

Regular Council Meeting  
City of Tallulah  
September 26, 2019

A regular council meeting of the Mayor and City Council was held on Thursday, September 26, 2019 at 5:30 P. M., in the Council Room Chamber of Tallulah City Hall.

Mayor Gloria Hayden called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and asked for a moment of silent prayer.

A roll-call is listed as follows:

Finlayson	Present
Robinson	Present
Sims	Present
Day	Absent
Whitney	Present

Motion and second to add to the agenda: Ken McManus, McManus Engineers Water Update. Motion made by Councilman Sims and seconded by Councilman Whitney. Followed by roll call:

Finlayson	Yes
Robinson	Yes
Sims	Yes
Whitney	Yes

Motion and second to add Fire Truck Discussion by Fire Chief Harold Allen was made by Councilmembers Sims and seconded by Councilman Finlayson. Followed by roll call:

Finlayson	Yes
Robinson	Yes
Sims	Yes
Whitney	Yes

There were no public comments on the agenda.

Ken McManus addressed the council with information on work being done to comply with the Administrative Order for the Water Plant. He advised that he and his colleague Cinnamon Good spent roughly three hours at the Water Plant on Wednesday, September 25, 2019. Per Mr McManus, the Clarifiers have been repaired and we are awaiting final repairs on the Aerators. According to the Administrative Order, the #4 Filter at the Water Plant must be repaired (Filters 1 & 2 are in operation; 3 cannot be used because 4 is inoperable); the emergency gas pump will be changed to a diesel pump to ensure it can be used in emergency situations and hand rails and ladders on several tanks must be fixed. All of this work is required by the Administrative Order. He told the council that his inspection of the plant showed significant damage to the two settling

tanks and to the ground storage tank. Repairs to these tanks could prove difficult due to the condition of the tanks. He also advised that under the Administrative Order, his firm would contact a tank company that inspects ground storage tanks and elevated tanks. Mr. McManus let the council know that there was the possibility that the two settling tanks and the ground storage tank might not be repairable. The City has a deadline date of October 5, 2019 to have all information to DHH regarding the Interim Water Plan.

Water Operator Michael Goods updated the council on the Water Outage which occurred over the weekend of September 20, 2019. According to Mr. Goods, the water usage came about because of a pump failure coupled with high usage and two major leaks. The leaks are at Englewood Bridge and in the Star Lodge apartments. Mr. Goods asked again that the public be made aware to continue to conserve water usage. Mayor Hayden also advised (1) that the public would continue to be made aware of the burn ban in the parish and (2) the City would continue to advertise for another certified water operator. Mayor Hayden also advised that during the water outage, we received three pallets of water from the Monroe Food Bank and the water was distributed to the elderly and handicapped.

Private Citizen Alvin Bagby (404 Chicago Street) asked Mr. McManus if the Tallulah water system filtration system could be retrofitted to use another process (i.e. reverse osmosis). He advised that the Tallulah Water Plant was built by People's water, the same company that built the plant in Bastrop, Louisiana. Mr. Bagby pointed out that the Bastrop system was not experiencing the same problems as the Tallulah system. He stressed that the Tallulah system needed to get away from the lime and sand system used now. Mr. McManus agreed that using lime would continue to create problems (pump failure, etc) for the Tallulah plant.

Demolition of property at 19 Stansbrough Street was tabled. The City will attempt to contact the property owner again before making a decision on a final action.

A motion to approve a Resolution for the City of Tallulah to submit a Capital Outlay request was made by Councilman Sims and seconded by Councilman Whitney. A roll call followed:

Finlayson	Yes
Robinson	Yes
Sims	Yes
Whitney	Yes

Actions regarding approval of Occupational Licenses:

- a. No action on the license for Keona Johnson – Kingdom Beautique
- b. Deborah Whitney came forward for McDowell Johnson & Association – All about You Support Services. Motion to approve the occupational license was made by Councilman Sims and seconded by Councilman Robinson. A roll call followed:

Finlayson	Yes
Robinson	Yes
Sims	Yes
Whitney	Abstain

Mr. Sammy Guice gave the Superintendent's Report. He advised the council that his department was doing well and that they continued to work on grass cutting, cleaning ditches and culverts. He said that his men would continue pothole patching and that each councilmember should be able to see the work done in their respective district. Mayor Hayden said that she'd talked with a constituent about culverts on Cornelius Street and that the City was doing what it could even with a shortage of manpower.

Fire Chief Harold Allen gave an update on the Fire Department. He advised the council that the department's service rescue truck they used for vehicle extraction is not operable and that he did not feel money should continue to be put into the vehicle. He said he talked to Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus about obtaining another service rescue truck. The company has a vehicle we could use. Value is \$9,000. Chief Allen submitted a bid of \$6,500. We are waiting to see if we will be the winning bid. Chief Allen stressed that the department must have this type of vehicle in its fleet.

Questions to Chief Allen came from (1) Councilman Finlayson who asked the size of the vehicle we are attempting to get and Chief Allen advised it is similar in size to the truck we have now; (2) Councilman Whitney asked about Fire Rating – We are currently at Class 5. Chief's goal is Class (3) Volunteer Retention – Chief Allen purges the list annually and we are able to keep a good number of volunteers. Allen advised that volunteer training is very important and that each volunteer must get 40 hours of training in order to stay with the department.

Councilmember reports:

District 1 – No Report

District 2 – Needs action at Bayou and Grant Street and list of potholes in District 2 has been submitted.

District 3 – No Report

District 5 – Lot on Van Zelfden next to Councilman Whitney's house needs attention.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hayden had not report at this time.

Private citizen Freddie Carter (315 Davis Street) presented Interim Superintendent Sammy Guice with a custom birdhouse and thanked him for his work with the City.

Meeting was adjourned on motion by Councilman Finlayson and seconded by Councilman Robinson.

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Vanessa Stubblefield, Deputy City Clerk

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Gloria Owens Hayden, Mayor