

**TOWN OF TALLULAH FALLS
STATE OF GEORGIA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
255 MAIN STREET, TALLULAH FALLS, GA 30573
WITH VIDEO CONFERENCE STREAMING AVAILABLE FOR THE PUBLIC
OCTOBER 8, 2020, 6:00 PM**

MINUTES

The Council meeting for October 8, 2020 of the Town Council of Tallulah Falls, Georgia was called to order at 6:10 PM. A simultaneous live-stream view of the meeting was available through YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCytr3V3naaBwBwlzBlg-y8A> and had been previously circulated to the media and citizens through e-mail notification and the Town's website. The public was also able to participate in the meeting via Webex with Meeting #794 499 414. Social distancing protocols were observed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and overflow seating was available in the engine bay with audio feed of the meeting.

PRESENT WERE:

Mayor Mike Early
Mayor Pro tem Larry Hamilton
Councilperson Craig Weatherly
Councilperson Joey Fountain
Councilperson Deb Goatcher
Town Clerk Linda Lapeyrouse
Police Chief Tonya Elrod
Town Attorney Warren Tillery

OTHERS PRESENT OR VIA VIDEO: Public at large – see attached list

Mayor Early welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for a moment of silence.

AGENDA:

Mayor Early asked for a motion to amend the agenda to pull the water report from the Consent Agenda and add it to New Business and to pull the minutes from the Consent Agenda and defer them to the next meeting. **A motion was made by Councilperson Fountain to amend the agenda as stated. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Goatcher and unanimously approved. A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Councilperson Fountain, seconded by Councilperson Hamilton and unanimously approved.**

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda included department reports from Police, Fire, Financial and Zoning. Copies are attached hereto and made a part hereof. A motion was made by Councilperson Fountain to approve the items on the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Goatcher and unanimously approved.

REPORTS:

Attorney Report – Attorney Tillery reported that a Final Order in the Frye Park Land Trust matter had been issued. The Order modifies the Trust to conform to the intent of the original trust and names Georgia Power as the Trustee. Georgia Power will be responsible for all costs associated with the Trust.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Early presented an Application and Agreement to exchange time, effort, labor, and services for the benefit of the Town and permission to camp on public property from May 28, 2021 through August 20, 2021 for Gary and Donna Verdino. Mayor Early calculated a value of \$17,000 for the labor and services provided by the Verdinos this summer. **A motion was made by Councilperson Weatherly to approve the Verdinos application as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Goatcher. The motion passed. Councilperson Fountain abstained.**

Chief Elrod presented a request from the Georgia State Patrol for fuel and flashlights with a value of \$950. Attorney Tillery confirmed that the in-kind contribution would not be a gratuity by the Town since the Town receives value back from GSP by way of traffic control on Highway 441, a service that the Town would otherwise be paying someone to perform. **A motion was made by Councilperson Fountain to approve the contribution as requested. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Goatcher and unanimously approved.**

A letter from Town Attorney Warren Tillery regarding joint representation of the Town and the DDA in the matter involving the Georgia Power building (aka The Tallulah Center) was discussed. **A motion was made by Councilperson Fountain to authorize the Mayor to sign the Acknowledgement. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Goatcher and unanimously approved.**

Mayor Early reported on the Jungle Line Booster Tank Water Project that was approved by Council in the amount of \$35,000. The project is approximately 85% complete, and we have spent \$35,520 to date (including engineering costs that were not included in the original estimate). The pump (\$13,450) has not been paid for yet, and we will need a cover (approximately \$2,500). There has been extra construction expense in rock hammering to bring the water line up the other side of the road. **After some discussion on why the line was not installed on the same side of the road that it is currently on, a motion was made by Councilperson Fountain to continue with the project, approve the additional \$16,000 known costs for the pump and pump cover plus an additional 10% contingency for project completion. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Hamilton and unanimously approved.**

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Early reported that the Irvins reached out to him and said they would be closing down Tallulah Falls Railroad to anyone that does not have their permission to access. Due to this, we have changed direction on the Hickory Nut Mountain water tank. The water tank will go next to USFS land on our existing easement. There will be some grading necessary on Gorge View Road to improve access. They are working on that project now while we are waiting on the new booster pump.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Councilperson Fountain to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing possible disposal/lease of real estate with the DDA Chair. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Goatcher and unanimously approved at 6:38 PM.

At 7:38 PM, a motion was made by Councilperson Goatcher to exit the Executive Session and re-open regular session. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Weatherly and unanimously approved.

No action came out of Executive Session.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM.



Linda Lapeyrouse, Town Clerk