

AMENDED MINUTES (added corrections in red)

Regular Council Meeting
City of Tallulah
March 14, 2024

A regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council was held on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 5:30 P.M., in the Council Room Chair 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

Public comments on the agenda included comments from Councilman Wells (questioned items that he had requested for the agenda, to include Harlem Street and Ethel Street Projects, Department Head Presentations, Water Plant Project; Citizen Antonio Wilson (requested adding discussion on January water issues to agenda which resulted in Councilman Wells making a motion to add water discussion to the agenda, seconded by Harris and roll call vote:

Scott	Nay
Houston	Nay
Harris	Yea
Day	Nay
Wells	Yea

Motion failed to carry.

~~Councilmember Wells and citizen Antonio Wilson were in agreement according to their statements that City Attorney Glenn Fleming was not properly appointed by the Mayor as no letter of engagement was issued, and instead he accepted the appointment from Mayor Finlayson with a handshake. They also raised the issue of Attorney Fleming offering legal advice to the Council before he was appointed though Attorney Fleming noted that he was acting in the capacity of a private attorney under those particular circumstances.~~

Two items on the agenda, approving the minutes of February 22, 2024, meeting and approving security fee changes at the Community center, were tabled due to the discovery that Councilmember Harris had not received a meeting packet beforehand as is required. Councilman Wells raised issues with the approval of minutes from the February 8, 2024. Attorney Fleming

stated that action items from this (March 14, 2024) meeting should be placed on the upcoming March 28, 2024 meeting. Subsequent motion and second to table actions items #5 and #7 from the March 14, 2024, meeting was made by Councilmembers ~~Houston~~ Harris and ~~Day~~ Houston respectively and carried unanimously.

Within this same discussion and specific to an action taken at the February 8, 2024, meeting regarding a forensic audit, Mr. Wells questioned (1) the overall process of challenging the forensic audit vote (2) subsequent letter from the Mayor regarding a forensic audit, (3) Discussions between the Mayor and Mr. Fleming regarding challenging of said vote, and (4) his belief that the process by which Attorney Fleming, as a prospective attorney for the city, was not done properly. Private Citizen Antonio Wilson approached the podium and also questioned the actions taken by Attorney Fleming at the February 8, 2024 meeting. During Citizen Wilson's time at the podium, he was removed from the Council meeting by Tallulah Police Department personnel.

After lengthy discussion a motion to table the minutes of the February 8, 2024, meeting, as well as action items #5 and #7 (from the March 14, 2024, meeting) was made by Councilwoman Houston, seconded by Councilwoman Day and carried unanimously.

Section 8 report was not given due to a motion by Councilman Wells to table the Section 8 report until the Section 8 financials accompanied the report. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Harris. Roll call vote:

Scott	Nay
Houston	Nay
Harris	Yea
Day	Nay
Wells	Yea

Motion did not carry.

Section 8 report provided by Executive Director Merunda Brown. Ms. Brown gave details on number of clients on the program, number of individuals with new vouchers who are searching for housing and potentially opening the wait list. Ms. Brown was asked for financial information and offered to bring the Section 8 current bank statement to the next meeting. At this point, Councilman Wells identified that specific financials regarding General Fund, Proprietary Funds and Special Funds (including Section 8) are to be presented to the Council and requested that information be made available.

City Clerk Gerald Odom noted that at Councilmember Wells' request, salary schedules had already been given to him as well as other council members, and that the information was included in the prior council meeting packets. Mr. Odom stated that salary ordinances for the Mayor, City Clerk and Police Chief and salary schedules for department heads were given to Councilmember Wells on at least one other occasion.

Councilman Wells stated that he wanted specific information be provided for his request of salary schedules, which would include base pay, vacation, insurance, travel, etc.

Public comments consisted primarily of water issues and suggestions. Also, Ms Bertea Rogers addressed the Mayor and Council announcing the annual Spring cleaning activities that she directs each year

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

Attest:



Gerald L Odom, City Clerk



Charles M. Finlayson, Mayor