

CITY OF TALLADEGA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
September 28, 2026 – 5:30pm

The City Council of the City of Talladega met in a regular meeting on Monday, September 28, 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 R. Hall, Councilman Hugh Sims, Council Member Betty C. Spratlin, Councilman Charles Keith, City Manager Danny Warwick, and Mayor Ashton Hall.

Invocation by Michael Meadows.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Donald Burr.

Motion by Councilman Keith with a second by Councilman Sims for the approval of the agenda. AYES: All.

Motion by Council Member Hall with a second by Council Member Keith to approve invoices and expenditures. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Total Invoices & Expenditures from 9/1/2026 to 9/17/2026	833,648.99
General Fund	643,759.45
Corrections Fund	35,901.80
Municipal Airport	1,119.49
Capital Projects Trust Fund	152,868.25

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second by Councilman Keith to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 14, 2026. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Sims with a second by Council Member Hall to approve the City’s Fiscal Year 2027 holiday schedule. AYES: All.

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second by Councilman Keith to approve the applications of Russell Bowden and Emily R. Davis for re-appointment to the Heritage Hall Commission. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Keith with a second by Councilman Sims to approve the parade permit request for the Talladega High School Homecoming Parade on October 9, 2026 at 1:30pm. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Sims with a second by Council Member Spratlin to approve an alternate route for the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind White Cane Day Walk on October 15, 2026, from 11am to 1pm, replacing the route approved on August 24, 2026. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Sims with a second by Council Member Spratlin to approve the application of Fancy Smoke LLC, doing business as Fancy Smoke, for a Type 700 Specialty Retailer of Consumable Hemp Products license at 719B Battle Street East. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Sims with a second by Councilman Keith to approve the application of Victory Lane Pit Stop for a Type 050 Retail Beer (Off Premises Only) and a Type 070 Retail Table Wine (Off Premises Only) alcohol license at 4040 Speedway Boulevard, Suite A, Lincoln, Alabama 35096. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Keith with a second by Councilman Sims to approve the application of Victory Lane Package Store for a Type 011 Lounge Retail Liquor, Class II (Package), alcohol license at 4040 Speedway Boulevard, Suite B, Lincoln, Alabama 35096. AYES: All.

David Andrews of the Center for Municipal Solutions presented the special use permit application of Vertical Bridge, LLC, for a wireless communications tower on Brecon Access Road and recommended approval. A representative of Vertical Bridge also addressed the Council.

Councilmember Dickerson opened a public comment period concerning the application. Dale Ledbetter, a Ponderosa resident, addressed the Council concerning the proposed tower’s proximity to Salter Elementary School. At Councilmember Dickerson’s request, the record reflects that Mr. Andrews

reported the distance as approximately 2,070 feet. Councilmember Dickerson closed the public comment period. Action on the application was taken under Resolution No. 6861.

Michael Meadows, representing Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 12, presented the organization's mission and community service activities. No action was taken.

Ordinance #1979 adopting the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget for the City of Talladega

Before consideration of Ordinance #1979, Council President Dickerson reviewed budget revisions discussed at the September 25 budget meeting. These included increasing discretionary funds to \$7,000 per ward; a \$45,000.00 Parks and Recreation earmark; appropriations of \$10,000.00 for Talladega Main Street, \$40,000.00 for Talladega County Economic Development Authority, and \$115,000.00 for the Board of Education; and reducing the Umbrella of Hope appropriation to \$3,500.00.

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second by Councilman Keith to read the heading only of Ordinance #1979. Roll Call. AYES: All.

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE OFFICIAL ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF TALLADEGA, ALABAMA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING 1 OCTOBER 2026 AND ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2027

Motion by Councilman Keith with a second by Councilman Sims for immediate consideration of Ordinance #1979. Roll Call. AYES: All, with Councilman Sims abstaining as to the Diaper Row appropriation and Councilman Keith abstaining as to the Hall of Heroes appropriation included in the budget.

Motion by Councilman Sims with a second by Council Member Spratlin to adopt Ordinance #1979. AYES: All.

Resolution #6861 granting a Special Use Permit to Vertical Bridge, LLC, to construct a 199-foot wireless communications tower on Brecon Access Road, including a waiver of the maximum height requirement, subject to the conditions stated in the resolution

Motion by Councilman Sims with a second by Councilman Keith to adopt Resolution #6861. AYES: All.

Resolution #6862 approving the contract renewal amendment with East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission for the Senior Nutrition Program for fiscal year 2027, providing for reimbursement of eligible expenses up to \$160,024.09

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second by Councilman Keith to adopt Resolution #6862. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Weed Abatement Liens

Resolution #6863 assessing the cost of weed abatement in the amount of \$3,750.00 and placing a lien on property located at 2187 Allison Mill Rd.

Resolution #6864 assessing the cost of weed abatement in the amount of \$525.00 and placing a lien on property located at 402 Lancaster St. E.

Resolution #6865 assessing the cost of weed abatement in the amount of \$525.00 and placing a lien on property located at 121 Lancaster St. E.

Resolution #6866 assessing the cost of weed abatement in the amount of \$525.00 and placing a lien on property located at 522 Court St. N.

Motion by Councilman Keith with a second by Councilman Sims to adopt Resolution #6863 to #6866. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Travel Requests

Resolution #6867 approving the travel request for Ken Schuffert to attend Water Utilities Cyber Response Training on September 29, 2026 in Birmingham, Alabama

Motion by Councilman Sims with a second by Council Member Spratlin to adopt Resolution #6867. AYES: All.

Resolution #6868 approving the FY2027 Interpreter Service Agreement with the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (AIDB) for the period October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027,

at hourly rates of \$70 during regular hours, \$90 after hours and on holidays, and \$80 for conferences, subject to a two-hour minimum per assignment, per interpreter

Motion by Councilman Sims with a second by Councilman Keith to adopt Resolution #6868.
Roll Call. AYES: All.

Christmas on the Square

Resolution #6869 approving a contract with All Year Sports Galaxy, LLC for the rental of a synthetic ice rink for Christmas on the Square in the amount of \$11,174.00

Resolution #6870 approving a contract with Gameday Done Right for rental of tents, tables, patio heaters, water barrels, lighting, and chairs for Christmas on the Square in the amount of \$9,186.00

Resolution #6871 approving a contract with Blue Rents and Deborah’s Party Rentals for the rental of a trackless train and castle bounce for Christmas on the Square in the amount of \$3,071.43

Motion by Councilman Sims with a second by Council Member Spratlin to adopt Resolution #6869 to #6871. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Resolution #6872 authorizing the purchase of filming and editing services from Trey Miller Entertainment for Christmas on the Square in the amount of \$3,500.00

Resolution #6873 authorizing the rental of golf carts from Southland Golf Cart Sales Inc., for Christmas on the Square in the amount of \$1,250.00

Resolution #6874 authorizing the purchase of photography services from Perple Mudd Design + Photography + More for Christmas on the Square in the amount of \$2,000.00

Motion by Council Member Spratlin with a second by Council Member Hall to adopt Resolution #6872 to #6874. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Sims with a second by Councilman Keith to approve invoices and expenditures for the Water Department. AYES: All.

Water Department Expenditures for 9/1/2026 to 9/17/2026 352,751.12

Water/Sewer Fund 352,751.12

Department monthly reports and the City Manager’s report were received.

City Manager Warwick reported that bids for the sidewalk and paving projects would be opened in October and that an audit representative would address the Council that month. He announced the October 31 trunk-or-treat event with the Chamber of Commerce at the Chamber and around the square. Finance Director Phillips confirmed that remaining discretionary funds needed to be allocated that evening.

The Mayor reported attending the Congressional Black Caucus in Washington, D.C., and meeting with Congressman Mike Rogers to thank him for his support of the City. The Mayor thanked the Council for the opportunity to represent Talladega.

City Manager Warwick then raised the need to allocate the remaining discretionary funds. Finance Director Phillips confirmed that those funds needed to be allocated that evening.

Councilmembers Hall and Spratlin had no additional comments.

Councilman Sims expressed support for the adopted budget and planned street paving, emphasized the need to move projects forward, and recognized Dr. de la Cruz’s retirement. City Manager Warwick clarified that the current-year \$600,000 paving project was being bid separately from the upcoming fiscal year’s work.

Councilman Keith introduced Lauren Deal, who outlined the Ritz Theatre’s Veterans Day programming, including free student performances on November 10 and a public performance on November 11 at 7:00 p.m., with admission of \$25. Councilman Keith then announced the Hall of Heroes induction ceremony for November 14, with 42 inductees.

Council President Dickerson thanked the presenters, the Mayor for representing the City in Washington, and Councilman Keith for obtaining additional budget information. He expressed interest in Mt. Moriah Lodge’s mentoring assistance in areas affected by crime.

Motion by Councilman Keith with a second by Councilman Sims to approve the allocation of Councilmember’s remaining discretionary funds as detailed in the chart below. Roll Call. AYES: All.

<u>Council President Dickerson</u>	
Alabama Extension Office	\$366.66
Main St. Talladega	\$366.67
Red Door Kitchen	\$366.67
	\$1,100.00
<u>Council Member Hall</u>	
The ARC	\$776.60
Talladega Seven	\$776.60
Diaper Row	\$776.60
Main St. Talladega	\$388.30
Red Door Kitchen	\$388.30
	\$3,106.40
<u>Councilman Sims</u>	
Alabama Extension Office	\$950.00
	\$950.00
<u>Council Member Spratlin</u>	
The Arc	\$500.00
AIDB Foundation	\$ 500.00
Alabama Extension Office	\$500.00
Diaper Row	\$200.00
Boys & Girls Club	\$200.00
United Way	\$200.00
Willie and Betty Farrior	\$300.00
NAACP	\$300.00
Samaritan House	\$130.00
Presbyterian Home	\$200.00
	\$3,030.00
<u>Councilman Keith</u>	
Main St. Talladega	\$900.00
City Operations	\$900.00
	\$1,800.00

Council President Dickerson presented Talladega College’s request to reallocate \$25,000 previously approved to community outreach projects benefiting City residents. Finance Director Phillips clarified that the College’s funding was for community projects and that quarterly disbursements depended on submission of activity reports.

Motion by Council President Dickerson with a second by Councilman Keith to approve the reallocation of \$25,000.00 previously allocated to Talladega College to community outreach projects benefiting the citizens as Talladega, as requested by the College. Roll Call. AYES: All.

Motion by Councilman Sims with a second by Councilman Keith 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, September 28, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the City of Talladega, Alabama City Hall Council Chambers.


Joanna Medlen, City Clerk