

Regular Council Meeting  
City of Tallulah  
Thursday, December 12, 2019

*\*Meeting minutes compiled by Yvonne Lewis from video recording.*

A regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council was held on Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 5:30 P. M., in the Council Room Chamber of Tallulah City Hall.

Mayor Charles Finlayson called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and a moment of silence was held.

A roll-call vote is listed as follows:

Robinson	Present
Sims	Present
Day	Present
Whitney	Present

Police Officer Robert Thompson presented rules of conduct to be observed during the meeting.

Mayor Finlayson allowed time for any comments from the public regarding items on the agenda, but there was none. City employee Anthony Coleman asked about being on the agenda

Motion and second to approve minutes of the November 14, 2019 meeting were made by Councilmembers Whitney and Sims respectively and a roll call vote carried unanimously.

Motion and second to approve minutes of the November 25, 2019 meeting were made by Councilmembers Day and Whitney respectively. Councilmembers Sims, Day and Whitney voted yea and Councilmember Robinson abstained as he was absent from that meeting.

Motion to approve the appointment of Pamela Netterville Grady as City Attorney was made by Councilman Sims and seconded by Councilwoman Day. A roll call vote followed;

District 2	Yes
District 3	Yes
District 4	Yes
District 5	Yes

Motion to appoint Sammy Guice, Sr. as Interim Superintendent was made by Councilwoman Day and seconded by Councilman Whitney. Roll call vote followed:

District 2	Yes
District 3	Yes
District 4	Yes
District 5	Yes

Motion to appoint Harold Allen as Fire Chief was made by Councilman Robinson and seconded by Councilman Sims. Roll call vote followed:

District 2      Yes  
District 3      Yes  
District 4      Yes  
District 5      Yes

Mayor Finlayson asked that the appointment of Tallulah City Council District 1 seat be tabled until a later meeting. Motion to approve the tabling of this item was made by Councilwoman Day and seconded by Councilman Whitney. Roll call vote followed:

District 2      Yes  
District 3      Yes  
District 4      Yes  
District 5      Yes

City Attorney Grady advised that regarding the reinstatement of the City Clerk, she needed to see certain documents related to the suspension to review and give a legal opinion on the reinstatement. With regard to back pay for the City Clerk, Attorney Grady said that she needed to review to see if that issue was something the City needed to consider. Mayor Finlayson asked for a motion to table the reinstatement and review of back pay for the City Clerk until a further meeting. Motion was made by Councilman Robinson and seconded by Councilman Whitney. A roll call vote followed:

District 2      Yes  
District 3      Yes  
District 4      Yes  
District 5      Yes

Reading of Public Notice – Notice of Intent to Call and Election **MUST BE READ INTO THE MINUTES. DONE SO BY MAYOR FINLAYSON. The following is verbatim of Mayor Finlayson’s reading:**

*NOTICE OF INTENT TO CALL AN ELECTION*

*Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 19.1 of Title 42 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, that City Council, acting as the governing authority, of the City of Tallulah, State of Louisiana (the "City") at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 9, 2020, at its regular meeting place, City Hall, 204 North Cedar Street, Tallulah, Louisiana, at 5:30 p.m., will discuss and consider adopting an ordinance to levy and collect a sales and use tax of one-half of one percent (.5%) on sale at retail, the use, the lease or rental, the consumption, and the storage for use or consumption, of tangible personal property and on sales and services within the City the proceeds of the Tax shall be dedicated and used for any lawful purpose including but not limited to funding for construction, improvement, renovation, of water and sewer utility facilities and the operation and maintenance, title to which shall be in the public, which was*

*approved by the majority of the electorate voting at an election held on November 16, 2019. For announcement and publication in the official journal.*

Motion to approve recommendation of Police Chief Buster McCoy on new hires for the Police Department (Shunquata Sims Dispatcher, Latoria Davis, Dispatcher, Stephanie Harden, Dispatcher and Shaddrick Moffet, Police Officer). Motion made by Councilwoman Day and seconded by Councilman Robinson. A roll call vote followed:

District 2	Yes
District 3	Yes
District 4	Yes
District 5	Yes

Motion to declare seven (7) police vehicles as surplus was made by Councilman Whitney and seconded by Councilman Sims. A roll call vote followed:

District 2	Yes
District 3	Yes
District 4	Yes
District 5	Yes

Section 8 – There was no Section 8 report.

Approval of Occupational Licenses:

- a. The Nutrition Wagon – Motion to approve made by Councilman Sims and seconded by Councilwoman Day. A roll call vote carried unanimously.
- b. Brittany Sims – Motion to approve made by Councilwoman Day and seconded by Councilman Sims. A roll call vote carried unanimously.

Demolition of Property at 19 Stansbrough Drive. Property owners have been sent two notices. Council voted to declare property to be demolished, a rate set and said rate attached to property taxes. No roll call vote taken.

Approval of contract with Rusty Bedgood to remove lime as ordered by DEQ from the ditch near Cleveland and Tampa Street (running in front of church). Councilwoman Day asked Mr. Michael Goods was the contract more feasible than having his men do the work and accumulate overtime. Mr. Goods ascertained that this contract would be more fiscally sound. Motion made by Councilman Whitney and seconded by Councilwoman Day. A roll call vote followed:

District 2	Yes
District 3	Yes
District 4	Yes
District 5	Yes

Motion to approve the 2018-19 Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire Audit form made by Councilman Sims and seconded by Councilman Whitney. A roll call vote carried unanimously.

Regarding the approval of a new water plant for the City of Tallulah, Councilwoman Marjorie Day questioned that the rate increase would be \$11 and was told it would be between \$10 and \$12 dollars. She also questioned as to whether the numbers presented were the same numbers that were presented prior, specifically the annual payment. Mayor Finlayson asked Cinnamon Gooding from McManus Engineering to come forward and provide information. Ms. Gooding gave the council information on prospective financing amounts (i.e. interest rates and potential grants). Private citizen Antonio Wilson asked specifically how the City would be paying for the new water plant and that he would like to see a plan showing how the plant will be paid for. Mayor Finlayson asked Ms. Gooding to come back forward and she advised the council that the increase in water rates would be used to pay for the new plant and associated costs (i.e. debt service, reserve accounts and short term assets). Motion to table this matter was made by Councilman Whitney and seconded by Councilman Sims. A roll call vote followed:

District 2      Yes  
District 3      Yes  
District 4      Yes  
District 5      Yes

Motion to approve a resolution authorizing Mayor Finlayson to perform all duties and administration of Delta Regional Authority (DRA) Awards made by Councilman Whitney and seconded by Councilwoman Day. A roll call vote carried unanimously. A roll call vote followed:

District 2      Yes  
District 3      Yes  
District 4      Yes  
District 5      Yes

Motion to approve a resolution authorizing Mayor Finlayson to submit a loan application to USDA was not acted on as the water issue was tabled to a later meeting. Vote to table this issue made by Councilwoman Day and seconded by Councilman Whitney. A roll call vote followed:

District 2      Yes  
District 3      Yes  
District 4      Yes  
District 5      Yes

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was by Mayor Finlayson.

Attest:

December 12, 2019

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Yvonne Lewis, Administrative Assistant

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Charles Finlayson, Mayor