

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen
May 8, 2014

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

Members present were Melvin Carrier, David Harmon, Ray Harrington, Lon Gene Leonard and Richard Bowling.

Prayer was given by Reverend Ron Whittaker, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Alderman Bowling made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 13, 2014 regular meeting. Second by Alderman Carrier. Mayor Wells requested a correction on page 2 to add The Mayor asked for more information about money matters. Motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Alderman Leonard. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes for the March 25, 2014 Special Called Meeting were approved with a motion by Vice-Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Harmon. All in favor.

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

Sherry Grubb of 308 Old Weaver Pike asked that the BMA approve the sale of the old city hall building where she was the highest bidder. Mrs. Grubb commented on the type of business she had.

Jerry Malone of 372 Smith Street and the city's representative on the 911 Board reported that there would be a statewide 911 system and the state is paying for the equipment. Mr. Malone stated that there is some cost involved as the current radios cannot be used on this system. Mr. Malone stated that he was at the budget meeting last night and there was no one from Bluff City there in reference to parks and recreation.

Joan Williams of 225 Woodland Drive spoke on behalf of the Thomas Memorial Library and thanked the board for their support.

Chase Carrier of 351 Railroad Street, Chief of the Bluff City Fire Department requested that new equipment (Knox Box) be placed on the exterior of the City buildings in case of a fire. Mr. Carrier stated that the box would contain a key to the building in case of a fire. Mr. Carrier explained that there would only be two keys that would fit that box and he and the 2 Assistant Chiefs were the only ones that could order more keys. Mr. Carrier explained that each person having access to the box would have a pin number that can be audited by software telling who got it out and how long they had it out. Chief Carrier asked when they were going to be getting the \$10,000.00 that was appropriated to them. Mr. Carrier was informed that it would be by June 30, 2014 and it may be in two installments.

Karen Morrell of 691 Riverside Road was present on behalf of Mrs. Grubb. Mrs. Morrell stated that she does own property inside the city and asked what the future of the old city hall building was and it needed to be discussed. Mrs. Morrell made a recommendation that the board get compensated for their time.

Mayor Wells stated that if the board wanted to change the time limit on people to speak they need to vote on it but they do not need to change it tonight. City Attorney Paul Frye stated "Mayor we have an ordinance that is city code 1-101 that sets (sentence interrupted) Mayor Wells stated I have a copy of the ordinance. Mayor Wells stated that she was on the board when they decided to let the citizens talk as long as they wanted to and she was not going to change it until this board changed it. City Manager Dulaney stated there is nothing to vote on to change. City Attorney Paul Frye stated there is nothing to change. Mayor Wells stated that considering that we were not following it do we have a board member that wants to make a motion to change it. Mr. Frye stated that a motion is not in order. Mayor Wells stated that they treated it different before so she is asking for a motion. Mr. Frye stated that the ordinance in the city code says (3) three minutes each section of citizen comments and if they want to change that they would need an amendment to the city code or another ordinance. Mr. Frye stated that's what (sentence interrupted) Mayor Wells stated we have not been following it. Mr. Frye stated don't point your finger at me Mayor, you are the one that holds the meetings. Mayor Wells asked for a motion if the board wanted to allow each person only 3 minutes to speak. Motion to follow the resolution allowing 3 minutes to speak during citizen comments was made by Alderman Carrier. Second by Vice-Mayor Harrington. All in favor. Mayor Wells asked that it start next meeting. No response was made to her request.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for the following:

Public Hearing on the Rural Development Loan/Grant. Dave Wilson with Mattern & Craig Engineers was present to inform the board of the process. Mr. Wilson stated that it would include replacing 2 lift stations one at the bridge and the igloo. In addition water line replacements are proposed on Pineola, Cedar, Carter and Lakeview Streets and the Jarrell Mobile Home Park along Bluff City Hwy and Vickers Road. The proposed improvements include an additional water tank at the treatment plant and the proposed sewer extension to the Piney Flats area. Mr. Wilson stated that the estimated cost of \$2,536,552.00. City Manager Dulaney asked that the board consider not including the Piney Flats sewer at this time due to the new annexation laws and apply only for the water and sewer lines in the city. Mr. Wilson stated that if it is the board's consensus that part can be removed from the application. Mr. Wilson stated that this would bring the total of the application down to \$1,792,422.00.

David Smith stated that he would be for taking the extra money and spending it on lines here in town.

Allen Warren with Piney Bluff Baseball reported that lights for the ball field had been donated and he was there to ask BMA approval to install the lights stating that they were using steel poles. Mr. Warren stated that the Middle School Girls Softball Team has asked if they can use the field for practice and home games and said they have no problem with that and if they need to add them into the contract with the city they can do that. Mr. Warren asked if they could put a line next to the boat ramp to divide the parking lot and make room for the boats and if the people there for ball games parked in the spots for boaters they will be told that they can be towed at the owner's expense. Mr. Warren stated that this is the last year on their lease and asked if the BMA would extend the lease for 5 more years.

Alderman Leonard asked that City Attorney Paul Frye to look at the lease with regards to the girls team using the field. Alderman Leonard made a motion to approve the installation of the lights at the ball field. Second by Alderman Carrier. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for the following:

Ordinance 2014-001 on First Reading. City Attorney Paul Frye read the ordinance which is an ordinance adopting an employee cell phone policy. Motion to approve on first reading was made by Alderman Carrier. Second by Alderman Harmon. All in favor. Motion carried.

City Manager Dulaney asked if the BMA wanted to authorize a Junk Pick up Day. Ms. Dulaney stated that it would be difficult at this time with the budget, as she is having to give the non-profits their money in installments. Decision was made to discuss it in the next budget.

Mayor Wells reported the following: SEE ATTACHMENT

Networks Board met on April 17, 2014

Metropolitan Planning Association met on April 16, 2014.

City Attorney Paul Frye reported the following:

To allow a hot dog stand at the caboose it would have to be put out on bid to let everyone have a chance and the city would have to pay property tax on it.

In reference to the water contracts from the spring to the city, he reviewed the file on it and it had been litigated several times and the city has lost each time. Mr. Frye stated that the users had to abide by the ordinances and steps are being taken to look into the usage.

In reference to Citizen Comments at Special Called Meeting Mr. Frye stated that the board would have to clarify what they would allow. Mr. Frye was asked to prepare the paperwork for clarification. Mr. Frye stated that he would have it for the next meeting.

The lawsuit of Cordle vs. Bluff City was dismissed.

Comments from Alderman :

Alderman Carrier thanked everyone for coming.

Alderman Harmon said he appreciated everyone for coming.

Vice-Mayor Harrington thanked everyone for coming.

Alderman Leonard stated that he had been sick and unable to attend all the meetings but he was doing better. Mr. Leonard thanked everyone.

Alderman Bowling stated that he was glad to see the turnout and it seems that they are taking more interest now than in the past.

City Manager Dulaney reported the following:

Financial statement as of May 5, 2014 showed the following:

General Fund Revenue at 74% and the expenditures are at 78.8 %.

Sanitation Fund Revenue 75.8% and expenditures are 73.6%

Water / Sewer Fund Revenue 73.4% and the expenditures are at 109.6%.

Cash Accounts as follows for the record:

General Fund operating account is \$161,220.82

Sanitation Fund is \$7,176.50

Special Drug Fund is \$1,920.71

Sinking Fund is \$3,094.78

Debt Service is \$229,626.52

Water / Sewer fund is \$234,171.62

FHA Reserve Account is \$690.64

Asked that they start workshops on the budget.

TML the City's insurance had stated that we the citizens will be responsible for some of the payments on these lawsuits for attorney's fees and the one is \$2500.00 deductible but could turn into a lot of this money coming from city funds through tax dollars.

Had a plumbing problem at the park bathrooms but placed a porta john there temporarily but the men have been working diligently on them.

Completed the drain repair on Cedar Street, and the insurance company stated that that particular claim against the city was not the city's fault and it has been denied.

Hired a part time person to help with mowing, and has 2 community service workers lined up.

Motion to approve the Financial Reports from 4- 9-14 and 5-7-14 was made by Alderman Harmon. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Wells asked if the Board wanted to set a Budget Workshop for May 19th. Workshop was set for 7:00.p.m.

Public Works Director Ron Miller reported the following: SEE ATTACHMENT

Repairing collapsing drain on Carter St-Repaired boat dock-Continuing work on Water Plant

Chief of Police Greg Depew presented his monthly report for April 2014. SEE ATTACHMENT

Chief Depew reported that everything is going well in the department.

No Sullivan County Commissioners were present.

In Old Business, Alderman Leonard stated that the board needed to discuss having an auction of the junk at the city garage to get rid of them. City Manager Dulaney stated that she will get them the quotes from junkyards for the items vs. auctioning them. Mayor Wells asked about the truck that is too large for the streets and Ms. Dulaney stated that she has gotten it repaired for around \$800 and there are other things it can be used for such as hauling rock and asphalt.

In New Business, Vice Mayor Harrington asked what they were going to do with the old city hall building. City Manager Dulaney suggested that they discuss it in a workshop. Mr. Harrington stated that he would still like to sale it to Sherry Grubb as she wants to bring in a business. Alderman Harmon made a motion to have a workshop to discuss the building. Ms. Dulaney asked if they wanted to have the budget workshop at 6:00 and discuss the old city hall building after that. Decision was made to have workshop at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Wells asked if we could put that we pick up brush and leaves on the water bills. City Manager Dulaney stated we could.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for Citizen Comments – Second Section

Jerry Malone asked that they pay the \$1000.00 pledged to the Rescue Squad and asked if they could have more next year. Mr. Malone asked that they consider setting a fee for junk pick up day and let the citizens know. Mr. Malone stated that the city workers do a good job and he appreciates it.


Julie Venable Carty of 209 Smith Street Extension asked if the citizens could speak at the workshop and is it for 3 minutes. Mayor Wells stated yes.

Lillian Cutten of Union Park Sub Division, stated that they need a new intercom system she can't hear. She was informed that we will get it fixed. Mrs. Cutten stated that they need to keep in mind when they are talking about raising prices that about 40% of the people in town are elderly and may not be able to afford the high prices. Mrs. Cutten stated it is nice to keep the young people busy but we also need to help the older people. Mrs. Cutten stated she has asked for a sign in front of City Hall notifying people of meetings for 11 years.

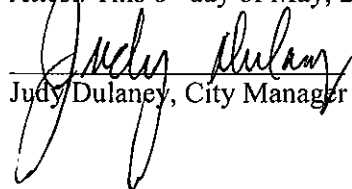
Becky Buchanan of 750 Drybranch Road thanked the BMA for putting a porta john at the pavilion. Mrs. Buchanan asked them to consider selling the old city hall building to Mrs. Grubb.

Sherry Grubb stated that they have already sold the building and she hoped that it would be finalized tonight. Mrs. Grubb stated "I have sought legal advice and you are setting here talking about lawsuits, I definitely would not want to go anywhere like that because it is not beneficial to me or you all. Mrs. Grubb stated that she did not feel that the police officers should stop the audience from whispering to each other during meetings. Mrs. Grubb stated that she wished they would settle this because she does not want to have to do something else.

With no other business, motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Alderman Leonard. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.


Irene Wells, Mayor

Attest: This 8th day of May, 2014


Judy Dulaney, City Manager