

Regular Council Meeting
City of Tallulah
April 26, 2018

A regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council was held on Thursday, April 26, 2018, 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 Stephanie Officer Harden presented the rules of order/etiquette that were to be observed during the meeting.

A roll-call is listed as follows:

Finlayson	Present
Houston	Present
Watson	Late Arrival
Day	Present
Hayden	Present

Mayor Branch allowed time for questions or comments from the public regarding items on the agenda, but there was none.

Motion and second to approve minutes of the April 12th meeting were made by Councilmembers Watson and Day respectively and carried unanimously.

City Superintendent C. J. Oney gave a public works briefing which included City activities of removing abandoned houses, plans to remove abandoned buildings in the down-town area, and putting in force a mosquito abatement program. He also elaborated on progress of the Harlem Street Drainage Project explaining how its design and implementation will greatly eliminate much of the City's drainage problems by routing drainage waters into Brushy Bayou. He also mentioned the upcoming Ethel Street Project which will further assist in the elimination of flash flooding and other drainage problems within the City.

Motion and second to approve the occupational license of Keiron Williams for a private security company were made by Councilmembers Watson and Hayden respectively and carried unanimously.

Ms. Tina Johnson, Secretary of the Beautification Commission, introduced new members consisting of: Ms. Earline Curry, Ms. Alma Kendrick, Ms. Mary Gilmore, and Mr. Anthony Coleman.

City Clerk Gerald Odom presented the monthly financial overview of the City's General Fund operations as of February 28, 2018, eight months into fiscal year 2018 which began July 1, 2017.

He noted that although revenues for the month of February were down by \$11,000 compared to budget projection, the year-to-date situation was much better revealing a \$73,000 increase in revenues over the budgeted forecast of \$2,128,000. Overall expenses for the eight month period totaled \$1,896,000, and \$30,000 over budget for the period. He explained that the unfavorable variance arose from the unforeseen rehabilitation of the Police Department front desk area involving removal of asbestos and upgrading. Total cost was \$61,000, and the remaining balance will show up in the upcoming March financial statements which cover completion of the project he noted. All Departments with exception of the Police Department were within or very close to budget he stated.

Motion and second to accept the City's financial report were made by Councilmembers Houston and Watson respectively and carried, notwithstanding a "nay" vote from Councilmember Hayden.

Councilmember reports/comments regarding their respective districts consisted of: lots to be cleaned in District 1; problem of stray dogs; trash dumpsters needed in Districts 4 and 5 for clean-up; and illegal trash dumping in back of City Park.

Motion and second to enter Executive Session were made by Councilmembers Watson and Hayden respectively and carried unanimously.

In Executive Session, the topic of discussion was: Camo Construction Company vs. City Tallulah in which City Attorney Raymond Cannon briefed Council Members on current details of the case.

Motion and second to adjourn Executive Session and re-enter Regular Session were made by Councilmembers Hayden and Day respectively and carried unanimously.

Councilmember Hayden moved that City Attorney Cannon continue his defense of the City with the means necessary; Councilmember Day seconded, and motion carried unanimously.

Time was allowed by the Mayor for any response from the public prior to adjournment and limited to three minutes each, but there was none.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on motion and second of Councilmembers Hayden and Watson respectively and carried unanimously.

Gerald L. Odom, City Clerk

Paxton J. Branch, Mayor