

Minutes
Special Called Meeting
Bluff City Board of Mayor & Aldermen
July 1, 2011

Alderman Miller stated that in the absence of the mayor the charter calls that the meeting be conducted by the vice-mayor and with no vice-mayor present Alderman Miller made motion to his fellow board members that the meeting begins at 7:07 p.m. and then select a chairman to lead the meeting and immediately select a vice-mayor as stated in the charter during the first meeting of July. Second was by Alderman Leonard.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Alderman Leonard	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Mullins	yes

Alderman Miller made a motion for Lon Gene Leonard to chair the meeting. Second by Alderman Carrier.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Alderman Leonard	abstained
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Mullins	yes

Vice-Mayor Leonard asked Herman Carrier to have prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance was held.

Alderman Miller made a motion to appoint Lon Gene Leonard Vice-Mayor. Second by Alderman Carrier.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Alderman Leonard	abstained
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Mullins	yes

Vice-Mayor Leonard opened the floor for the first section of citizen comments.

1. Connie Leonard of 314 Main Street asked Mayor Wells if she was just stepping down tonight or is she stepping down as Mayor as she did not clarify that. Ms. Leonard asked why the Continuing Budget was not put first on the agenda when the previous board called a Special Called Meeting instead of an appointment to the Mayor's position as this was irrelevant compared to running the city.

Mayor Wells stated that she was just stepping down at tonight's meeting.

Vote of no confidence in the Mayor – Alderman Miller made a motion to remove this item from the agenda. Second by Vice-Mayor Leonard. Alderman Miller said that he was upset that he had to be there tonight to keep the government from shutting down and this was not taken care of first before a title.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Alderman Leonard	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Mullins	yes

Alderman Miller made a motion to accept the resignation of Keith Bowers as City Attorney. Second by Alderman Carrier.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Alderman Leonard	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Mullins	yes

Alderman Carrier made a motion to appoint Paul Frye as City Attorney. Second by Alderman Miller.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Alderman Leonard	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Mullins	yes

City Recorder Judy Dulaney gave the oath of office to Paul Frye.

Alderman Miller made a motion to nominate Alderman Leonard as the Vice-Mayor. Second by Alderman Carrier.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Alderman Leonard	abstained
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Mullins	yes

Alderman Carrier made a motion to terminate Don Weaver as the city manager. Second by Alderman Miller.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Leonard	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Mullins	yes

Alderman Miller made a motion to appoint Judy Dulaney as the interim city manager and this position be posted and accept applications and that a qualified candidate be hired for this position. Second by Alderman Carrier

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Leonard	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Mullins	yes

Alderman Miller made a motion to approve the bank resolution for Vice-Mayor Leonard to be the official check signer for the City of Bluff City. Second by Alderman Carrier.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Leonard	abstained
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Mullins	yes

Alderman Miller made a motion to create two positions in the streets/Highway department. Alderman Miller said that this was placed on the special called meeting due to the water loss of 45% it is imperative that the board hire qualified personnel that can locate these leaks and repair them as quickly as possible. Second by Alderman Mullins.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Leonard	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Mullins	yes

Vice-Mayor Leonard opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2011-012 the Continuing Budget Ordinance at 7:26 p.m. City Attorney Paul Frye read Ordinance No. 2011-012. Bill Morrell at 229 Lakeview Drive said that he thought it was a reasonable move to leave the tax rate as is as this gives everyone an opportunity to look over everything and be able to make a realistic decision as to whether the tax rate should be changed either up or down. Vice-Mayor Leonard closed the Public Hearing at 7:29 p.m.

Alderman Miller made a motion to pass Ordinance No. 2011-012 for the continuing budget. Second by Alderman Carrier.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Leonard	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Mullins	yes

City Attorney Paul Frye asked Mayor Wells if she would sign Ordinance No. 2011-012. Mayor Wells said that she would.

Vice-Mayor Leonard opened the floor for the second section of citizen comments.

2. Ricky Plank of 161 Hillcrest Road said that when he comes in the building he carries a recorder and asked Alderman Miller if he dropped what he said about Ms. Wells because he and Mr. Leonard was standing in there 10 minutes prior to the meeting discussing the situation with another employee. Alderman Miller said that it was not any discussion with Mr. Leonard but rather with an employee. Alderman Miller said that Mr. Plank was mistaken on the accusation on the Sunshine Law as this was done in an open meeting and perfectly legal. Alderman Miller stated that he was actually surprised in Mr. Plank's interest in the sunshine line. Vice-Mayor Leonard said that he was there to speak to the police department as he wanted to know why someone called the Sullivan County Department and request a Sullivan County Deputy to be at the meeting tonight as the city has a perfectly capable police department to take care of anything.
3. Billy Wells of 198 Holston Drive said that he had something to do with calling the Sullivan County Sheriff's Department and he knew that the city had excellent police officers and they are not separated from the city officials and said that he was going to have protection when he was there.
4. Mayor Wells said that she did talk to Sullivan County as they have had some pretty roudy meetings and the employees are worried about their jobs.
5. David Smith of 200 Highland Circle stated that he had been coming to the meetings for two years and last Tuesday night there was seven Bluff City Police Officers at the meeting and there has not been any trouble at the meetings and why would the Sullivan County Sheriff's Department have to be called after two years and this did not make sense to call the Sheriff's Department.
6. Connie Leonard of 314 Main Street congratulated the newly elected board. Ms. Leonard asked how legal it was for Mr. Plank to record city officials as he was not in the conversations. Ms. Leonard stated that she appreciated the Sullivan County Sheriff's Department as well as the Bluff City Police Department.

City Recorder Dulaney stated that it was an honor for her to be appointed to the Interim City Manager Position and her door would always be open to anyone and she would work hard for them. Ms. Dulaney said that she appreciated the citizens and loved the town.

7. Carol Keith said that she did not like to talk about the race thing but everyone knows it is reality and she had heard a lot of negative things and she wants the city to move forward but it sounds like they were moving backwards. Ms. Keith said that everyone needs to come together and work together and do what is best for Bluff City and agree to disagree.
8. Vice-Mayor Leonard said that he had spoken with some employees on four different occasions and told them that he would not be a party to coming in with a hatchet in hand to roll heads.

Vice-Mayor Leonard told Ms. Dulaney if she had any problem in conducting business she was to feel free to convene the board and not let things go too long and the board would address the problem. Vice-Mayor Leonard said that Ms. Dulaney is very good at what she does and all employees will answer to her. Vice-Mayor Leonard said that the employees were the city's greatest asset and it is time to bury the hatchet and get on with city business.

9. Mayor Wells said that she had never asked for anything for Bluff City or took anything from Bluff City and she has always loved Bluff City and the people and she has never been hung up on titles but she just wants to do things to help the city and she did not think it was too much for the Special Called Meeting to be handled properly. Vice-Mayor Leonard said that the previous board did not have a Mayor or a Vice-Mayor and for the most part did not have a city attorney but meetings got called and Alderman Miller and Alderman Carrier were never informed of the business at hand.
10. Julie Venable said everyone needs to work together.
11. Brenda Leonard of 508 Cedar Street stated that she is for the truth and commented on the stop signs on Cedar Street.
12. Carol Keith said that nothing can be done about yesterday can't everyone just forgive and go forward and do what is best for Bluff City.

Vice-Mayor Leonard adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Lon Gene Leonard, Vice-Mayor

ATTEST:

This 1st Day of July 2011

Judy Dulaney, City Recorder