

At the Tallulah Regular City Council Meeting on August 14, 2025, Interim Mayor Yvonne Lewis indicated during The Mayor's Report that she had spoken with 3 out of 5 council members individually to see how they felt about having an Investigative Audit completed on the City's finances. I am not sure if the conversation had taken place in person or by way electronic communication, but this conversation did not take place during a regular or special council meeting. I have provided the audio and video recording of the meeting via The Madison Journal, which is The City of Tallulah's official journal. At 2:13.50 mark of the video, Interim Mayor Lewis began to discuss the possibility of the city having an Investigative Audit performed on the City's finances. At the 2:14.15 mark, Interim Mayor Lewis stated that **she spoke with Council member Scott, Council member Houston, and Council member Day to see how they felt about an Investigative Audit.** She stated that all three members stated that they were not against the audit but against the cost of the audit. At the 2:14.28 mark, I immediately told her that she was not supposed to have a conversation with council members about their feelings concerning a possible agenda item that they would eventually have to vote on. **At the 2:14.52 mark, of the video Mayor Lewis's exact words were "I spoke with each one of them individually and asked them were they against an audit and all three members said, "No they were not against the audit, but against the cost of the audit."** At the 2:15.20 mark, of the video, Mayor Lewis, suggested for each council member to go out and get a proposal on an Investigative Audit and see how much it's going to cost and have the budget committee to find the money **and vote on whether were going to do it or not.** I informed Interim Mayor Lewis at that moment; a "walking quorum" was established.

As a council member, I am reiterating on the fact that Interim Mayor Lewis' statement "that the council will have to vote on whether or not an Investigative Audit will be conducted". That statement alone indicates that this will eventually be an agenda item. At the next council meeting on August 28, 2025, Interim Mayor Lewis placed item #8 on the agenda: The Discussion of Investigative Audit. This discussion ended because Attorney Pamela Grady informed Mayor Lewis that we should not have this discussion because it is the subject of a possible Open Meeting Violation. **At the 2:16.25 mark, I informed Interim Mayor Lewis that she did not contact Councilwoman Harris nor myself and she stated that she did not contact us because she already knew how we felt about the Investigative Audit.** At the 2:16:45 mark, Interim Mayor Lewis stressed again, the "she spoke with Councilmembers Scott, Houston, and Day about how they felt about the audit and the three aforementioned councilmembers stated, "They were not against the audit, but against the cost of the audit." At the 2:17:21 mark, I informed City Clerk Gerald Odom that I wanted the following statement to be included in the minutes "Interim Mayor Lewis stated on August 14, 2025 at 7:43pm that she spoke with Councilmembers Joe K. Scott –District 1, Lisa Houston- District 2, and Margie Day- District 4 to gauge their feelings on having an Investigative Audit. Interim Mayor Lewis stated that three aforementioned Council members stated, "They were not against the audit, but against the cost of the audit." At the 2:17:21 mark, I informed City Clerk Gerald Odom that I wanted the following statement to be included in the minutes "Interim Mayor Lewis stated on August 14, 2025 at 7:43pm that she spoke with Councilmembers Joe K. Scott –District 1, Lisa Houston- District 2, and Margie Day- District 4 to gauge their feelings on having an Investigative Audit.