

Regular Council Meeting  
City of Tallulah  
May 10, 2018

A regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council was held on Thursday, May 10, 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 Officer Robert Thompson presented the rules of order/etiquette 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 members of the public to make comments or ask questions concerning items on the agenda, but there was none.

Motion and second to approve minutes of the April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting were made by Councilmembers Hayden and Day respectively and carried unanimously.

The City Superintendent's report stated by the Mayor consisted of public works activities including street repair, removing abandoned vehicles, and the demolishing of abandoned houses.

Section 8 Administrator Merunda Brown noted that there was no new business to discuss regarding the housing program.

Councilmember Day motioned for approval of the occupational license application of the Jerry Ezell Dental Clinic with second from Councilmember Hayden. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion and second to approve the liquor license application of LaShonda Wilkerson were made by Councilmembers Hayden and Day respectively and carried unanimously.

Mayor Branch stated that he is calling a special election to be held in November, and asked that City Attorney Raymond L. Cannon read into the minutes the content of the Notice To Call An Election which is stated thusly:

"Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 19.1 of Title 42 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Tallulah, State of

Louisiana, acting as the governing authority (the “**Governing Authority**”) of the City of Tallulah, State of Louisiana (the “**City**”) at its regularly scheduled meeting on June 28, 2018, at its regular meeting place, City Hall, 204 North Cedar Street, Tallulah, Louisiana, at 5:30 p.m., will discuss and consider adopting one resolution ordering and calling an election, to authorize a 1.5% sales and use tax, which will be used for the purposes of: (a) providing funding for the construction, improvement, renovation, of water and sewer utility facilities and the operation and maintenance thereof and (b) providing funding for (i) additional support to the City of Tallulah Police Department, (ii) constructing, paving and improving public streets, and (iii) other capital expenditures, including but not limited to, recreation, upon approval by the qualified voters therein, and if passed, for such tax to be levied thereafter.

BY CITY OF TALLULAH, STATE OF LOUISIANA

FOR ANNOUNCEMENT AND PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL

After a brief discussion of the timeline of events, Councilmember Hayden moved for approval of the Notice of Intent to Call Election with second from Councilmember Day. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion and second to approve the Letters of Engagement for City audits by the LaPorte Audit Firm, Covington, Louisiana, were made by Councilmembers Watson and Day respectively and carried unanimously.

Ms. LaMia Haggard addressed the Mayor and Council with plans for a “School of Innovation” funded by the Louisiana Department of Education for attendance of students from the City and surrounding area and was seeking a large building to lease for the school’s operations. Mayor Branch noted that the City looked forward to working with such an endeavor and could possibly offer room in the future with an existing building if accomplished.

Councilmember Watson stated that the City Council should go on record as supporting the school regardless of its ultimate location. Motion and second to that effect were made by Councilmembers Watson and Day respectively and carried unanimously.

Reports/comments of Council Members regarding their respective districts consisted primarily of: sidewalks need cleaning; pit bull dogs are loose on Johnnie Street; Mayor states enforcing the law would put controls on dogs running loose; street paving and repair needed on Dickerson Street especially near Highway 80; City should be cooperative with more youth recreational activities during the summer months.

Mayor Branch, in his closing remarks, stated that he continues to be pro-active in his drive to get the City’s water problem solved and noted that a grant of \$175,000 was to be approved by Northeast Regional Authority to fund a new clarifier for the system. He also stated he would not drop his quest for the \$500,000 emergency repair funds promised by the State.

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

Attest:

May 24, 2018.

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Gerald L. Odom, City Clerk

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Paxton J. Branch, Mayor