

TOWN OF TALLULAH FALLS
STATE OF GEORGIA
WORK SESSION
February 7, 2019
MINUTES

The work session for February 7, 2019 of the City Council of Tallulah Falls, Georgia was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Dobbs.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: See attached sign-in sheet

Mayor Dobbs welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mayor Dobbs asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add an executive session for the purposes of discussing personnel. Councilperson Hughes asked if they could go into executive session during a work session. Mayor Dobbs introduced City Attorney Warren Tillery and deferred to him to answer the question. Attorney Tillery confirmed that the executive session would be allowed with the approval of a motion to amend the agenda to include an executive session and then a motion to go into executive session for one of the approved purposes. Councilperson Hughes questioned the need for the executive session. Mayor Dobbs stated there were recent things within the last couple of hours regarding personnel and thought it would be best to discuss among council and Chief Elrod. The motion to approve the agenda with the requested addition of an executive session to discuss personnel was made by Councilperson Hamilton. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Nelms. The motion was approved with Councilperson Hughes voting nay.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was a motion made to enter executive session at 6:12 PM. **There was a motion made by Councilperson Hughes to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Hamilton and unanimously approved. Chief Elrod was invited into the executive session.**

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION:

There was a motion made to exit executive session at 6:37 PM. **A motion was made by Councilperson Hughes to exit executive session and reconvene the open meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Goatcher. The motion passed unanimously.**

Rob Moore, a reporter, asked if there had been a Charter change and questioned a technicality of how

the Council could vote to go into a closed meeting at a work session when no votes are taken during a work session. Attorney Tillery stated that the Charter has been amended. The current Charter states that this town shall have all powers possible for a town to have under the present or future constitution and laws of this state as fully and completely as though they were specifically enumerated in this Charter. This Charter makes no provisions such shall be carried into execution as provided by ordinance or as provided by pertinent laws of the State of Georgia. Mr. Moore stated that he did not question the legality of the closed session, just the timing.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilperson Nelms reported having a casual conversation with Lee Callenback and Mark Wilcox about the possibility of outsourcing public works. They are both insured and would be interested in submitting a proposal.

The police job description was discussed. The job description was developed prior to the Council changing the staffing in the department. Water had already been outsourced out of the department and the discussion of public works was now on the table. Mayor Dobbs stated that since they brought the department down to one, is public works the best use of our one officer? We changed the police department and now we have a job description that doesn't fit.

Attorney Tillery stated there were entry level requirements in the job description and there were essential functions which were more idealistic qualifications. You can remove or add responsibilities as the Council deems necessary. You are not locked in to any specific language.

Councilperson Goatcher wants to make sure we stay within our budget. Councilperson Hughes stated that when we came up with the job description, it was to continue in the same direction. She stated that mid-stream, we changed from two full-time to one full-time and part-time. Tonya lives outside of the 8-mile radius. She is well-connected and has resources that outweighs the 8-mile radius. We've been spoiled by Bill, and this is a change. Mayor Dobbs reminded everyone that Bill lived in Tallulah Falls prior to coming to work here. Housing would be difficult to find with the salary provided for someone moving to the area.

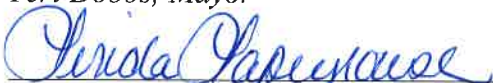
Councilperson Goatcher stated that people are used to having a fast response time. She wants to make sure there are resources available. Bill Goatcher and Matt Nall are the only ones able to drive the fire trucks right now with Mike's injury. Bill stated that he felt like the police need to cross-train and pick up the slack.

The process for building permits was discussed. It was suggested that the zoning administrator be the Town Clerk with field inspections and enforcement to be done by the police.

The work session adjourned at 7:08 p.m.



Teri Dobbs, Mayor



Linda Lapeyrouse, Clerk