

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Bluff City Board of Mayor & Aldermen
February 11, 2010

Mayor Malone called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present were Melvin Carrier, J.C. Gentry, Robert Miller, Mark Weaver and Irene Wells

Mayor Malone had prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Alderman Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on November 12, 2009. Second by Alderman Carrier.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Gentry	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Weaver	yes
	Alderwoman Wells	yes

Alderman Carrier made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on December 10, 2009. Second by Alderman Miller.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Gentry	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Weaver	yes
	Alderwoman Wells	yes

Alderman Carrier made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on January 14, 2010. Second by Alderman Miller.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Gentry	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Weaver	yes
	Alderwoman Wells	yes

Mayor Malone opened the floor for the first section of citizen comments. There were none.

Mayor Malone presented Ordinance No. 2010-01 to the BMA for consideration on first reading. City Attorney McDaniel read Ordinance No. 2010-01, an ordinance prohibiting

commercial vehicles on certain residential streets. Alderwoman Wells wanted the minutes to include the reason for this ordinance which was because of a drainage problem that the city was having. Alderman Miller said that it was in the December minutes when it was first introduced. Alderwoman Wells said that it would not hurt to have it in these minutes and that way it is there and they know each time why they are doing this. Alderman Weaver made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2010-01 on first reading. Second was by Alderwoman Wells.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Gentry	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Weaver	yes
	Alderwoman Wells	yes

Mayor Malone said that the city has had major issues with the water. Mayor Malone thanked the city manager and the vice-mayor for helping him with the installation of the television as they had quotes on it but it was expensive to get it hung so they installed it on a Saturday.

Mayor Malone said that he wanted to thank the public works guys as last Friday with the storm and things of that nature they had a tremendous issue with the water plant and he wanted to thank the guys who worked around the clock as this happened around noon or 1:00 p.m. with the power lines being ripped off of the water plant by trees where the wind had blown them down. Mayor Malone said that the guys worked around the clock to make a temporary connection with Johnson City and he was there until about 12:00 a.m. or 12:30 a.m. that night with the guys. Mayor Malone said that the office staff handled it well and got it out to the media and took the proper channels and said he would take his hat off to them as they did a real good job. Mayor Malone said that this could have been worse if they had not responded the way they did.

Mayor Malone said that he had a meeting last Friday with the city engineers and with the Johnson City Mayor about a connection to Johnson City and she referred him to Mr. Tom Witherspoon and he met with him on Monday evening about a temporary connection as he is over the Johnson City water facility.

Mayor Malone said that he would like to thank the board for all that they do. Mayor Malone said that it has been tough and they have some tough decisions tonight and he wanted to thank them for the effort they put forth.

City Attorney McDaniel reported that the tax collections were going well as they started out with \$34,000.00 being owed and it down somewhere around \$8,000.00 and the second letter went out today and he would get copies of the letters to Ms. Dulaney. Attorney McDaniel said that the lawsuit is being prepared for those who still are delinquent but he thought that people are now starting to get their taxes and he has been seeing an increase in people that were paying.

Mayor Malone opened the floor for comments from the aldermen:

1. Alderman Carrier had no comments.
2. Alderman Miller said that he wanted to reiterate what the Mayor said about the city employees having to work hard because if it weren't for them they definitely would be in a lot worse shape. Alderman Miller said that he noted in the packet that they did not have a log from the city manager regarding his hours outside of his normal shifts that was requested at the previous meeting. Alderman Miller said that he found out about the water treatment plant going down not by it being relayed to him by the city administration but by the press calling him asking for a quote. Alderman Miller asked that in the future that the information be disseminated to the board in a more quick fashion he would appreciate it. Alderman Miller said that hearing it from the press before he knew about it was certainly not the preferred method of finding out what is happening with the city. Alderman Miller thanked everyone for showing up.
3. Alderman Weaver thanked everyone for showing up.
4. Alderwoman Wells thanked all of the employees also for everybody working so hard and thanked all of the people for coming out.
5. Vice-Mayor Gentry thanked all of the employees and thanked everybody for coming out.

City Manager Don Weaver said he would like to echo what the Mayor and Alderman Miller had said about the city employees because they did a good job. Mr. Weaver said that the police department, office and public works did a good job.

City Manager Weaver said that the city had an employee in public works that was hired on May 27, 2008 as part-time and went to full-time on September 19, 2008 and was never given a raise and is still making \$8.00 per hour and this is the first time that this has ever happened in the city and he requested that the BMA consider giving him a \$.50 cent an hour raise and make it retroactive back to his hire date. Mr. Weaver said that this was only fair as this has never happened before. Mr. Weaver said that the employee did not

say anything about it but he ran upon it with another temporary talking about it. Alderwoman Wells asked if the city started him out at the same rate as they had started the other temporary employees. Mr. Weaver said yes \$8.00 per hour and he has worked right beside of the temporaries as a full time employee. Alderwoman Wells asked if there was some reason why they did not give him a raise. Mr. Weaver said that he was not in at that time. Mayor Malone said that he actually did that as he wasn't aware of this if you put one on full-time to go up, but the board would have had to vote on it any way because of it being in the budget. Mayor Malone asked if Mr. Weaver if he wanted to go back to September 19, 2008 or 2009. Mr. Weaver said that his hire date was May 27, 2008. Mayor Malone asked when the employees full-time hire date was. Mr. Weaver said it was September 19, 2008. Mr. Weaver said that it would be \$20.00 a week. Alderman Weaver asked if they were looking at 70 some weeks. Alderman Miller said that it should be plus or minus about \$1,500.00. City Manager Weaver said that the general fund could afford that and he thought it was fair for the guy as he is an excellent worker. Alderman Miller asked if this was the same employee that they talked about during the budget workshops. Mayor Malone said yes it was. Alderman Carrier said that he tried to get the BMA to give this employee a \$1.00 raise then but they were too silly to do it. Mayor Malone said that he was not aware of the situation then as it was never brought to his attention. City Manger Weaver said that it was a board decision to start with. Alderman Weaver made a motion to approve to give the \$.50 cent increase and make it retroactive. Second by Alderwoman Wells. Alderman Carrier said that they should give him another \$.50 cents. Alderwoman Wells said that if they haven't done it for other employees she thought they should have more discussion about this in another work shop. City Manager Weaver said that the only reason that he wouldn't suggest a \$1.00 per hour is because that would put him within \$.93 cents of the police department and he knew how they would feel. City Manager Weaver said that a new hire in the police department is brought in at \$9.93 per hour and the board should be thinking about changing that rate scale for hiring. Alderman Miller said that for once he agreed with City Manger Weaver.

Roll Call Vote	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Gentry	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Weaver	yes
	Alderwoman Wells	yes

City Recorder Dulaney said that they needed the name of the employee for the record. City Manger Weaver said that it was John Hyatt.

City Manager Weaver said that he had read somewhere in the minutes in reference to the hourly rate requested by Gordon Peterson the board had asked him to check with the Storm Water Coordinator and see if she had ever used Gordon Peterson or Gary Wilkinson and she said that she had never used either one of them but that could change if the city had a new development such as a sub-division.

City Manger Weaver said that Alderman Miller made a statement that he did not come back with what his hours worked were. City Manger Weaver said that for the last four weeks he had worked 116.5 hours and they are paying him for 80 hours. City Manger Weaver said that he had worked 9.5 hours last Friday, 4.5 hours on Saturday and he did not know how much more they could ask. City Manger Weaver said that if this is personal or political he did not want to hear it. Alderman Miller said that he just asked that it be on paper and be presented to the board and whether or not Mr. Weaver wanted to hear it is aside from the point as he is an employee of the board. Mr. Weaver said that he understood that and he agreed with Alderman Miller and he respected Alderman Miller and did not have a thing against him but every time they come in the meeting Alderman Miller asked him to do something but it is like Alderman Miller said he does work for the board but he works for board members not member and he thought that Alderman Miller should get a consensus when he is directing him or asking him to do something or even the police chief. Alderman Miller said that if the attorney feels that a consensus needed to be made then he will gladly ask for a consensus from his colleagues unless that is not the case he would simply asked that City Manager Weaver put it on paper and if City Manager Weaver did not notice there is a lot of controversy with his hiring and the manner in which it was done. Alderman Miller said that he did not think that it was too much to ask City Manger Weaver to log the hours that he put in for the city. City Manger Weaver said that he did log them and they are in the office. Alderman Miller said that then he would like for him to present those to the board as part of the monthly packet. City Manager Weaver said that he thought that the board should have a consensus on it as he worked for more than one. City Manger Weaver said that he had heard in town and he had three citizens call him of a board member going around and saying that they were going to fire him and he also heard in the last meeting that and got it on tape from one of the citizens in the audience who asked him if he couldn't understand that they were trying to get his job. City Manager Weaver asked Alderman Miller if that was what he was after. Alderman Miller said no. City Manager Weaver said that it seemed like it. Alderman Weaver said that he hated that it appeared that way. City Manger Weaver asked if it was personal. Alderman Miller said no it was absolutely professional because the manner in which he was hired was everything but that. City Manger Weaver said that was not his doing. Alderman Miller said no but he

accepted the job despite it so he is just as guilty as if he had made the decision himself. City Manager Weaver said yes he accepted it and he was doing the job. Alderman Miller said that he would just simply like a log presenting his hour that he is working outside of his normal weekly shift. City Manager Weaver asked the board if they had a decision on that. Alderman Miller asked Attorney McDaniel is that something that the board needs to take a consensus on or is it something that can simply be presented as part of the monthly packet that Judy can include. City Attorney McDaniel said that he did not know of any specific requirement that there needs to be a consensus. Alderman Miller said very well then in the future he would appreciate City Manger Weaver taking care of this for the board. City Manager Weaver said that he would take care of it. Alderwoman Wells asked if they had the Chief of Police and the City Recorder turn their hours in to the board. Mayor Malone said no not to the board. Alderwoman Wells said that maybe they should have all three of them to do it. Alderman Weaver said that if one is going to do it then let's do them all. Alderman Miller said sure. Mayor Malone said that they do weekly timesheets. City Manager Weaver said that it is not anything set in stone even though Dave and Judy turn one in. City Manager Weaver asked Recorder Dulaney if it had ever been looked into. Recorder Dulaney said that the mayor had always signed off on them and now City Manger Weaver signs them. City Manager Weaver said that it was perfectly fine as it did not make any difference to him and he could give them one but he guessed if it was fair for one it was fair for everybody. Alderwoman Wells asked if a motion was needed. Mayor Malone said no. Alderman Miller said that just for the record there is no other employee that works for the city that has such a broad allowance of how to spend their weekly hours so he would just simply like a log of the city managers. City Manager Weaver asked Alderman Miller if he thought that 116.5 hours a month was enough? Alderman Miller said that he was not there to offer an opinion on the matter or answer to him for it he would simply like a log. City Manager Weaver said that he would have it.

City Recorder Dulaney reported that she had put the financial statement in the board packet and the cash account balances as follows:

1. General Fund Operating Account	\$104,389.97
2. General Fund Savings Account	\$103,468.94
3. Traffic Camera Account	\$ 1,280.00
4. Certificate of Deposit	\$ 25,645.84
5. Sanitation Fund	\$ 11,622.01
6. Special Police Drug Fund	\$ 8,191.10
7. Debt Service Fund	\$185,485.00
8. Water/Sewer Fund	\$ 84,426.48

Recorder Dulaney reported that she had met with the city engineers and Gray Stothard who is with the First Tennessee Development District with regard to the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) as they are trying to change the project but her concern was with the LMI survey as they are running at 49% but they don't have enough surveys in and they have to be in by Tuesday in order for the city to apply for the grant funds. Recorder Dulaney said that they needed another 166 surveys by Tuesday. Recorder Dulaney said that they discussed that maybe the city could possibly hire three people to work the weekend, Monday and Tuesday morning and possibly get enough surveys. Recorder Dulaney said that she had the surveys and a list of names that the state had randomly picked and also an alternate set in case people on the original list are not home. Recorder Dulaney said that she had spoken to City Manager Weaver about this and they thought that the city could pay \$7.26, which is the minimum wage. Recorder Dulaney said that if anybody knew of three people who would do this and they could get started on the surveys tomorrow. Recorder Dulaney said that the city would have to have at least 51% on the LMI (low to moderate income). Alderwoman Wells made a motion to hire three people to take the LMI surveys and pay them \$7.25 an hour. Second by Alderman Carrier.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Gentry	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Weaver	yes
	Alderwoman Wells	yes

Recorder Dulaney reported that she had included information in the boards packet with regard to the loan on the water tank. Recorder Dulaney said that the loan started out with Rural Development for \$400,000.00 and then the loan was sold to CapMark and then CapMark sold it to Bercadia. Recorder Dulaney said that the information that she gave the board showed them the principal and interest that is still owed. Recorder Dulaney asked the board if they wanted her to look into refinancing this loan as this was a loan that should have been paid off in thirty years with Rural Development. Recorder Dulaney said that she did not know if Bercadia would allow the refinancing but she would look into it if the board wanted her to. The board gave the recorder verbal permission to look into this.

Recorder Dulaney said that once a month she would give the board a report on the paid tickets for American Traffic Solutions as this is the only report she gets and if the board wanted anything else they would need to get it from the Chief.

Chief of Police David Nelson gave the report for the police department for January. Chief Nelson said that he would be giving the board a monthly report on the actual number of violations that happen on the speed cameras. Chief Nelson said that they had one officer that left the department (Danny Wilson) and he introduced the newest police officer, Lee McClintock to the BMA. Chief Nelson said that Officer McClintock has been a reserve for the department and he is a certified officer and had worked in law enforcement before and has knowledge and he is from Bristol. Chief Nelson said that Officer McClintock is still in school to finish his degree.

Chief Nelson said that the BMA would be getting a letter from MTAS (Municipal Technical Advisory Service) with regard to a request from TACP (Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police) as they are looking into putting all of the police departments across the State of Tennessee through the accreditation process which would help with the insurance and getting money so it is a good thing. Chief Nelson said that they were going to try to get involved in it.

Chief Nelson said that as far as the grant money this year they had a meeting with the Governor's staff but the money is getting tight so there is going to be a lot of cut backs and this might be the last year for a while that they get the \$5,000.00.

Sullivan County Commissioner Dwight King reported that the next commission meeting would be next Monday and some of the resolutions that will be on the agenda are:

1. A resolution to appropriate \$10,000.00 for pauper burials. Commissioner King said that they were going to look into changing the procedure as they are going to look into the financial situation of the individuals requesting the burials and make sure that they don't have anything and not just putting it onto the county to spend the money;
2. A resolution to adopt a Strategic Economic Development Plan and they are doing this to seek a 3-Star Community status and to do this they have to develop a five-year Strategic Economic Development Plan and most of this is done by NETWORKS and this will enable the county to apply for grants;
3. A resolution to appoint a building code official as Sullivan County now has building codes which were put in place January 1, 2010 and establish fines and penalties for violations of the property maintenance code;
4. A resolution to take money left in the Northeast State Scholarship Fund and use it to financially help some students that are taking the GED test as some of the people cannot afford the \$65.00 to take the test;

5. A resolution to add \$347,116.00 to the Health Department for the H1N1 vaccines as the Federal Government sent the county this money to vaccinate people.

Commissioner King said that the budget year is going to be tough and they hoped they would not have to cut any positions but the money has been going down as last month the county lost about a \$1,000,000.00 in sales tax so it is not a good picture. Commissioner King said that the county has tightened their belts like everybody else.

Alderman Miller asked if the county had a fund for donations from private citizens for the pauper burials. Commissioner King said yes and a lot of the funeral homes if they can get donations from private sources but the funeral homes are taking a lot of the expense. Commissioner King said that there were only three funeral homes in the county that is actually doing these burials. Commissioner King said that one thing that they were looking at trying to see if all of the funeral homes would take part and divide it up instead of just the three. Commissioner King said that the county is giving them a set amount to do it with and this has been negotiated. Commissioner King said that the county did have a cemetery but it got filled up and they don't have the right type of land for a cemetery.

Mayor Malone opened the floor for old business:

- 1) Mayor Malone opened the floor for discussion/action on the Graybeal Waterline Project. Jeff Booher stated that he was representing his father and mother Reed and Roselyn Booher and his address was 120 Raceday Center Drive, Bristol, TN. Mr. Booher said that he had come to the board in early December or the last of November and was trying to get a waterline attachment as his father and mother had bought some property which they were wanting to develop on Graybeal Road and it was approximately twenty (20) acres. Mr. Booher said that they were in Sullivan County Planning Commission now as they had already went through the initial phase and are waiting for approval of a waterline attachment to Bluff City's four inch line that is on the main road. Mr. Booher said that his mother and father were putting the waterline in and paying for the waterline and they are asking permission from Bluff City to attach to the waterline. Mr. Booher said that there were roughly fifteen (15) lots on this piece of property. Mr. Booher said that the economy is slow at this time he understands that Bluff City was having their waterline problems when this was first brought up and he wanted to clarify that through some research the absorption rate of selling those fifteen lots is four to five years. Mr. Booher said they were asking to have the attachment of the waterline and have the approval from Bluff City to use the state certified from the Department of Environment, the Division of Water Supply to

have a two inch waterline that would run approximately 1,750 feet. Mr. Booher said that to once again clarify that his mother and father would be paying all of the expense of that and would be paying the City of Bluff City for the hookup to the main trunkline. Mr. Booher said that he wanted to stress to the BMA that if he sold property tomorrow someone building on that property would not need water until June, July or August and this is the best case scenario. Mr. Booher said that this is kind of a future development. Mr. Booher said that Bluff City would be getting all of the water taps fees and also the taxes. Mr. Booher said that these people that are buying on the river are mainly out of this area and they would be using this as a second or third home and the only thing that he saw that this was a plus for the area and Bluff City. Mr. Booher said that the main thing that they are asking is for Bluff City to approve this tap so that they can get final approval that the city would sign off on and they get final approval from Sullivan County so that they can start selling this property. Mr. Booher said that he was also asking Bluff City to inspect the hookup and to run the line under the road in a timely manner to do the hookup and asking Bluff City to sign off on the final approval from Sullivan County. Mr. Booher said that they would be going back to Sullivan County next week if it is approved by Bluff City. Mayor Malone asked the BMA for a motion to approve or disapprove the line. Alderman Miller made a motion to approve the line without further delay. Second by Alderman Carrier. Alderman Carrier asked why the line could not be a six inch line so they could put fire plugs on it. Mr. Booher said that Dave Wilson was there and he had submitted all of the paperwork. Mr. Booher said that from everything that he understood is that if you put anything bigger without any development over the next four or five years that stagnation, taste of water and water quality are the major issues that come in when you start putting in a larger line. Alderman Carrier said that a blowout valve could be put at the end. Mr. Booher said yes and there are two blowout valves on that but what he understands is that instead of going into an area and putting the biggest waterline that you can you will end up with so many problems so the State has adopted into there regulations to do this state approval that they do what they need to do without over building something and then if it does get to that point at a later date, five years, eight years or ten years down the road then you put in the bigger waterline. Alderman Carrier said that was just more expense. Mr. Booher said yes it was more expense but the main thing is if you put a bigger waterline in is the under utilization of the waterline and Mr. Wilson could explain it better than he could as he is the engineer. Mr. Booher said that there was really no benefits from putting in a bigger waterline in a rural type area like that but if it was going to be an area out on the four lane where you was going to have commercial and tons of stuff come in he would say yes as he had done a couple of

developments prior to this and from his personal experience and going with what the state approved has worked out to be the best so far. Alderwoman Wells asked if the engineer was going to speak on behalf of Bluff City or is he going to speak as an engineer for them. Mr. Wilson said that he would speak on behalf of Bluff City. Dave Wilson said that their relationship to Mr. Booher was that they did a plan that got them their state approval and they followed the state regulations and the city regulations so it was very cut and dry from that respect. Mr. Wilson said that he wanted to reiterate that he did not think that they had any type of interest that conflicts with Mr. Booher and he did not think that his expense would be that much greater if it was a six inch line and it was his opinion if they put a six inch line in they would run the risk of having more complaints if there only one or two homes and the main reason being is that it is a dead end line and it would not be looped. Mr. Wilson said if there were folks built on that at the end of the line you would be getting complaints all of the time about the quality of water, that it would be stale to them, discolored and possibly have sedimentation in it. Mr. Wilson said that the city could, if they wanted to accept that, implement a larger line and have a maintenance program where it is blown off probably daily. Mr. Wilson said that he believed that it would create more problems than it would help in the long run. Alderman Carrier asked if they could start off with a six and then reduce it down to a two inch in case in the future that you have to put a bigger line in. Mr. Wilson said yes you could do that but he believed that the distance is so short from a hydraulic standpoint he did not see what the great benefit would be and also with the topography out there. Alderman Weaver said that they knew the city's water problem is going to be fixed in June or July. Mr. Booher said that they would not attempt or apply for a water tap before June, July or August and he would put it on paper. Mr. Booher said that he talked to the Mayor several times and the amount of time that the city had to spend on the water and he felt bad but on the other hand he wanted to be able to get this done and this is only going to help the community. Alderwoman Wells asked the city attorney if everything had been taken care of legally that needs to be taken care of for them to enter into this agreement. Attorney McDaniel said that there was question that came up about whether the line was going to be paid for with Bluff City Funds that would go across private property and that was the only legal issue that he had been made aware of and since they are paying for it he did not believe that would be a problem anymore. Alderman Weaver asked if the board wanted something in writing on that they are not going to get water until a certain date. Mr. Booher said that he did not have a problem with that and he would write something up today or meet Mr. McDaniel tomorrow at his office but he would want it to be done in a simple one page paper and be done with.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Gentry	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Weaver	yes
	Alderwoman Wells	yes

Mayor Malone opened the floor for discussion/action on the secondary waterline. Mayor Malone said that the city is currently tapped into a water tap at Chinquapin Grove coming from Johnson City and Mr. Witherspoon of Johnson City said that this is not a very good source for them so the city is going to have to go with a second alternative. Mayor Malone said that the city is going to have to tie in somewhere else in the Johnson City System or have to go back under the bridge or both. Mayor Malone said that the city is up against several things, first of all the Bristol-Bluff Utility can not always produce us water in a time that the city needs it due to turbidity and their plant being down and to do the Johnson City project, according to Mr. Witherspoon, the city would have to tie in at the Industrial Park area. City Engineer, Dave Wilson said that as the Mayor stated there had been a lot of meetings that have transpired as they had talked to Johnson City and the people at State and they had put together a very quick report and the last time he was before the BMA to look at this problem but since that time there was a emergency situation that shed a whole new light on the problem and saw how it could be an immediate disaster unless some plan of action is taken in a timely manner. Mr. Wilson since that time they had really looked at the alternatives that was presented in the report and refined them and they will arrive at some short term and long term recommendations. City Engineer, Mark Hill presented a power point reviewing the situation from the beginning and stated that the BMA had received the report in their packets to follow along. Mr. Hill said that all of the pipe under the bridge will have to come out as it is completely useless. Mr. Hill said that the alternatives were:

Short Term Alternatives

- Connect to Johnson City at Vickers Road – Low Capital Cost at approximately \$417,000.00 – Advantage is that it is quick. – Disadvantage is that it is a weak spot for Johnson City and at best could only give 10 gallon per minute.
- Connect at Chinquapin, which has been implemented, and the cost was \$2,200.00. Advantage – Quick completion time of 13 hours and low

capitol cost. Disadvantage – very marginal supply of water from Johnson City at maybe 5 to 10 gallons per minutes and if they have to turn on their plant it is a big cost. (The cost of water from Johnson City is nearly double as to that of Bristol-Bluff City.)

- Install a temporary line on the swinging bridge. Advantage – Relatively low capitol cost of approximately \$22,000.00 and done fairly quickly and a good volume of water. Disadvantage – permitting issues.

Long Term Alternatives

- Vickers Road at Highway 11E and Highway 19E where a 3inch galvanized line that can be upgraded to an 8 inch line and this would be the best long term solution to connect to Johnson city. Advantage – Great water supply. Disadvantage – High Capital Cost of \$242,000.00 and high cost of water.
- Chinquapin Connection – The cost would increase to approximately \$16,000.00 for upgrades in order to use long term. Not a good solution but five years from now after Johnson City improves their system it might be the best solution.
- Replace the pipe on the State Route 390 Bridge. Disadvantages - Cost is \$231,000.00 – Permitting Issues. Advantages – Good water sources and lower water costs compared to Johnson City. Sixty day installation.
- Boring under the river – Disadvantage – High Capitol Cost of \$329,000.00 Advantage – Good volume of water and have an existing agreement.
- Upgrading the water plant capacity. Water plant is putting out 160,000 gallons of water per minutes but the spring will put out more than that. When plant was originally permitted the filters were set at a certain loading rate. If you increase the loading rate you could get more water out of the plant. Underwood Springs has a safe yield which is determined through state agencies and they tell the city how many gallons of water per minute the city can get out of the spring. Believe that by using the existing infrastructure you could go up and match the safe yield and essentially on paper get that additional capacity and get the city out of the 80% permit allowance. There would have to be substantial study done on this and TDEC would have to be involved. Still you would need to consider doing this in coordination with an alternate source. Also they had talked about putting a small tank at the water plant and maybe making that a bigger tank to help the chlorine contact time and then both lines could be used to

bring water out of the holler. Alderwoman Wells asked if you are going to do a project like that would it be better to put in a larger tank. Mr. Hill said yes as the 50,000 gallon gets you chlorine contact time but if you put in a 250,000 gallon tank then you have storage on that end of the system and then the plant could go down at regular time and this tank will keep everyone water. Mr. Wilson said that the state requires 24 hours of storage in your system. Alderwoman Wells asked if it would cost that much more to do a 100,000 gallon. Mr. Wilson said that rule of thumb it costs \$1.00 to \$2.00 per gallon. Alderwoman Wells said that it seems like Bluff City just keeps always spending all of this money and you think that they have taken care of the water problem and then it is right back to the same old same and we need to do something to fix something and not have to go back and just keep fixing it even if you spend a little more money. Cost approximately \$299,000.00.

Alderwoman Wells asked if they could come up with something where they could utilize the water from the river and is there not any way the city could come up with something where the city could utilize the water and come with a tank on this end of town. Mr. Wilson said that was certainly a possibility but cautioned the board that this is very long and drawn out possibility and he believed that getting a new withdrawal permit for a water source under the best of situations would be five years plus. Alderwoman Wells said that the thing she did not understand is with the Bluff City-Bristol Utility we can't always get the water we need from them and they are not always in. Mr. Wilson said that any type of service water when it rains it gets cloudy and muddy and they call this turbidity which is a measurement of how much matter is in the water and Bristol-Bluff has this problem and if the turbidity is too high the plant will shut down.

Mr. Hill said that they recommended to the city that they install a temporary connection to Bristol-Bluff Utility on the swinging bridge. Mr. Wilson said that if you have another contractor do the work it would be something that could be done quicker and if things go wrong they come back and look at it but if it is done in house he believed it would take longer because the men have other duties and he did not think that the city men had ever worked with the kind of pipe that would be used. Mayor Malone said that he thought that the public works crew could do the installation. Mr. Hill said the question was is it more important to the board the time or the money.

Mr. Hill said that they recommended that the city reconnect on the State Route 390 Bridge to Bristol-Bluff City Utility District and the connection to Johnson City at the Industrial Park as both need to ultimately happen so that the city can have connection in

both places as you can't count 100% from either Bristol-Bluff or Johnson City. Mr. Hill said it is obvious that Bluff City doesn't have the money to do this so this would be something that they would want to get funding for.

Mr. Hill said that additional water system improvements have been recommended on and off since 1995 which include waterline replacement at a cost of about \$500,000.00, water plant improvements at a cost of \$300,000.00 and a new water tank out in the system at a cost of \$250,000.00 for a total cost of a little over a \$1,200,000.00 project.

Mr. Hill said that from the financing standpoint the CDBG, and Judy has already met with FTDD, they could modify the application that was going to be sent in and request \$500,000.00 which would do the two long inter-connect projects. Mr. Wilson said they could change what they recommended and apply for that money now. Mr. Hill said that Rural Development currently has 75% Grant funding available through the stimulus plan. Mr. Wilson said that the board would need to review their rate structure to see if they were where they needed to be in order to apply. Alderwoman Wells asked if other cities the size of Bluff City were a lot higher on water rates. Mr. Wilson said that some are. Alderwoman Wells said that this would be some good information. Mayor Malone said that Gray Stothard with FTDD told him and Judy that Bluff City's water rates were exceptionally low compared to other municipalities and that the city is going to have to do something with water rates to even apply or be accepted in a grant issue. Mr. Hill said that they would see what the rate structure had to be before they did the preliminary engineering reports or doing the environmentals.

Mayor Malone said that the board really had three options to choose from and to really benefit the citizens and they were connecting back to Bristol-Bluff Utility, connecting to Johnson City through the Industrial Park and upgrading the water system itself. Mayor Malone said that if the board wanted to look at going over the swinging bridge he would prefer that be done in house to limit cost as the water budget is hurting. Mayor Malone said clearly they were going to have to have a solution other than what the city had in Chiquapin.

Mr. Hill recommended to the city to connect a temporary connection across the swinging bridge and this needs immediate action to make sure that the city has got that insurance policy in case something happens again because he was not sure if Johnson City would be able to help the city out. Mr. Hill said that the remedial action would be to modify the Community Development Block Grant Application to apply for funding for the permanent interconnection by repairing the old Route 390 Bridge and also connecting to

the Old Elizabethton Highway. Mr. Hill said that the preventive action would be the Rural Development Application which is to prepare a preliminary engineering report and environmental for an application for \$1.25 million. Alderwoman Wells asked Mr. Hill if he wanted them to consider this bridge connection again. Mr. Hill said yes. Alderwoman Wells said that this was a lot of money wasted for nothing and she felt like they was sort of crazy to go back into the same situation after what happened this time. Alderwoman Wells said that it was unreal to think that you spend \$150,000.00 and that happen and the city should have went under the water or whatever we did to protect Bluff City as this thing of saying the city is changing employees all of the time, we should have had some type of service plan where that more than one person or two people knew about it because this is a lot of money especially for a city as small as Bluff City and she did not feel like that they should put themselves back into that same position because they need to be thinking about what is going to help Bluff City and take care of Bluff City and not have to be going backwards all of the time to fix something again that should have already been taken care of so her opinion would be to do something that we don't have to worry about a line out there freezing. Mr. Wilson said that they could take additional measures by automating it in someway where you would not have to rely on people. City Recorder told the BMA that if they chose to go with Johnson City they would be paying them a higher rate for water and if the city had to use much water the funds could be depleted quickly. Mayor Malone said that it was clearly a mistake on the part of the public works water man that failed and even putting in temperature controllers and valves to remedy the problem they could fail too. Mr. Hill said that it is true as it could jam or there could be a power failure. Mayor Malone said that as far as the BMA going back to the engineers and asking what do they need to do for a grant and what do the water rates need to be and how long would it take them to come up with that information. Mark Hill said that it would not take long as they could probably get that by Monday or Tuesday of next week. Alderman Miller asked if they could acquire the Hillcrest system under this grant. Mark Hill said yes the city could purchase it from Johnson City and in purchasing that the city could go ahead and run new lines along through there and upgrade the system and that way you would have a good solid tight system through there. Alderman Miller said that he wanted to know if the purchase would be covered under the grant. Dave Wilson and Recorder Dulaney said no. Recorder Dulaney said that the only way it could be covered under the grant is if it is a distressed area. City Manager Weaver said that if you were comparing Johnson City rates with Bristol-Bluff, last year the city averaged over 163,000 gallons per month so what would that be under. Mr. Hill said that a 160,000 some gallons per month it would be \$4.24 per thousand and \$2.65 with Bristol-Bluff. Dave Wilson said that during the zero months of usage the city would pay Bristol-Bluff City \$150.00 for 150,000 gallons of water and they would pay Johnson City

nothing but if the city used \$150,000 gallons of water they would pay Johnson City \$7.38 plus \$4.58 times 150,000. Alderman Carrier stated that the last time that Mr. Wilson was at the meeting he asked him if this would not have happened if our men had opened the valves at each end or let the water flow through. Mr. Wilson said yes that was right as Ms. Wells had said it was a human issue and Mr. Wilson said that with that design it was known that there were two conditions, either it is being used and water is moving through the line or you have to turn it off and drain the line. Mr. Wilson said that the day he came down and looked at the pipe it was a full diameter of water. Ms. Wells said that on a situation like that could Mr. Wilson have given the board some paperwork such as some service information that would have actually been on file. Mr. Wilson said he thought they had that he would have to go back and look but there was a substantial completion inspection. City Manager Weaver asked if that line had frozen before. Mr. Wilson said that when it was first put into operation it almost froze the first winter and Tipton Construction was called and they hooked a welder up and thawed it quickly and then it was drained. Mr. Wilson said he understood that it has happened at least one other time and maybe twice since then. Mr. Weaver said that the water was on the day that it burst as it was pouring out of the other end. Mr. Wilson said that if Bluff City's side was valved off and the other side was not it freezes and if it breaks it will still keep coming as it starts to thaw. Mr. Wilson said that he looked back and they did have correspondence but maybe under an annual inspection the procedures could be reiterated. Mr. Hill said that it would be even better that every time the city purchases water, regardless; the line could be drained every single time. Mr. Hill said that one thing that Ms. Wells noted earlier was how much money that the city keeps putting into the system to repair things and by no means will this solve all of the problems but if you are spending \$10,000.00 or \$12,000.00 a year right now to repair things that just pop up every now and then that same amount of money would go towards a payment that would solve an awful lot of problem. Mr. Wilson said that since 1997 the city had spent \$600,000.00 or \$700,000.00 on capital improvements. Mayor Malone said that his recommendation was to really look at the city's water system in great detail and then the connection back to Bristol-Bluff City Utility. Mayor Malone said that they had the Community Development Block Grant which would have to be modified from the original project. Mayor Malone asked the city engineers how they felt the city would rate for the grant if they went back and changed it. Mr. Wilson said that is a problem, as when they did the alternate connection before they based it on an overall benefit to the community as a whole and they would go that way again and it scored pretty good then as the city got the funding but money has gotten a lot harder to come by. Mr. Wilson said that they were basing the application this time on a water loss principle which they thought given the city's loss percentage and the number of LMI (low to moderate income) connection they were hoping to have a more favorable application. Mr. Wilson said that with the emergency

situation he thought it would rate good. Recorder Dulaney said that Gray Stothard indicated to her that the city would have a good chance of getting the grant. City Manager Weaver asked about the stimulus money. Mr. Hill said that the stimulus money was not competitive it is first come first serve if you qualify but there would be a problem with the rates. Mr. Hill said that the stimulus money would be available until September 30, 2010 but if you are not in the system by June your chances are much more diminished. Mayor Malone asked the city engineers what they would recommend to send for the block grant. Mr. Wilson said that he recommended one of the inter-connects and he recommended to reconnect on the bridge to Bristol-Bluff City Utility. Mayor Malone said that he thought that the bridge connection is going to be the better of the two. Alderman Carrier made a motion to change the Community Development Block Grant Application to include the secondary waterline to be installed under the bridge and connect to the Bristol-Bluff City Utility. Second by Robert Miller.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Gentry	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Weaver	yes
	Alderwoman Wells	no

Mayor Malone said that as far as the citizens best interest what about the upgrade to the water treatment plant. Dave Wilson said yes and the reason he said that is that in 2004 they had completed their report and they were studied at a time when there was no duress and they could easily come back to that same recommendation. Mayor Malone asked the engineers if they could break the water line replacements down in costs. Mr. Wilson said yes that they had those broken down by street in the past and this is based 100% on what the city men have told them. Mark Hill said that he would like to talk to staff again because since then there are probably some areas that they are more familiar with. Mark Hill said they would have to look at it from a standpoint as to what the city's debt tolerance is. Mayor Malone said that this is something they ought to look at especially with the stimulus money but he did not want to burden the citizens any more than they need to but they also have to protect the water system and meet state requirements. Mayor Malone said that he would like to look at the improvements to the water plant and just a variety of waterline replacements. Mark Hill said that the staff had brought it to their attention which was the four inch line that comes back across country. Mr. Hill said that right now there is a six inch line that comes out from the water plant and goes through a reducing valve and then turns back and comes back across country and right

now there is a lot of uncertainty about that line. Mr. Hill said that because it goes cross country if it is leaking there is a lot of time that you cannot tell because you don't normally walk out in the fields. Mr. Hill said that the line only serves a few people and they could actually be served from another location and he would not mind a bit to abandon that line and serve the folks from a different location because otherwise it does not serve a big purpose. Mayor Malone asked the engineers for a time frame to prepare this report. Mark Hill said that they could have it together in approximately two to three weeks.

Alderman Miller made a motion to install the temporary waterline on the swinging bridge even if it has to be contracted out for the full amount provided all the other stipulations are to be made with preference given to our own in-house employees and it is legal. Second by Alderman Carrier. City Manager Weaver said that the first thing is to see if Sullivan County will allow us to do it and second we need to know if our men can do it.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Gentry	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Weaver	yes
	Alderwoman Wells	yes

Alderman Carrier asked why is there only half capacity in the 300,000 gallon water tank and why does it not fill up like it used to. Dave Wilson said that as the system has grown they have added a lot more customers but those customers have been higher elevations above the tank and because of that you have essentially made the water tank ineffective and it is not a mechanical failure. Alderman Carrier said that when they had the old four inch waterline coming across Dry Branch Road under the creek and up through the field to the tank it stayed full but now when they came around the road with the six inch water line is the reason it is not filling up. Alderman Carrier asked if they could hook back to the four inch and let it continue to fill it up. Mark Hill said yes assuming that the lines are in good shape. Dave Wilson said that whole four inch line had pressure relief valves and they could never locate them and they were thinking that the line coming out of Underwood Springs was feeding the water and there wasn't a lot of regard to the pressures of the people in the higher elevations and the pressure was so great that there was places they simply vented it and let the water bleed off of it to knock the pressure down and if that is going on now that is bad.

Alderman Miller made a motion to approve the job description for the city manager. Second by Alderman Carrier.

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Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Gentry	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Weaver	yes
	Alderwoman Wells	yes

Mayor Malone opened the floor for old business: Mayor Malone said that last month they had asked Mr. McKamey to head up a committee to look about covering the caboose with a roof. Mr. McKamey said at the last meeting on January 12th he received a letter from Mr. Mark Weaver stating that he was not going to be at the meeting and asked if they would consider or bring and read the letter to the board about covering the caboose. Mr. McKamey said that on January 14th the board approved this and asked for options. Mr. McKamey said that on January 16th he met with Betty Thomas, Irene Wells, Betsy Carrier and Charles Cowan and the reason he met with these people was to try and find a picture of the old depot to find the shape of the roof. Mr. McKamey said that they wanted to put the same type of roof on the caboose. Mr. McKamey said that on January 19th he met with Bob Brown of Dixie Construction at the caboose to get options and to mainly get Mr. Brown's opinion as to what could be done to cover the caboose. Mr. McKamey said that then they started meeting with people and businesses. Mr. McKamey gave the BMA pictures of the caboose inside and out in their packet as well as a picture of the caboose in Elizabethton. Mr. McKamey said that Dixie Construction recommended that the roof should be a twenty-two by forty-six by sixteen and the roof would be covered with a life time paint warranty. Mr. McKamey said that all the exposed wood would be covered with metal to keep the birds and bees out of it. Mr. McKamey said it would be open around and include lighting underneath and a non-operational chimney. Alderwoman Wells asked what the price was. Mr. McKamey said that they could not tell the price as he had communicated with Ms. Dulaney and she said that it would be a violation as it would have to be put out for bid. Alderman Carrier made a motion to put caboose roof out for bids. Second by Alderwoman Wells.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Gentry	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Weaver	yes
	Alderwoman Wells	yes

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Mr. McKamey said that when he met with Mr. Bob Brown he commented that the city is losing the lakeshore and it was washing out where the bathrooms are and where the concrete comes out on the pavilion.

Mayor Malone opened the floor for the second section of citizen comments.

David Smith commented that the city needed to look at getting a better grade of pipe other than what was under the bridge when they install the new line.

Mayor Malone adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Todd Malone, Mayor

ATTEST:

This 11th Day of February

Judy Dulaney, City Recorder