

TOWN OF TALLULAH FALLS
STATE OF GEORGIA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
January 10, 2019
MINUTES

The meeting for January 10, 2019 of the City Council of Tallulah Falls, Georgia was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Mayor Teri Dobbs.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Teri Dobbs
Councilperson Deb Goatcher
Councilperson Larry Hamilton
Councilperson Mary Beth Hughes
Councilperson Carol Nelms
Fire Chief Mike Early
Former Police Chief Bill Goatcher
Assistant Police Chief Matt Nall
Town Clerk Linda Lapeyrouse
Attorney Allyn Stockton

OTHERS PRESENT: See attached sign-in list

Mayor Dobbs welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Councilperson Goatcher to give the invocation.

Mayor Dobbs asked for a motion to adopt the agenda as presented.

A motion to adopt the agenda as presented was made by Councilperson Hughes. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Hamilton and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilperson Hughes to accept the minutes of the Executive Sessions of 9-27-18, 9-28-18, 10-4-18, 11-8-18, 12-12-18, 12-18-18, the Work Session of 12-6-18, the Regular Monthly Meeting of 12-6-18, and the Special Called Council Meetings of 12-12-18 and 12-18-18. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Nelms and unanimously approved.

Water Report- Attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Attorney Report – None.

Fire Report- Attached hereto and made a part hereof. Chief Early is out with an injury. Councilperson Hughes reported that Chief Early is back in touch with Chief Nixon regarding ways to improve the Town's ISO rating. This is being done at no charge.

Police Report- Attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Street Report- Councilperson Nelms will get with Linda and Bill to work on estimates for the road department SPLOST projects.

DDA Report- Councilperson Hughes reported that the DDA met last on December 18, 2018. They also met with Rainwater Construction Company to get budget costs for doing some repairs to the Tallulah Center and the Rock House. The next DDA meeting is Tuesday, January 15th at 6:30 PM.

City Clerk/Financial Report – Attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Mayor Report- Mayor Dobbs reported that eagles had been spotted around the lake in Tallulah Falls. Assistant Chief Nall explained that the sudden herring demise was caused by a virus, but that the sudden influx in available food attracted the eagles to the area.

Mayor Dobbs reviewed the SPLOST projects discussed in the earlier work session. Bids will be obtained for those items identified.

Mayor Dobbs reported that the law firm of Smith, Welch, Webb & White had been retained by the Town to contact the County and all of the Cities to obtain a consent order to hold our sanctions in abeyance so that we can pursue a March 1 grant deadline. The County and all cities except Clayton have agreed to the Consent Order. Attorney Dickey is advising Clayton to wait until a judge has been appointed to the case. Mayor Dobbs has spoken with the Mayor Green of Clayton and hopes to get the consent order signed. If everyone is in agreement, there doesn't appear to be a reason to have to wait. If we have to wait, we will miss the March 1 grant application deadline.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Town Clerk Lapeyrouse presented a resolution for setting the qualifying fees for the November general election at three percent (3%) of salary. The qualifying fee for Mayor will be \$45. The qualifying fee for Council will be \$27.

A motion was made by Councilperson Nelms to approve the qualifying fees as presented. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Hughes and unanimously approved.

Town Clerk Lapeyrouse reported that one of the Town's CDs expired with United Community Bank. They are willing to give us an interest rate of one percent (1%) to renew. Otherwise, we can cash it in or shop other rates.

A motion was made by Councilperson Goatcher to approve cashing in the CD to help offset changes to the budget. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Nelms. After further discussion. The motion failed.

A motion was then made by Councilperson Nelms to shop competing rates with local banks and move the CD if we can get an interest rate of two percent (2%), otherwise renew with United. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Hughes and unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was a motion made to enter executive session at 8:04 p.m.

There was a motion made by Councilperson Nelms to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing appointments, hiring and compensation. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Goatcher and unanimously approved.

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION:

There was a motion made to exit Executive Session at 9:53 p.m.

A Motion was made by Councilperson Hughes to exit Executive Session and reconvene the open meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Nelms. The motion passed unanimously. Several action items came out of executive session.

A Motion was made by Councilperson Nelms to appoint Mixon, Mixon, Brown & Tench as the Town's 2019 auditor. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Hughes and unanimously approved.

A Motion was made by Councilperson Goatcher to appoint Warren Tillery and firm of Smith, Welch, Webb & White as the Town's 2019 legal counsel. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Nelms and unanimously approved. There was immense appreciation for Attorney Stockton's representation of the Town over the years. The recent issues with SDS and water have prompted the Town to seek outside counsel due to Attorney Stockton's conflict in representing the County. Attorney Stockton commented that he completely understood and has previously talked to Mayor Dobbs about the Town not needing him as much as they use him.

A Motion was made by Councilperson Goatcher to appoint Robert Sneed as the Municipal Judge. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Hamilton and unanimously approved.

A Motion was made by Councilperson Nelms to keep the Council appointments the same. Councilperson Goatcher will be Mayor Pro tem. Councilperson Hughes will serve as the Public Safety Commissioner over Police and Fire. Councilperson Hamilton will serve as the Water Commissioner. Councilperson Nelms will serve as the Streets Commissioner. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Hughes and unanimously approved.

A Motion was made by Councilperson Hughes to offer Matt Nall the position of Police Chief effective immediately with a standard 90-day probationary period at a rate of \$38,000/year. The department will consist of the Police Chief and part-time officers. Part-time officers will be at the discretion of the Police Chief with approval by the Council. The water department will be separated. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Hamilton. Assistant Chief Nall said that he would need at least one additional full-time officer in order to keep the radar certification. Nall stated that State law requires that someone be on-call 24/7 to have the radar permit in compliance. He further stated that no part-time officers can run radar according to the law. A copy of the law was given to Attorney Stockton for interpretation. When asked if the radar certification was the only reason he would not be willing to take the position, he replied that he did not feel that he could adequately do the job without another full-time officer and would not be willing to take the

position under those terms. He also said that he would not take the position for less than \$40,000/year. Nall stated that part-time help is unreliable, and he feels responsible to have someone on call 24 hours/day without the help of the county. A motion to table the matter was made by Councilperson Nelms and seconded by Councilperson Hamilton. Attorney Stockton opined that the law did not appear to require someone to be on call or on duty 24/7 unless part-time employees were going to run radar. Nall stated that he felt like it was his obligation to have someone on 24/7. The motion to table was unanimously approved. Nall stated that he was highly honored to be considered for the position.

A Motion was made by Councilperson Nelms to approve Bill Goatcher as a part-time employee in the water department pursuant to the terms stated in his proposal (attached to the minutes and incorporated by reference) at a rate of \$16/hr. with a standard 90-day probationary period. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Hughes. The motion was unanimously approved with Councilperson Goatcher abstaining.

A Motion was made by Councilperson Hamilton to approve Bill Goatcher as a temporary part-time employee in the police department at a rate of \$16/hr. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Nelms. The motion was unanimously approved with Councilperson Goatcher abstaining.

Attorney Stockton stated that the police chief position had been rejected as was presented by the Council. The Council runs the town. The Council talked extensively about breaking out the police department from the water department, and he thought the decision was well reasoned and well based.

A date for a special called meeting to discuss the hiring of the police chief was set for Tuesday, January 15, 2019, at 3:00 PM.

Public Comments –

Keith Nelms reminded Mayor Dobbs about the Hardman House tour offer. Mayor Dobbs thanked Keith for reminding her and requested council to attend a tour of the Hardman House in Helen, GA that was being offered by DNR. The facility tour will be March 26, 2019 and will include the Council and the DDA. They will plan to leave at 9 AM and be there by 10 AM.

Mr. Nelms further commented that the Council had done right by Matt and the Town. He was offered the job, and he chose not to accept the position as offered.

A Motion was made by Councilperson Nelms to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Hughes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.



Teri Dobbs, Mayor



Linda Lapeyrouse, Clerk

AFFIDAVIT OF PRESIDING OFFICIAL(S) FOR A CLOSED PUBLIC MEETING

While in Regular Session, the motion was made to enter into an Executive Session to discuss certain matters in a closed session.

- () To discuss with council pending and/or potential litigation, settlement claims, administrative proceedings or other judicial actions, which is exempt from the Open Meetings Act pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-2(1).
- () A meeting to discuss the purchase, disposal of, or lease of property; authorize the ordering of an appraisal related to the acquisition or disposal of real estate; enter into a contract to purchase, dispose of, or lease property subject to approval in a subsequent public vote; or enter into an option to purchase, dispose of, or lease real estate subject to approval in subsequent public vote, which is excluded from the Open Meetings Act pursuant to Section 50-14-3(b)(1)(C).
- A meeting discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee, which is excluded pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3(b)(2).
- () Discussion in Executive Session of Records that are otherwise protected from disclosure under the Open Records Act as pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3(b)(4).

The subject matter of the Executive Session of the Regular Meeting or Work Session was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law.

Because of events occurring during the closed session, I am unable to affirm the subject matter of the Executive Session of the Regular Meeting or Work Session was devoted to only matters within the exceptions provided by law.

Sean Sobh
Mayor

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10th day of January 2019.

Pirida Opreyouse
Notary Public



Commission Expires



Utility Safety
Certificate of Trainin

TALLULAH FALLS
WATER DEPT. REPORT
Dec.2018

WATER PUMPED 299400

WATER METERED 293550

Nitrate Nitrite samples came back not detected

Collected and mailed Micro samples to E.P.D.

Completed Oct. operations report

Micro samples returned Good

Metro Water completed the Filter work at the Main Well

We had a problem with the Float Switch for the Main Well, Sam Davis Wells repaired

Due to Float Switch problems we had to do extra line flushing of Main Lines

Read Meters

No problems to report

Tallulah Falls Fire & Rescue: Monthly Report

December 2018 Training

Date	Description	Notes	HRS
Monday, December 3, 2018	Weekly Training		2
Monday, December 10, 2018	No Training - Weather Event		0
Monday, December 17, 2018	No Training - Business Meeting		0
Monday, December 24, 2018	No Training - Holiday		0
Total			2

December 2018 Training

Date	Nature of Call	Location	Jurisdiction
Monday, December 3, 2018	Trauma	Tallulah Falls School	Town
Thursday, December 13, 2018	Medical	Short Line Trail	State Park
Monday, December 17, 2018	False Alarm	Tallulah Falls School	Town
Tuesday, December 18, 2018	Medical	Local Residence	Town
Tuesday, December 18, 2018	Medical	Local Residence	Town

TOTAL TOWN	4
TOTAL HABERSHAM	0
TOTAL RABUN	0
STATE PARK	1

OVERALL TOTAL **5**

Topics:

Purchase Request:



**GEORGIA FIREFIGHTER
STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL**

Georgia Public Safety Training Center
1000 Indian Springs Drive
Forsyth, Georgia 31029-9599

Gordon Henderson
Executive Director

Office (478) 993-4521
Fax (478) 993-4511

Tallahassee Fire Department

12-19-2018

Chief Mike Early,

First, I want to thank you for your time, help and patience. The following are notes from our last on-site review for your records.

- *State Certification Packets: Up to date.
- *Firefighter Short Forms: Up to date.
- *NFIRS: You are reporting as required.
- *Insurance: Coverage meets requirements.
- *Training records: Meets requirements.
- *Training hours: Meets requirements.
- * Station: Meet requirements
- *Equipment: Pumpers have required equipment.

I really appreciate the organization and neatness of the paperwork.

Thanks again for your time,

Bryan Allen

GFSTC, Compliance Manager



Tallulah Falls Police Department

Actin Chief Matthew Nall
255 Main Street
P.O. Box 56
Tallulah Falls, Ga. 30573

Council Report December 2018

January 10th 2019

Citations:10

Warnings:15

Arrests:1

- The snowflakes were put up on the poles by Chief Goatcher, Sgt. Nall, and the fire department. Special thanks to the Tallulah Falls Fire Department for there assistance and the Tallulah Falls School for the use of there bucket truck.
- Sgt. Nall got the Christmas Tree in the lake, special thanks to Georgia Power for the use of there boat and personnel and to the state park for there personnel and assistance in getting the tree out into the lake and working.
- Chief Goatcher went to the Chiefs meeting.
- The weather knocked down a lot of trees, Chief Goatcher scraped roads and cleared trees. Special thanks to the Tallulah Falls Fire Department for there assistance in clearing the roadways.
- Chief Goatcher changed out the scrape blade on the tractor. I would recommend purchasing a replacement to have for when this one goes bad.
- The police department decorated city hall and collected firewood for the bonfire. Special thanks to Part Time officer Dave Shanks for being Santa this year.
- The safety Grant was approved however some cutbacks are having to be made. We are currently in the process of getting everything ordered and paid for so that we can put in for re-imbusement o the grant.

- Sergeant Nall assisted DNR with a small bear that took up residency on Main Street and River Street. The bear was captured and transported to a wildlife resources facility without incident.
- Chief Goatcher made his retirement official on December 31st. He will stay on part time with the police department. The Police Department would like to convey its appreciation for the many years of service and sacrifice Chief Goatcher has put into the department and our appreciation for his continued service.
- Sgt. Nall is continuing to work on the new SOPs, it is taking a little longer than expected because we are trying to see what changes will be needed with the new insurance discount program before implementing the program.

Town Of Tallulah Falls
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2018

	<u>Dec 31, 18</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
11.1110 · Checking - General Fund UCB	236,787.85
11.1112 · Checking - Water Fund	12,366.33
11.1114 · Checking - Volunteer Fire Dept	14,770.12
11.1115 · Checking - Technology	1,132.33
11.1116 · Checking - Habersham SPLOST 6	88,083.06
11.1117 · Checking - Habersham SPLOST 4	7,864.10
11.1118 · Checking - Rabun SPLOST 13	85,238.32
11.1310 · CD-0298	25,031.54
11.1320 · CD-0486	28,225.82
11.1330 · CD-2125	100,084.04
11.1340 · CD-9480	10,999.94
11.1350 · CD-0376	17,347.74
Total Checking/Savings	<u>627,931.19</u>
Accounts Receivable	
11.1900 · Accounts Receivable	85,578.92
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>85,578.92</u>
Other Current Assets	
11.3100 · Due from other funds	2,869.67
12000 · Undeposited Funds	500.00
Total Other Current Assets	<u>3,369.67</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>716,879.78</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>716,879.78</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
12.1300 · Payroll Liabilities	
12.1350 · Insurance Payable - GMA	1,269.82
12.1300 · Payroll Liabilities - Other	111.50
Total 12.1300 · Payroll Liabilities	<u>1,381.32</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>1,381.32</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>1,381.32</u>
Total Liabilities	1,381.32
Equity	
13.4200 · Uncleared Transactions Prior Yr	-4,250.00
13.4201 · Opening Balance Equity	664,038.61
Net Income	55,709.85
Total Equity	<u>715,498.46</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>716,879.78</u></u>