

Regular Council Meeting
City of Tallulah
August 10, 2023

A regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council was held on Thursday, August 10, 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 a moment of silent prayer.

A roll call of Councilmembers is listed as follows:

Scott	Present
Houston	Present
Harris	Present
Day	Present
Wells	Present

Public comments consisted primarily of : Councilmember Wells advocated proper correction of the minutes, and that corrections to some of his statements had not been accurate. . Former Mayor Hayden was in full agreement as well and further advocated his ideas. Ms. Janet Clark stressed word for word reporting regarding some statements, and she also gave her opinion on the finances of the Water Company, and how the financing situation for rehabilitation could have been handled better. Councilmember Wells ended his remarks by calling for a motion to include public sentiment and comments in the minutes and motioned to that effect. The motion died for lack of a second.

Motion and second to approve the July 13, 2023, minutes, with corrections, were made by Councilmembers Day and Houston respectively and a roll call vote is listed as follows:

Scott	Yea
Houston	Yea
Harris	Yea
Day	Yea
Wells	Nay

Motion carried. The regularly scheduled Council Meeting for July 27, 2023 was not held for lack of a quorum.

Ms. Joy Sims, LSU Extension Office gave a presentation on "Complete Streets" in which she outlined the formation of a partnership between local and state governments for the improvement of streets in local jurisdictions. State DODT will pay the cost of the street project. However, if the cost of the plan is more than 20 per cent of projected cost, the local government shall pay for the excess.

The annual Audit Engagement Letters from LaPorte, CPAs, for the City's Financial and Procedures audits were up for adoption, but the Council stood in agreement with Councilmember Wells that the State Compliance Questionnaire should be reviewed prior to the audit engagement letters. Subsequent motion to table action until the compliance questionnaire is reviewed was made by Councilmember Harris, and a roll call vote is shown as follows:

Scott	Yea
Houston	Yea
Harris	Yea
Day	Yea
Wells	Yea

Motion carried unanimously.

During his report, Mayor Charles Finlayson gave a briefing on the water rehabilitation program giving a timetable as close as possible to reality. He further stated that the Letter of Conditions had been met, and that loan documents are now approved by USDA prior to the sending out for bids.

Former Mayor, Gloria Hayden addressed the public explaining actions she took as mayor and the positive results of those actions. She was critical of the City's water being discolored and called for corrective measures at the plant as well as the distribution system.

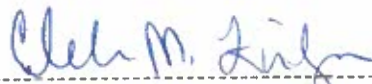
The time given for public comments mostly was used for complaints about water and discussions about how to improve it and the need to repair significant leaks.

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

Attest:



Gerald L. Odom, City Clerk



Charles M. Finlayson, Mayor