

Regular Council Meeting
City of Tallulah
August 24, 2023

A regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council was held on Thursday, August 24, 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 for a moment of silent prayer.

A roll call of Council Members is shown as follows:

Scott	Present
Houston	Present
Harris	Present
Day	Present
Wells	Present

Comments from the public consisted of Ms. Gloria Hayden stating that she specifically wanted to address item number 7 of the agenda.

Motion and second to approve minutes of the August 10, 2023 meeting were made by Councilmembers Houston and Day respectively and carried. Councilmember Wells voted "nay".

In her Section 8 report to the Council, Ms. Merunda Brown, administrator, presented an overview of the program's current operations, issues to be addressed, as well as the website for information concerning operations of the program.

City Clerk Gerald Odom presented financial statements for General Fund as of July 31, 2023, amidst discussion. At hand were the first month's results of the new fiscal year. He noted that total revenues of \$237,000 fell slightly under budget forecast of \$258,000, and overall expenses exceeded budget by about \$21,000. Ms. Gloria Hayden asked why there was no budget for recreation and insisted that it be added to the General Fund budget.

From McManus Engineering, Ms. Cinnamon Gooding, P.E., presented details of the winning bid, contingent upon state approval, for a small street project consisting of the rehabilitation of Tank Street, University Street, and Florida Street. The bid of the state LCDBG grant of \$799,390 would require an additional \$361,840 for the street improvement process to be paid by the City over a period of time. Subsequent motion to accept the bid was made by Councilmember Scott with second from Councilmember Houston which carried unanimously.

Motion and second to approve the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire prior to audit 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.

Motion and second to approve the City of Tallulah audit engagement letters from LaPorte CPAs for fiscal 2023 audits were made by Councilmembers Houston and Day respectively, and a roll call vote is listed as follows:

Scott Yea
Houston Yea
Harris Nay
Day Yea
Wells Nay

Motion carried.

In his report to the public, Mayor Finlayson gave the latest situation of the water rehabilitation project stating that the City is still waiting on sign off by USDA which should come soon. Then engineers may issue requests for bids.

He also stated that he, Doug Mitchell and City Attorney Doughty were in the process of setting a date for a public meeting regarding corrections to city boundaries that have been put forth.

He announced that on Monday, September 11, 2023, a public meeting will be held in the Community Center at 6:00 P.M., for presentations and discussions regarding the Tallulah Brownfield Program. The program assists in getting selected nonfriendly environmental sites ready for future development.

During the comment period, most of the discussion involved keeping city vehicles within city limits unless a special situation should prevail.

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



Gerald L. Odom, City Clerk



Charles M. Finlayson, Mayor