

Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen  
September 12, 2013

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

Members present were Melvin Carrier, Ray Harrington, Lon Gene Leonard.

Brian Mullins and Richard Bowling were absent.

Prayer was given by Fred Lowry, Deacon of the First Baptist Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes for the June 25, 2013 Special Called Meeting were considered and City Manager Dulaney stated that if they took action on the minutes the board would need to vote to override the Mayor's veto and stated that there is a law that says every meeting of the BMA requires a set of minutes. Vice Mayor Harrington made a motion to override the Mayor's veto. Second by Alderman Leonard. All voted in favor.

Minutes for the August 8, 2013 meeting were approved with a motion by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Carrier. All voted in favor. Mayor Wells vetoed the August 8, 2013 minutes due to a statement by Reverend Keith that Mayor Wells said was not true. City Manager Dulaney asked if it was something that could be rectified without veto. Mayor Wells stated that someone needed to go back over the minutes before they are brought back before the board. Ms. Dulaney stated that what is required in the minutes is a summary of the business of the board and one or two lines of citizen comments.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for Citizen Comments- First Section.

John Harrison of 206 Main Street stated that he had been down to city hall trying to get his ditch dug out behind his house as it floods when it rains, and nothing has been done. City Manager Dulaney stated that the engineer said not to dig the ditch down as it is too close to the road and it would dump the water onto someone else. Ms. Dulaney stated that the culvert under the road is stopped up. The cost for the site survey is \$8,000 which the BMA will have to approve. Alderman Leonard asked why it cost so much. Ms. Dulaney stated there is no drainage system in that area. Ms. Dulaney stated that she had asked the engineer to take another look at the cost for the survey.

Teresa McMahan, Director of the Sullivan County Public Libraries was present to request \$10,000 for the library. Alderman Leonard stated that that they are going to have another workshop and they will look into it as he agrees we need the library.

Lillian Cutten stated that a lot of people that have moved to Bluff City do not know that we have a library. Mrs. Cutten reported that she has a water drainage problem at her house in Union Park.

Betsy Carrier asked for money for the library. Mrs. Carrier asked if a camera would have helped as far as misuse of the recycling bins. Mrs. Carrier voiced concern about vandalism at the swinging bridge.

Mayor Wells asked the BMA to have another workshop before considering the budget. Mayor Wells asked for a motion to have more workshops on the budget. Alderman Carrier made the motion. City Manager Dulaney stated that the budget was due on October 1<sup>st</sup> and you have to have two readings. Ms Dulaney stated that you could have the first reading tonight and have more workshops to keep from being late on the budget. Mayor Wells stated that it had been later than that before and Ms Dulaney stated no it has not. Mayor Wells asked for a second. There was no second. Alderman Leonard stated he saw no reason not to have it on first reading as it would just buy them some time and they could make changes. Vice Mayor Harrington asked how many days it had to be between readings and was informed 10 days. Alderman Carrier stated if it is passed tonight they can change it. Ms Dulaney stated yes they could change anything they wanted to. Alderman Leonard stated that the board can change the budget by amendment throughout the year. Motion to pass the budget on First reading was made by Alderman Leonard. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Mayor Wells set a budget workshop for Monday at 6 p.m.

Mayor Wells presented the following to the BMA for consideration:

Ordinance 2013-005 on first reading. Mayor Wells read the Ordinance which is an appropriations ordinance for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013. Motion to approve Ordinance 2013-005 on first reading was made by Alderman Leonard. Second by Alderman Carrier. All voted in favor.

Ordinance 2013-006 on first reading. Mayor Wells read the ordinance which sets property tax rates for fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. Motion to approve Ordinance 2013-006 on first reading was made by Alderman Carrier. Second by Vice-Mayor Harrington. All voted in favor.

Ordinance 2013-009 on first reading. Mayor Wells read the ordinance which amends Section 17-111 of the Municipal Code setting Garbage Collection Fees. Motion to approve Ordinance 2013-009 on first reading was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Carrier. All voted in favor.

Ordinance 2013-007 on first reading. Mayor Wells read the ordinance which sets sewer rates. Motion to approve Ordinance 2013-007 on first reading was made by Alderman Carrier. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. All voted in favor.

Ordinance 2013-008 on first reading. Mayor Wells read the ordinance which sets water rates. Motion to approve Ordinance 2013-008 on first reading was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Carrier. All voted in favor.

Discussion / Action on request from Bluff City Schools requesting that the board consider allowing them to pay only for the sewer that actually goes through the sewer not water used for functions where the water does not empty into the sewer as they have installed separate meters that will reflect this water. Motion to approve was made by Alderman Carrier. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. All voted in favor.

Ordinance 2013-010 on first reading. Mayor Wells read the ordinance which amends Municipal Code 3-201 dealing with court costs. Motion to approve Ordinance 2013-010 on first reading was

made by Alderman Leonard. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. City Manager Dulaney stated that the only thing that changed was court costs. All voted in favor.

Mayor Wells reported the following:

She attended the following meeting: ETSU with presentation from Dr. Nolan discussing ways to encourage students to attend college.

Mayor Godsey discussed problem with someone removing bolts from the swinging bridge and this could be dangerous which may mean they have to close it. We need to have the police monitor it closely.

School Superintendent wants schools notified about problems with city water and not wait for news media to provide information.

She attended the Bluff City Planning Commission meeting.

She attended the Networks Meeting.

City Attorney Paul Frye not present.

Comments from Aldermen;

Alderman Carrier: Glade to see everyone.

Vice Mayor Harrington: Appreciated everyone coming to the meeting and looked forward to seeing them at the next meeting.

Alderman Leonard: Very pleased to see everyone at the meeting and hoped they come back to every meeting. Mr. Leonard stated that he left a meeting early and the Mayor and City Manager knew beforehand. Mr. Leonard stated the reason he left the last meeting was he had a 92 year old man at home that needed someone with him and he had to pick up his son from ball practice out of town. Mr. Leonard stated that anytime he has to leave a meeting it is his personal business.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for Old Business. She asked if there had been anything on the old city hall building. Ms. Dulaney stated that there was no asbestos in the building but as soon as she gets the report she will forward it to the board.

City Manager Dulaney reported the following:

The board voted to do some things on the tennis courts and they have cleaned up some around them but in looking at them they are in bad shape and just to buy the things to bring it back to where it needs to be is around \$3,200. Ms. Dulaney stated that the school is talking about doing away with them because they need the parking space. Ms. Dulaney advised the BMA to put it on hold until the school decides what they are going to do.

Ms. Dulaney stated that she had informed Todd Wood, the storm water coordinator, that the storm water and drain issues are being addressed on the city's website and that the information on building permits will be on our next water billing.

Had problems with some of the equipment and the leaf collection box is inoperable and she will get back to them with cost to rebuild it.

City Manager Dulaney stated that City Attorney Paul Frye is out of town but he asked her to read something for him. Ms. Dulaney read a letter from the Tennessee Human Rights Commission in Nashville Tennessee. Notice of determination. This letter serves as official notice to all parties that the commission has concluded its investigation of the matter and has reached the following determination. Examination of the evidence from the Lee McClintock complaint against the City of Bluff City indicates there is no reasonable cause to believe that the respondent has engaged in the discriminatory practice. The complaint in this matter is dismissed.

Public Works Director Ron Miller reported the following: SEE ATTACHMENT

Spoken to Job Corp to see why they have not been working on the project at the park and they stated that the roofer had a problem at another location and would be back next week to continue. Mayor Wells asked how much longer it would take them. Mr. Miller stated he has no control over them and does not know. City Manager Dulaney stated that Alderman Bowling had also checked with the Job Corp in reference to doing the shoreline extension and they told him no.

Maintaining water pressure as we are not gaining but we are not losing.

Chief of Police Greg Depew reported the following: SEE MONTHLY REPORT ATTACHED

K-9 program will be officially on the ground tomorrow at 6:00. Officer Antone did all his training successfully.

Having a problem on Railroad Street with speeding and was asked to look into making it one way.

When at school zones he has noticed very heavy traffic at Bluff City Elementary and it is very congested in that area.

Mayor Wells stated she had received a call about Old Elizabethton Hwy and asked how far outside the city could the police department run radar. Chief Depew stated that they are not allowed to run radar outside the city. Ms. Wells stated that a citizen called and said that they were running radar there. Chief Depew stated he would look into it but there has been no citations issued from that area. Chief Depew stated that if an officer observes a violation inside our city limits it may take them time to perform a safe stop and it may lead them outside the city limits.

County Commissioner Dwight King reported the following.

Mr. King apologized for not attending but the county budget meetings fall at the same time the city meeting is. Mr. King stated that they passed their budget on first reading and they will vote

on it this coming Monday. Tax rate will be 3 cents less this year but they had gone through a re-appraisal last year.

Some of the commissioners are concerned as to why they have to fund a library for Bluff City as Kingsport and Bristol fund their own library. Mr. King stated that it is in their budget this year but have asked that Bluff City put in \$10,000 and they have put in \$100,000. Main thing that helped them was the school board cutting their budget.

Tennessee Eastman is going to build a corporate office here. They have a Bass Pro Shop coming to Bristol along with other shops.

Old Business: There were none.

New Business: There were none.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for Citizen Comments -- Second Section.

Lillian Cutten stated that a lot of the elderly people can't afford to pay tax increases and we need to clean up our act and do things to get younger people to locate in Bluff City.


Hyacinth at 570 Cedar Street stated she likes older people. She wants them to think about the library as an investment for our kids and our future.

Jerry Malone of 372 Smith Street gave an update on the 911 Board. Mr. Malone stated that the Co Chairman of the 911 Board, Don Adams passed away. Mr. Malone stated that they are going to Murfreesboro to a 911 conference in reference to communications.

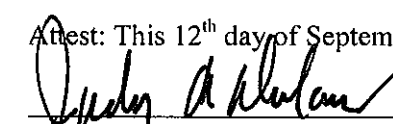
Carol Keith asked Vice Mayor Harrington if he had done any research on what she talked about at the last meeting. Mr. Harrington stated that he had not as he has been moving and getting his house set up. Mrs. Keith thanked Mrs. Carrier for standing up for the library.

With no other business motion to adjourn was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Leonard. All in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

  
Irene Wells, Mayor

Attest: This 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2013

  
Judy Dufaney, City Manager