

204 North Cedar Street
Tallulah, Louisiana 71282
Telephone (318) 574-0964
Fax (318) 574-2773
www.cityoftallulah.org



Office of the Mayor

City of Tallulah
Special Council Meeting Agenda
Thursday, June 6, 2024
5:30 P.M.,
Tallulah City Hall

Charles M. Finlayson
Mayor
Joseph Scott
District 1
Lisa Houston
District 2
Carla Turner-Harris
District 3
Marjorie Day
District 4
Toriano Wells
District 5

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance & Prayer
3. Roll-Call
4. Public Comments on the Agenda
5. Approve Sustainability Partners Building New Water Plant w/o State Joint Receivership
6. Approve State Joint Receivership for Water Operations
7. Adjourn

Special Accommodations

Any person needing reasonable accommodations to attend a public meeting held by the Tallulah City Council should contact Gerald Odom at 318-574-0964 three (3) days prior to the meeting date. If further information is needed, please contact Mr. Odom at the number listed above.



May 30, 2024

City of Tallulah
c/o Honorable Charles Finlayson
204 N. Cedar Street
Tallulah, LA 71282

Dear Applicant:

This correspondence is to address your concerns as related to your current obligated funding for a City of Tallulah – Water Improvement Project. The funding referenced was obligated April 9, 2021. The USDA threshold for unliquidated obligations is 3 to 5 years. The current obligated funding is as follows:

- USDA Loan in the amount of \$4,065,000.00 at an 1.375% interest rate for a term of 40 years, which will warrant a monthly payment of \$11,017.00
- USDA Grant in the amount of \$3,705,000.00

This funding was obligated with a proposed project scope being to rehabilitate the existing water treatment plant at the existing treatment plant site. Construction of two new 250,000 gallon ground storage tanks; with the abandonment of well's 2, 3, and 4 and with new 1,000 gpm replacement being constructed. Existing well 5 will remain; all outstanding items in the City's Administrative Order will be included in refurbishments. Replacing Filter #4; replacing the media in Filter #3; replacement of non-working gauges, valves and flow meters; etc.

If the scope of this project changes from the above referenced proposed project, this will require a new PER (Preliminary Engineering Report), a new Environmental Report, a new application for funding (SF 424), new underwriting and the current obligation would be de-obligated. The de-obligation of funding will mean that the current obligated loan of \$4,065,000.00 and current obligated grant of \$3,705,000.00 will no longer be available for the City of Tallulah and the processing of a new application will be required. Once these funds are de-obligated they are return to the National Office funding. This means they **cannot** be set aside strictly for City of Tallulah's new application if applicable.

Your letter dated May 24, 2024 (copy of correspondence attached) referenced the discussion of the possibility of a new water plant, in a different location for the City of Tallulah. This would be considered a drastic change in project scope and the current obligated funding would not be useable for this type of change.

Rural Development • Monroe Area Office
USDA Service Center
2410 Old Sterlington Road, Suite C
Monroe, Louisiana 71203
Voice 318.343.4467, Option 4, Ext. 3
Fax 844-325-6976

Please keep in mind that our agency is willing to assist the City of Tallulah in every manor possible that we can within regulations. We do acknowledge the urgency of this project and will give any future application and/or any future project decisions priority given the receipt of complete proper document(s) being provided to address same. Additionally, any new funding will require BABA regulations accordingly and USDA does have WEP funding available, at this time, if a new application is submitted.

If you have any questions and/or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly @ 318-582-4369 | katina.spencer@usda.gov or Community Programs, Program Director – Matthew Seaton @ matthew.seaton@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

**KATINA
SPENCER**

Digitally signed by
KATINA SPENCER
Date: 2024.05.30
15:16:07 -05'00'

KATINA SPENCER
Community Programs Loan Specialist

Office of Community Development
State of Louisiana
Division of Administration

JEFF LANDRY
GOVERNOR



TAYLOR F. BARRAS
COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATION

May 28, 2024

Honorable Charles M. Finlayson
Mayor, City of Tallulah
204 North Cedar Street
Tallulah, LA 71282

Re: Water Sector Program – LAWSP10947
Process to Request to Change of Scope

Dear Mayor Finlayson:

We received your letter dated May 24, 2024 discussing a potential scope change to the above referenced Water Sector Program (WSP) grant. As you know, the Water Sector Commission (WSC) is the decision-making body for the WSP. The proposed change in scope that is included in your letter would have to be presented to the WSC at a meeting for the consideration and approval. If the City would like to request a change in scope, please write a letter including detailed information about the proposed change in scope. Also, the City should submit a performance schedule detailing the timeline for completion of the project and an itemized Engineer's cost estimate that lists all funding sources.

If the City has any questions, please contact me at 225-342-0148.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Traci Watts".

Traci Watts
Director, Local Government Assistance
Office of Community Development

c: Gwendolyn Thomas, Office of Community Development
File: WSP, Grantee File