

**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
NOVEMBER 5, 2020, 6:00 PM**

MINUTES

The Council meeting for November 5, 2020 of the Town Council of Tallulah Falls, Georgia was called to order at 6:04 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 Joey Fountain
Councilperson Deb Goatcher
Town Clerk Linda Lapeyrouse
Police Chief Tonya Elrod

ABSENT WAS: Councilperson Craig Weatherly

OTHERS PRESENT OR VIA VIDEO: Town Attorney Warren Tillery
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 fire report from the Consent Agenda and defer it 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 regular and executive session minutes from September 3rd and October 8th and department reports from Water, Police, Finance 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 – None.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

DDA Chairperson Mary Beth Hughes gave the DDA's recommendation on the Tallulah Center aka the old GA Power Building. After two years of working on viable options for the building with various entities, and after talking with two interested parties, the DDA recommended to the Town that the building be sold. Both parties were interested in buying the property as opposed to leasing. Both parties are still interested and waiting to see what they should do next. **A motion was made by Councilperson Fountain to accept the DDA's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Goatcher and unanimously approved.**

Having anticipated the recommendation of the DDA, Attorney Tillery drafted a Resolution to Declare the building surplus property and authorize the sale by sealed bid. Attorney Tillery explained that conditions could be added to the bid advertisement, such as requiring the bid to include a general proposal of what would be done with the building, any deadlines, earnest money, etc. The sealed bid would be subject to the right to reject all bids. **A motion was made by Councilperson Fountain to approve the Resolution to Declare Surplus Property as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Goatcher and unanimously approved. A motion was then made by Councilperson Fountain to include the following terms of condition in the advertisement: a general description of what the property will be used for, an estimated time for renovations, a requirement to reach a binding agreement with the city within 10 business days following award of bid, and the right for the Town to rescind and/or reject all bids. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Hamilton and unanimously approved. A motion was made by Councilperson Fountain to run the ad once in the Clayton Tribune at least 15 days prior to the December Council meeting. Bids will be due on the date of the meeting at 12:00 pm and will be opened during the regular meeting at 6:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Hamilton and unanimously approved.**

Mayor Early asked for a motion to allow Chief Elrod and him to explore and negotiate the ability to use both Rabun and Habersham Counties for inmate housing at the request of Chief Elrod. We currently have an agreement with Rabun County for inmate housing and pay a 10% jail fee for each citation that is adjudicated through our court. They would like to explore the possibility of paying each county 5% with the option to use either detention center. **A motion was made by Councilperson Fountain to authorize the Mayor and Chief Elrod to negotiate with each County to see if an agreement can be reached. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Goatcher and unanimously approved.**

Mayor Early stated that Councilperson Weatherly could not make the meeting, but he had discussed the 2021 LMIG project with him. The \$16,885 LMIG project includes the Town's 30% required match. The project proposal includes shoulder building on Cartledge, grading, gravel and drainage on Gorgeview and asphalt patching on Y Camp Road. **A motion to accept the 2021 LMIG project list as proposed was made by Councilperson Goatcher, seconded by Councilperson Hamilton and unanimously approved.**

Mayor Early stated that the Meeting Owl purchased to enhance the video conferencing can be returned within thirty days and a decision must be made on whether or not to keep it. Cares Act funding can be used to pay for the Owl if it is approved. **A motion to approve the purchase of the Meeting Owl in the amount of \$999 to be paid from the Cares Act Funding was made by Councilperson Fountain. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Goatcher and unanimously approved.**

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Early reported that the Tallulah Falls School would not be bringing students to the Christmas Party this year. He would still like to do the bonfire, if able, and do the lighting of the tree. There was a consensus that there would be no pot-luck dinner or hot beverage table this year due to Covid concerns.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Teri Dobbs thanked the Mayor and Fire Department for cutting a tree that fell at her house during the recent storm.

Mayor Early commended the Fire Department for clearing several trees after the storm.

Councilperson Goatcher also thanked the Mayor for opening city hall for public use.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None.

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 Goatcher and unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.


Linda Lapeyrouse, Town Clerk