

CORRECTED COPY

Regular Council Meeting
City of Tallulah
December 14, 2023

A regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council was held on Thursday, November 14, 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 listed as follows:

Scott	Present
Houston	Present
Harris	Present
Day	Present
Wells	Present

Councilmember Wells noted that sewer wastewater issues should have been on the agenda especially concerning any penalties that might be levied against the treatment plant. He also noted that the agenda should include discussion regarding a city attorney appointment to be approved by the Council.

Motion and second to approve minutes of the November 9, 2023, meeting were made by Councilmembers Day and Houston respectively and carried. Councilmember Wells voted "nay".

Appearing before the Mayor and Council were Mr. Robert Rushing, President, Tensas Parish Police Jury and Mr. Kiley Sanders, Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, St. Joseph, Louisiana, Madison Parish Police Jury, and they requested that the following document be approved the Tallulah City Council: Memorandum Of Understanding By And Between Tensas Parish Police Jury And City Of Tallulah. The agreement would call for a very temporary use of the Tallulah Madison Community Center as an emergency preparedness need for some Tensas Parish residents not to exceed 250 people should an emergency occur which would call for mandated evacuation in Tensas Parish. It would primarily serve as a portal site from which evacuees would quickly be assigned to more permanent shelters within the region. Councilmember Houston moved for approval of the agreement with second from Councilmember Scott. Motion carried unanimously.

Madison Parish Police Jury member, Mr. Jerry Hicks, made a presentation to the Mayor and Council requesting that the City of Tallulah furnish one half of the funds needed to clean out Brushy Bayou. He stated a total cost of \$14,500 which would require \$7,250 from the City if approved. Subsequent approval of the cost sharing basis was made by Councilmember Day, seconded by Councilmember Scott, and carried. Councilmember Harris voted "nay."

A report on Section 8 Housing was tabled due to the absence of the Director by motion and second of Councilmembers Harris and Wells respectively which carried unanimously.

Ken McManus, McManus Engineering, presented the cost involved in the repair and upgrade of Dabney Street and sidewalk. He reported that the contracting work would be done by low bidder, D & J Construction, at a cost of \$225,450, from a LCDBG state grant. At this juncture, Councilmember Wells stated that members of the Council should always be made aware of every bid opening time in the future. This matter was tabled.

Mayor Finlayson announced that the City only received one bid on the proposed water plant rehabilitation project which amounted to about \$18,000,000 which is about \$3,000,000 above what the City has been preparing to accept. He mentioned that it would be a good idea for the City to rebid the project in hopes of receiving a more favorable bid amount, and in the meantime, would be searching for additional grant funds.

In his report to public, Mayor Finlayson stated that the current street project was well underway, and that Tank Street was completed.

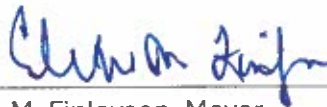
Public comments consisted primarily about water problems and impatience with getting things done,

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

Attest:



Gerald L. Odom, City Clerk



Charles M. Finlayson, Mayor