

Special Council Meeting
City of Tallulah
May 15, 2024

A special meeting of the Mayor and City Council was held on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 5:30 P. M., in the Madison Community Center.

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 Councilmembers is as follows:

Scott	Present
Houston	Present
Harris	Present
Day	Present
Wells	Present

Time was allowed for comments from the public regarding items on the agenda, but there was none.

Up for approval was a contract with the City and Attorney Pamela Grady for city attorney services. However, Councilmember Wells pointed out that the contract should not include fees for paralegal services for Attorney Grady as itemized in the contract. After discussion of the issue, it was agreed the contract would be with Attorney Grady only. Subsequent motion and second to approve the legal services contract were made by Councilmembers Houston and Scott respectively and carried unanimously.

Love Louisiana's Outdoor Parks (LLOP) grant of \$400,000 had been submitted for bid, and only one contractor, Womack and Sons, responded with a bid of \$519,170. However, the City reduced the contents of the grant to \$415,570 in order to more closely adhere to the actual grant amount of \$400,000, leaving the remaining \$15,570 to be paid by the City. Councilmember Wells voiced disagreement with the cost reduction stating that the entire grant should have equaled \$400,000. Subsequent motion and second to approve acceptance of the grant were made by Councilmembers Scott and Day respectively and a roll call vote is shown as follows:

Scott	Yea
Houston	Yea
Harris	Abstain
Day	Yea
Wells	Nay

Motion carried.

Sustainability Partners were on hand to give a short briefing and then answer any questions from the Mayor, Council and the public. A very lively question and answer period commenced, and people were eager to make their views known and to ask questions they felt had relevance. Manager, Jason Hewitt and Jimmy Jones, Ph.D., answered all questions and concerns and asked that they be allowed to visit the water plant and have an assessment made of its condition.

A subsequent motion to allow Sustainability Partners to have an assessment made on the City's water plant with no obligations was made by Councilmember Wells, seconded by Councilmember Harris. A roll call vote was as follows:

Scott	Yea
Houston	Yea
Harris	Yea
Day	Yea
Wells	Yea

Engineer Chris Patrick stated when asked if Walnut Bayou could supply the City of Tallulah with its water needs capacity-wise. Mr. Patrick stated that Walnut Bayou definitely had the water output capacity to supply the City if need be.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by the Mayor Finlayson.

Attest:

May 23, 2024



Gerald L. Odom, City Clerk



Charles M. Finlayson, Mayor