

TOWN OF TALLULAH FALLS
STATE OF GEORGIA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
February 7, 2019
MINUTES

The meeting for February 7, 2019 of the City Council of Tallulah Falls, Georgia was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by Mayor Teri Dobbs.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Teri Dobbs
Councilperson Deb Goatcher
Councilperson Larry Hamilton
Councilperson Mary Beth Hughes
Councilperson Carol Nelms
Town Clerk Linda Lapeyrouse
Attorney Warren Tillery
Police Chief Tonya Elrod
Fire Chief Mike Early

OTHERS PRESENT: See attached sign-in list

Mayor Dobbs welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced our new general counsel, Warren Tillery of Smith, Welch, Webb & White. He has served the Town as special counsel on water and SDS but is now serving as general counsel.

Mayor Dobbs asked Reverend Turpen to give the invocation.

Mayor Dobbs recognized former Tallulah Falls Mayors Dan Hayes and Carl Seaman as well as Retired Police Chief Bill Goatcher in attendance.

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

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

A motion was made by Councilperson Nelms to accept the minutes of the Special Called Council Meeting and Executive Session of 01-15-2019. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Hughes and unanimously approved.

Attorney Report – Mayor Dobbs introduced the new City Attorney, Warren Tillery of Smith, Welch, Webb & White. Attorney Tillery has previously worked on special projects for the Town, including water and SDS. He provided an update of the SDS and reported that the motion to hold sanctions in abeyance had been approved by the Judge. The County and its municipalities are now able to pursue grants, loans and permits based on regaining status as a Qualified Local Government. Tallulah Falls is not a required signatory to the SDS Agreement based on population, but Attorney John Dickerson has requested approval by all of the cities and the county to a consent order allowing Mountain

City to remove itself from the proceedings and allow the County to represent its interests. A motion was made by Councilperson Goatcher to approve the consent order. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Nelms and unanimously approved.

Water Report- Attached hereto and made a part hereof. Councilperson Hamilton reported that we are still waiting on the EPD permit for the backwash sand bed. There was also a septic issue at Town Hall requiring an emergency repair.

Public Safety Report – Councilperson Hughes presented the Fire and Police Reports attached hereto and made a part hereof. Attorney Tillery confirmed that policies will be needed as well as a Safe Place for Newborns sign to be posted in a conspicuous place near the front entrance. Councilperson Hughes made a motion to authorize the department heads, city clerk and attorney to prepare the policy for the Safe Place for Newborns. The attorney will review the draft and answer questions along the way if needed. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Nelms and unanimously approved.

Fire Chief Early reported he is researching an Assistance to Firefighters Grant that may require a 10% match. The deadline is in October.

Councilperson Hughes reported that Chief Elrod has met with the local agencies including Sheriff Nichols, Sheriff Terrell, DNR, Georgia State Patrol, Georgia Power, the State Park and Tallulah Falls School to continue to build on the relationships previously established under Bill's department.

Street Report- Councilperson Nelms reported that Bill Goatcher has taken her and Keith around the town to review needed road improvements. The River Street culvert is the most immediate project. She talked to Darrin Giles and Scott Provance with Rabun County. Bids for grading and paving will be needed. Gorge View Road is also in need of scraping and more gravel. Other projects include improvements to the city dock, ditch work and repairing of potholes. A motion was made by Councilperson Nelms to work with Linda to set up a scope of work and begin the process of obtaining bids. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Hamilton and unanimously approved.

DDA Report- Councilperson Hughes reported that the DDA meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM. She reported teaming up with a business consultant to look at ideas for the Tallulah Center.

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

National Tourism Week – Councilperson Hughes updated everyone on the planning for National Travel and Tourism Week May 5th – 11th. She is representing Tallulah Falls in the planning process which includes a passport initiative which encourages people to visit various participating businesses within the county. It also includes an Instagram initiative for selfie pictures taken in strategic locations within the county.

Mayor Report- Mayor Dobbs reported getting to work on grants, talking to DCA and applying

for LMIG funding. She also reported attending the last Habersham SPLOST Oversight Committee Meeting along with Town Clerk Lapeyrouse. Mayor Dobbs showed everyone the brochures that the Town participated in using a portion of the Hotel/Motel Tax proceeds.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Councilperson Nelms to consider outsourcing public works and get proposals. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Hamilton and unanimously approved.

Mayor Dobbs summarized the earlier work session discussion regarding the need to modify the police job description based on changes made by the Council with the downsizing of the department to the Chief and part-time officers. There was discussion of the 8-mile radius component of the job description. No decision was made. This item will be revisited once the outsourcing of public works can be evaluated and the job description can be looked at in its entirety.

Councilperson Hughes presented Police Chief Elrod's roster of part-time officers and GCIC/TAC help and made the motion to approve the list as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Nelms and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilperson Hughes to have the administrative functions of the building permit process handled by the Town Clerk and the field work and enforcement done by the police department. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Hamilton and unanimously approved.

A building permit for the parking lot requested by Tallulah Falls School was presented. **A motion to table the approval of the permit was made by Councilperson Nelms in order to obtain additional details on number of spaces and measurements. The motion to table was seconded by Councilperson Hamilton and unanimously approved.**

A building permit for a concession stand requested by Tallulah Falls School was presented. **A motion was made to approve the concession stand as presented was made by Councilperson Hamilton, seconded by Councilperson Nelms and unanimously approved.**

A building was moved in on Main Street. No permit was obtained and Attorney Tillery was asked to provide an opinion on the Town's requirements. **A motion to table the matter was made by Councilperson Hughes, seconded by Councilperson Nelms and unanimously approved.**

Recommendations by EDTS, LLC for computer upgrades and a server cabinet were presented by Town Clerk Lapeyrouse. **A motion to approve the computer purchase and transfer of data in an amount not to exceed \$1,800 was made by Councilperson Hamilton. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Nelms and unanimously approved.**

A motion to approve the secured server cabinet and installation in an amount not to exceed \$1,800 was made by Councilperson Nelms. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Hamilton and unanimously approved.

Town Clerk Lapeyrouse presented the proposals for court management software and made a recommendation to approve CJT software at the flat rate of \$250 per month. The per citation rate is \$12 per month and any tickets over 31 in a month would end up costing the Town more than the flat rate. **A motion to approve the recommended court management software was made by Councilperson Nelms. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Hamilton and unanimously approved.**

A motion was made by Councilperson Hughes to authorize Town Clerk Lapeyrouse, Mayor Dobbs and Attorney Tillery to develop a scope of work for the Tallulah Center to shore up the exterior and make improvements to handicap access, plumbing, and heating and air system. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Nelms and unanimously approved. Attorney Tillery stated that he would just be overseeing the request for proposal to make sure it meets the legal requirements.

Town Clerk Lapeyrouse reported on the expiration and renewals for all of the Town's CDs. **A motion was made by Councilperson Hamilton to move all CDs under \$100,000 to Oconee Federal Bank for 2.45% 13 month CDs and the one CD over \$100,000 to United Community Bank at 1.0% 12 month CD. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Nelms and unanimously approved.**

Bill Goatcher reported that tractor service was needed on the Kubota tractor. **A motion was made by Councilperson Nelms to approve Bill to do the service and order the necessary parts. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Hughes and unanimously approved.**

A motion was made by Councilperson Hughes to approve new LED lights for the truck bay under the Habersham SPLOST VI City Hall renovations in an amount not to exceed \$1,600. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Nelms and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Councilperson Nelms to repair the handicap access door to be paid for out of the General Fund. The motion was seconded by councilperson Goatcher and unanimously approved. Fire Chief Early and Councilperson Hamilton will handle the repairs.

The request for coveralls was postponed at the request of Fire Chief Early.

Attorney Tillery reported on the makeup of the Fire Department. The Fire Department reports to the Mayor and Council. It is operated under the General Fund of the Town except for fundraising which is maintained in a separated account. Expenditures of that account are approved by Council and subject to a vote of the volunteers.

Public Comments –

Councilperson Goatcher asked about the scheduling of a Town Hall Meeting. Mayor Dobbs

responded that she would not be having the Town Hall Meeting until closer to the end of the fiscal year due to all of the transitions that are taking place. We will be in a better position to report on the effectiveness of our changes once they have been in place for a few months.

Dan Hayes congratulated Council on becoming wonderful leaders.

Keith Nelms congratulated Town Clerk Lapeyrouse on the implementation of the Uniformed Chart of Accounts and the Council for moving the town forward.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 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.

Bruce Cobb
Mayor

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 7 day of Feb., 2018.

Linda Lapeyrouse
Notary Public

