

TOWN OF TALLULAH FALLS
STATE OF GEORGIA
SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING
January 15, 2019, 3:00 PM
MINUTES

The Special Called Council Meeting for January 15, 2019 of the City Council of Tallulah Falls, Georgia was called to order at 3:10 PM by Mayor Dobbs.

PRESENT: Mayor Teri Dobbs
Councilperson Deb Goatcher
Councilperson Larry Hamilton
Councilperson Mary Beth Hughes
Councilperson Carol Nelms
Town Clerk Linda Lapeyrouse

A motion was made by Councilperson Hamilton to accept the agenda for the January 15, 2019 Special Called Meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Nelms and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilperson Goatcher to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2019 Work Session, Regular Council Meeting and Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Hamilton. Mayor Dobbs asked that Attorney Stockton's statement in the Regular Council Meeting be added whereby he stated that the Council runs the town. The position had been rejected as presented. The Council talked extensively about breaking out the police department from the water department, and Attorney Stockton stated the decision was well reasoned and well based. A motion to amend the minutes to reflect Attorney Stockton's statements was made by Councilperson Nelms, seconded by Councilperson Goatcher and unanimously approved. The original motion was then unanimously approved with the amendment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Councilperson Nelms to go in to executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel as provided in O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(b)(2). The motion was seconded by Councilperson Hamilton and unanimously approved.

Upon completion of the executive session, a motion to exit the executive session and re-enter open session was made by Councilperson Hamilton. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Nelms and unanimously approved.

Open session resumed at 4:16 PM.

A motion was made by Councilperson Hamilton to offer Tonya Elrod the Police Chief position at \$38,000/year. The department would consist of the Chief and part-time officers. The water department will be separated. The motion was seconded by Councilperson


Nelms. Mayor Dobbs asked for discussion. Councilperson Goatcher stated that she was not in favor. Councilperson Hughes also stated that she was not in agreement, adding that a lot of citizens want Matt Nall as the Police Chief. Mayor Dobbs stated that this is a difficult decision. Linda Vandiver (citizen) stated that she has known Matt for a good long while and that he would make an excellent Chief. Officer Nall stated he understood and that he felt like he could not do the job without another full-time officer. Ms. Vandiver asked if there was another man that was qualified? Mayor Dobbs responded that we cannot discriminate, and that Ms. Elrod is highly qualified for the position. Mayor Dobbs then called for the vote. Councilperson Hamilton and Nelms voted in favor of the motion. Councilpersons Goatcher and Hughes voted against the motion. With there being a tie vote among the Council, Mayor Dobbs cast the tie-breaking vote in favor of offering the position to Tonya Elrod. Mayor Dobbs stated that we will see what her response is, and that Matt will still be the acting Chief until we hear from Tonya.

Public comment

David Hart stated that he was very proud to have a city council who has chosen to run this town.

There being no further business before the Council, a motion was made by Councilperson Hamilton to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Nelms. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 PM.



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.

Jan Dobbs
Mayor

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 15th day of January, 2018.
Linda Opeyouse
Notary Public

Commission Expires



**TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MONTHLY
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
PLEASE SIGN IN
January 15, 2019, 3:00 PM**

megan BROWN - THE CLAYTON TRIBUNE.

Linda Vandiver

~~Mike~~ Mike Early

K. Early

DAVID HART

Keith Nelms