proposed pickleball courts, athletic-field improvements, lighting, and a scoreboard.

It was reported that the pickleball project was included in the capital improvement program and was being prepared for bidding. City Manager Warwick reported that he was working with Alabama Power regarding the scope and cost of proposed lighting improvements, and that procurement of a

scoreboard would require bidding. The Council also considered improvements to Amanda Bingham Park, other City parks, and the proposed Talladega College athletic-field partnership. Following review, the Council reached consensus to add \$45,000 to the proposed Parks and Recreation budget.

Ms. Phillips stated that the additional funding could be accommodated within the projected General Fund surplus and would be incorporated into the revised budget.

Ms. Phillips reported that the proposed budget revisions would not affect the approximately \$2.7 million paving project because the project was funded separately through the capital improvement program. City Manager Warwick reported that bidding for the project was anticipated to begin in October.

The revisions identified during the meeting were to be incorporated into the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget for consideration by the City Council at its September 28, 2026, regular meeting. Council President Dickerson requested that staff explore government-surplus sources for cameras and other departmental equipment. Council Member Spratlin inquired whether outstanding current-year discretionary fund matters could be prepared before the beginning of the new fiscal year. Ms. Phillips stated that they could.

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second from Council Member Hall 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 Friday, September 25, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the City of Talladega, Alabama City Hall Council Chambers.


Joanna Medlen, City Clerk