

Regular Council Meeting
City of Tallulah
July 26, 2018

A regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council was held on Thursday, July 26, at 5:30 P. M., in the Council Room Chamber of Tallulah City Hall.

Mayor Paxton J. Branch called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and gave the invocation.

Police Patrol Officer Robert Thompson presented the etiquette/conduct that was to be observed during the meeting.

A roll-call is listed as follows:

Finlayson	Present
Robinson	Present
Sims	Present
Day	Present
Whitney	Present

Mayor Branch allowed time for members of the public to make comments or ask questions regarding items on the agenda, but there was none.

Regarding approval of minutes of the June 28th meeting, Ms. Gloria Hayden stated that the present council should not be required to approve the minutes since they were not seated at that time. Mayor Branch responded stating the minutes should be approved, and to fail to do so would be illegal according to the Lawrason Act.

Subsequent motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilmember Finlayson, seconded by Councilmember Day, and carried unanimously.

The Superintendent's report as stated by Mayor Branch consisted primarily of street maintenance, grass cutting of lots, and demolition and removal of abandoned houses.

Motion and second to approve new members of the Downtown Revitalization Committee were made by Councilmembers Day and Whitney respectively and carried unanimously. The newly approved members consist of: Freddie Carter, Charles Finlayson, Porter Johnson, Terry Washington, Jeremiah Strozewski, Diane Strozewski and Tameka Washington.

Councilmember Finlayson moved for approval of the occupational license application of Ali M. Saeed, to be DBA, Tallulah Quick Stop. However Councilmember Robinson stated that a tax lien existed on the building, and hence the application could not be approved. Mayor Branch stated that the tax lien was an issue between the owner and the government and had nothing to do with approval of the business license application. Accordingly, Councilmember Day seconded, and a roll-call vote is listed as follows:

Finlayson	Yea
Robinson	Nay
Sims	Nay
Day	Yea
Whitney	Nay

Motion did not carry.

Councilmember Finlayson moved for approval of the “Madison Journal” as the official journal of the City of Tallulah for the coming year with second from Councilmember Robinson. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion and second to approve Police Chief McCoy’s new hire recommendations for the Police Department were made by Councilmembers Day and Finlayson respectively and carried unanimously. The officers approved were: James Moore, Oliver Robinson, and Gerald McLeod.

Councilmember Finlayson moved for approval of a Resolution Making Application to the Louisiana State Bond Commission for Approval of the Incurring of Debt and Issuance by the City of Tallulah, State of Louisiana, Not to Exceed Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) Revenue Anticipation Notes, Series 2018, Taxable or Tax Exempt and Providing for Other Matters in Connection Therewith. From the Boles, Shafto, Leonard Law Firm, LLC, Monroe, Louisiana, Attorney Josh Leonard explained that the City would be in effect borrowing money from itself in that funds arriving at year end in December would be available to pay off a cash shortfall the City is currently experiencing that will last until about mid-December, 2018. It was pointed out by some members of the public including Mr. Stan Mason that the new Councilmembers had not been made aware of the budgets for the current fiscal year, and how could they be expected to vote intelligently on the issue? Subsequent second to approve the resolution was made by Councilmember Day, and a roll-call vote is shown as follows:

Finlayson	Yea
Robinson	Nay
Sims	Nay
Day	Yea
Whitney	Nay

Motion did not carry.

Councilmember Finlayson moved for approval of a Resolution Approving Mayor Paxton J. Branch to Make Application to the Division of Administration, Office of Community Development, Community Water Enrichment Fund, for Funds in the Amount of \$26,900, to Supplement DRA Funds in the Amount of \$150,000 for Repairs to Clarifier Number 1 at the Existing Water Treatment Plant. CEO Engineer, Ken McManus, McManus Engineering, Monroe, Louisiana explained details of the plan for repair to the water clarifier, thus enhancing the quality of the City’s water. Councilmember Day seconded, and the voting was as follows:

Finlayson	Yea
Robinson	Nay
Sims	Nay
Day	Yea
Whitney	Nay

Motion did not carry.

Councilmember Day moved for approval of Mayor Branch's appointees for his new administration, 2018 – 2022 which consisted of:

City Clerk/Fiscal Manager: Gerald Odom;
City Attorney: Josh Leonard, the Boles Shafto, Leonard Law Firm, LLC;
Special Attorney: Raymond L. Cannon, LLC;
Mayor's Court Judge: Joy R. Jackson, Attorney at Law;
City Superintendent: C. J. Oney;
Fire Chief: Harold Allen

Councilmember Finlayson seconded, and a roll-call vote is listed in the following:

Finlayson	Yea
Robinson	Nay
Sims	Nay
Day	Yea
Whitney	Nay

Motion did not carry.

The Mayor Pro-Tem, selected by the Council, was between Councilmembers Finlayson and Sims which is represented in the following votes:

Finlayson vote:

Finlayson
Day

Sims vote:

Robinson
Sims
Whitney

Mayor pro-tem elected was Councilmember Andrew Sims.

During the ensuing period of comments from the public, several comments were heard with additional ones growing in escalation of intensity and anger. Thus, Mayor Branch saw fit to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:

August 9, 2018.

Gerald L. Odom, City Clerk

Paxton J. Branch, Mayor

