

CORRECTED COPY (These minutes reflect the correct order in which items happened)

Council Meeting
City of Tallulah
May 9, 2024

A regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council was held on Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 5:30 P.M., in the Chamber 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 Councilmembers was as follows:

Scott	Present
Houston	Present
Harris	Late Arrival
Day	Present
Wells	Present

On the agenda, permission was given for Sustainability Partners representatives Jason Hewitt and Jimmy Jones, PhD., to move from item 7 up to item 5.

With regard to the approval of the April 25, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes, Councilman Wells drew attention to the follow corrections (in actual order of mention during the 5/9/24 meeting):

1. Mention in the minutes of a verbal exchange with Ms. Lewis and Councilmember Harris.
2. Motion to add item to the 4/25/24 agenda regarding City Attorney should reflect a 4-1 vote and not a unanimous vote and died for lack of unanimous vote.
3. The unanimous decision to approve the application for a liquor license application from "The Dollar Store" was not a unanimous vote ~~after all~~ as Councilmember Wells voted "Nay."
4. The discussion regarding Attorney Glen Fleming should include the mentioned of Fleming missing four Council meetings.
5. Councilmember Wells also brought up the subject of the Ethyl (sic Ethel) Street Drainage project and questioned if anyone in the current administration knew anything about it. Councilman Wells stated that he believed the project had been (1) funded at \$1.7 million dollars; (2) that no work had been done; (3) that \$1.7 million had been budgeted and; (4) questioned where the money was. City Clerk Gerald Odom stated that he and Madison Parish Treasurer, Margaret Dew had made several phone calls but thus far had received pertinent information on the status of the project. However, it was generally agreed that the project remained active, and that more information would be forthcoming.

Motion and second to approve minutes of the April 25, 2024, meeting with corrections were made by Councilmembers ~~Houston~~ Day and ~~Day~~ Houston respectively and a roll call vote as follows:

Scott	Yea
Houston	Yea
Harris	Nay
Day	Yea
Wells	Nay

Motion carried.

The representatives of sustainability Partners made their “get acquainted” presentation and outlined some advantages of using their services to rehabilitate the water plant.

The representatives of sustainability Partners made their “get acquainted” presentation and outlined some advantages of using their services to rehabilitate the water plant. Sustainability Partners indicated they had sent a draft Corporate Endeavor Agreement (CEA). Councilman Wells asked why the Council had not been provided a copy of the CEA. Ms. Lewis asked when it was sent and left the Council room to check for the email. The email had in fact been sent and had not been forwarded to the Council due to an error on Ms. Lewis’ part.

Councilmember Wells also discussed several issues of note regarding the appointment of a city attorney among which he questioned if Attorney Fleming was in fact hired by the City since he never signed an agreement.

Motion and second to table the termination of Attorney Glen Fleming were made by Councilmembers Houston and Day respectively awaiting a decision, and legal advice, as to whether Glenn Fleming needed to be terminated as City Attorney since there was never a legal contract signed between Attorney Fleming and the City of Tallulah.

At this juncture, Councilman Wells requested to add an “addendum” to the motion. The verbiage of the “addendum” is as follows:

“Even after legal advice, the 60-day window to challenge the investigative audit passed on February 8, 2024, during a Regular Council meeting while the city’s annual audit was being discussed, has elapsed, therefore the action voted on and passed by the council by law, is required to proceed.”

A roll call vote is shown as follows:

Scott	Yea
Houston	Yea
Harris	Yea

Day Yea
Wells Yea

Motion carried.

Councilmember Scott moved to approve the appointment of Attorney Pamela Grady as City Attorney with second from Councilmember Houston. A roll call vote is shown as follows:

Scott Yea
Houston Yea
Harris Nay
Day Yea
Wells Nay

Motion carried.

Motion to approve the competitive bid of Womack and sons for LLOP Parks Project including some funding from the City was tabled due to the issue of the City paying anything when it might have been possible to persuade the contractor to charge no higher than the grant amount. Consequently, no action taken, and the motion was tabled by Councilmembers Day and Houston respectively and a roll call vote is shown as following:

Scott Nay
Houston Yea
Harris Yea
Day Yea
Wells Yea

Motion carried.

Motion and second for selection of Scott and Day to serve on the Budget Committee were made by Councilmembers Houston and Harris respectively with the following roll call:

Scott Yea
Houston Yea
Day Yea
Wells Abstain

Motion carried.

Mayor Finlayson gave an update on the water situation and discussed the alternatives that had thus far been presented.

In public comment:

Discussion of street projects with mention that the first project had been basically completed leaving the second one consisting of Tampa, Elm, and Chester Streets.

Need for Community Center renovations and clean up.

What about recreation?

City boundaries should be established.

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

Attest:



Gerald L. Odom, City Clerk



Charles M. Finlayson