

Regular Council Meeting
City of Tallulah
May 24, 2018

A regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council was held on Thursday, May 24, 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 Councilmember Watson gave the invocation.

Police Patrolman Robert Thompson presented the rules of etiquette/conduct to be observed during the meeting.

A roll-call is listed as follows:

Finlayson	Present
Houston	Present
Watson	Present
Day	Present
Hayden	Present

Mayor Branch provided a brief period in which members of the public could make comments or ask questions regarding items on the agenda, but there was none.

Councilmember Hayden asked that three items be placed on the agenda concerning: summer employment of students, opening of the Community Center for summer activities, and a proposed forensic audit of the City.

Motion and second to add the items to the agenda for discussion were made by Councilmembers Watson and Day respectively and carried unanimously.

Ensuing discussion of the items brought about the Mayor's contention that: (1) employing 10 students for summer employment though desirable would cost the City about \$75,000 which is currently out of reach financially; (2) a full schedule of various summer recreation activities is under development to keep youth occupied which will include opening the Community for some of the activities; (3) a forensic audit would be impractical in that the City undergoes an annual audit and as of recently is required 2 annual audits, plus the expense involved would be cost prohibitive.

Motion and second to approve minutes of the May 10th meeting were made by Councilmembers Hayden and Day respectively and carried unanimously.

City Clerk Gerald Odom presented a financial overview of General Fund operations for the period ended March 31, 2018 which consists of nine months activity of the 2018 fiscal year which began July 1, 2017 and ends June 30, 2018. He began by noting the short-term (cash

flow) loan of \$375,000 with interest of \$5,065.00 secured on November 30, 2017 was paid back on March 1, 2018 as shown on financial statements, and that total revenues for the nine month period were under budget forecast by \$17,000.00 arising from the budget forecast of \$1,971,000.00 with actual revenues of \$1,954,000.00. However, he noted that the unfavorable variance would probably be made up during the following month's operations when most remaining past due property tax payments would be arriving. He called attention to an annual fire truck payment to USDA in the amount of \$30,825.00 and stated the last payment will occur in March 2019. He noted that the local commercial airport is beginning to get closer to its break-even point in financial operations and is below budget in the amount the City contributes monthly by a total of \$13,000 thus far into the fiscal year. However total expenditures have increased over budget by \$38,000.00, reaching \$2,157,000.00 compared to a budget of \$2,119,000.00 for the nine month period ended. That amount he said can be explained in the unbudgeted building upgrade of the Police Department which had to be done due to unsafe work conditions.

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

At the Mayor's request, City Attorney Raymond L. Cannon read into the minutes two budget ordinances for introduction which are:

(A) An Ordinance to Adopt the Municipal Budgets for the City of Tallulah for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2018 and Ending June 30, 2019.

Motion and second to approve introduction of the ordinance were made by Councilmembers Watson and Houston respectively and carried unanimously; and

(B) An Ordinance to Amend the Current Municipal Budget for the City of Tallulah for the Fiscal year Beginning July 1, 2017 and Ending June 30, 2018.

Motion and second to approve introduction of the ordinance were made by Councilmembers Day and Houston respectively and carried unanimously.

Council Member reports/comments regarding their respective districts consisted primarily of: trees needing trimming back from streets; the need for ditch cleaning; grass cutting on lots; cleaning of culverts.

Mayor Branch announced that a special meeting would be held on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 for a public hearing on budgets since a quorum might not be available on the regular meeting date of June 14th.

Public comments consisted of the announcement of various upcoming events and the construction of a dog pound outside city limits headed by Mr. Richard Wright.

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

Attest:

June 12, 2018.

Gerald L. Odom, City Clerk

Paxton J. Branch, Mayor