

**TOWN OF TALLULAH FALLS
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
255 MAIN STREET, TALLULAH FALLS, GA 30573
WITH VIDEO CONFERENCE STREAMING AVAILABLE FOR THE PUBLIC
MAY 21, 2020, 6:00 PM**

MINUTES

The council work session for May 21, 2020 of the Town Council of Tallulah Falls, Georgia was called to order at 6:25 PM by Mayor Mike Early after addressing a few technical glitches. Social distancing protocols were observed as required by an Executive Order issued by Governor Kemp in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. A simultaneous live-stream view of the meeting was available through YouTube and the link <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCytr3V3naaBwBwIzBlg-y8A> had been previously circulated to the media and citizens through e-mail notification. The public was also able to participate in the meeting via Webex with Meeting #794 499 414.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Mike Early
Councilperson Deb Goatcher
Mayor Pro tem Larry Hamilton
Councilperson Craig Weatherly
Town Clerk Linda Lapeyrouse

ABSENT WAS: Councilperson Joey Fountain

PRESENT VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE: Public at large – see attached list

Mayor Early welcomed everyone to the meeting.

WORK SESSION:

A motion was made by Councilperson Weatherly to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Goatcher and unanimously approved.

Mayor Early explained the situation with the upcoming 2020 Habersham SPLOST and proposed intergovernmental agreement. The County has voted to draw up the intergovernmental agreement based on a population only split. Tallulah Falls stands to lose a substantial amount of money based on the population split compared to the last SPLOST and other models that had been considered. While we continue to negotiate with the County, the Mayor and Council discussed two potential project lists pending final numbers. In a previous meeting, the Council agreed to include Public Safety, Government Buildings, Roads and Water in the list, but based on the population model, there would only be \$94,889 available. With the prospect of Habersham's change to a new radio system, that amount could easily be consumed by purchasing radios for the Police and Fire Departments. In that case, Council recommended allocating the entire amount for Public Safety. With Option 2 modeling, the Town would receive \$220,068. In that case, the Council proposed splitting the amount 50/50 between Public Safety and Water. Mayor Early is trying to negotiate to get us back to the \$270,000 level we negotiated in the last SPLOST.

Mayor Early and Town Clerk Lapeyrouse presented Council with ideas for document security in light of the recent burglaries at local neighboring police departments. Recommendations are being solicited from our IT company and the Clerk will continue to research options. An update will be reported on at the June meeting.

There being no other business before the Council, a motion was made by Councilperson Goatcher to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Weatherly and unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.



Linda Lapeyrouse, Town Clerk