

Regular Council Meeting  
City of Tallulah  
April 27, 2023

A regular council meeting of the Mayor and City Council was held on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Room Chamber of Tallulah City Hall.

Mayor Charles M. Finlayson called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and allowed time for a moment of prayer.

A roll call of Council Members is shown in the following:

Scott	Present
Houston	Present
Harris	Present
Day	Present
Wells	Present

Time was allowed for public comment on items of the agenda, but there was none.

Motion and second to approve minutes of the April 13, 2023, meeting were made by Councilmembers Houston and Harris respectively and carried unanimously.

Citizen Ryan Robinson submitted for approval an application for a proposed private security firm that would allow for additional law enforcement. In the ensuing discussion, Police Chief Buster McCoy stated that he was not opposed to the idea but added that extreme caution should be taken in the placing of guns in the hands of individuals. He also pointed out that in checking with the State, he determined that not all official documents had been completed. Councilmember Houston made a subsequent motion to table the action until all paperwork was complete. Councilmember Harris seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

A discussion of Tallulah Housing Authority and its interaction with Martin Luther King Apartments and Madison Pointe Apartments occurred resulting in response to questions from Councilmember Wells. Audit reports for Tallulah Housing Authority for years, 2019, 2020, and 2021 were presented by John Murray, LaPorte CPAs, and he pointed out that Martin Luther King Apartments was the only entity within Tallulah Housing Authority with some question as to the situation with Madison Pointe Apartments and its relationship with the City. Representing Martin Luther King Apartments, Christopher Stant, Senior Partner, Woodglen Development, Metairie, Louisiana, responded on behalf of Martin Luther King Apartments and its relationship with Tallulah Housing Authority owned by the City of Tallulah. He elaborated on the situation explaining that Martin Luther King Apartments was under the management of OSC Management, Inc., Metairie, Louisiana, and that it did not receive any financial or management input from the City. However, in the future, it is to be included within the annual financial and procedural audits of the City. Similar questions regarding Madison Pointe, Inc. also arose, and it was suggested that Madison Pointe should have a representative to address the Council concerning its finances,

management, and relationship to the City as well as with Tallulah Housing Authority. From the Council, most of the questioning to John Murray, CPA and Christopher Stant was done by Councilmember Wells who appeared concerned for the lack of complete answers to some of his questions.

Financial audits of Tallulah Housing Authority (Martin Luther Apartments) were not conducted during the recent years of 2019, 2020, and 2021. John Murray, CPA, stated that in his talks with the State Legislative Office, it was undecided if an audit was called for since the lone apartment complex comprised all of Tallulah Housing Authority. Consequently, financial audits were not conducted during those years. Recently, however, he noted that the Legislative Auditor's Office had made the decision that Tallulah Housing Authority should receive an annual audit. Subsequent motion of Councilmember Houston, with second of Councilmember Harris, moved for approval of a Letter of Engagement for LaPorte CPAs to conduct audits for Tallulah Housing Authority for the years, 2019, 2020, and 2021. A roll call vote is shown as follows:

Scott	Yea
Houston	Yea
Harris	Yea
Day	Yea
Wells	Nay

Motion carried.

A contract for approval between the City of Tallulah and Christian Acres school was tabled due to the absence of a representative of the institution.

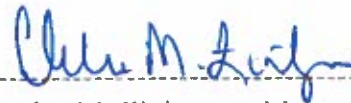
In final comments, Mayor Finlayson stated that the street project totaling about \$700,000 was being delayed because all bidders were considerably higher than what the budget allowed. The subsequent motion to add a motion to reject all bids was made by Councilmember Day with second from Councilmember Houston. Motion carried.

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

Attest:



Gerald L. Odom, City Clerk



Charles M. Finlayson, Mayor