

Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen  
January 6, 2015

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

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

David Harmon was absent.

Prayer was given by Reverend Mike Pope from the First Baptist Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes for the November 13, 2014 meeting were approved with a motion by Alderman Carrier. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. All in favor.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for the following:

Citizen Comments – First Section.

Julie Venable Carty of 209 Smith Street Extension, asked if they knew when the city was going to be getting our water back on instead of buying water.

David Bartley was present to discuss his deceased mother's water bill. Mr Bartley stated that his mother was hospitalized on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October and no one lived in the house for about 8 weeks and in November he received the bill and it was for \$902.00. Mr. Bartley stated that he had spoken to Sandy and she told him that they do not adjust water anymore and he had checked the meter daily and it had not changed. Mr. Bartley asked that the meter be changed and the bill be adjusted. City Manager Dulaney stated that the board needed to get a cost per thousand gallons to treat the water before deciding to adjust for leaks. BMA informed Mr. Bartley that they would consider it.

Railroad request to close Depot Street crossing:

William Miller, Representative for Norfolk and Southern Railroad was present to discuss the closing of the crossing at the back of the First Baptist Church. Mr Miller stated that they would like to close the crossing for safety purposes as the last 2 vehicles hit in Bluff City at a crossing was at that crossing. Mr. Miller stated that the last study of that crossing shows about 300 vehicles a day using it. City Manager Dulaney suggested meeting with emergency entities about the impact of closing it.

Tom Jarrell , Chairman of the property committee and a Member of the First Baptist Church stated that the church was in favor of closing the crossing. Vice Mayor Harrington suggested putting the question on the May Ballot. City Attorney Paul Frye stated that he did not think they had time to get a referendum on the ballot but he would look into it. Alderman Bowling made a motion not to close the railroad crossing at J Forrest Thomas Street. Second by Alderman Leonard. Vote went as follows: Alderman Carrier-Yes, not to close, Vice Mayor Harrington-

abstained, Alderman Leonard-Yes, not to close, Alderman Bowling-not to close it. Motion carried.

#### Legal Services Agreement for Rural Development Loan/Grant

City Attorney Paul Frye presents a Legal Service agreement between himself, the city and USDA (Rural Development) stating that it is required on the loan/grant that the city is getting on the water/sewer. Mayor Wells asked if this was to pay him \$150.00 per hour when working on the Loan/Grant. Mr. Frye said yes. Motion to approve was made by Alderman Leonard Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### Agreed Order- Department of Environment and Conservation:

City Attorney Paul Frye presented the Directors Order that was issued and assessed fines against Bluff City that was appealed. The fines were \$11,900.00 and he negotiated with their council for the department and he would recommend this agreed order as it would be \$2,870.40 plus the cost of the cause which is \$537.93 and if the city did not keep up with the testing it would be an additional \$1,676.00 in fines. Alderman Leonard made a motion to accept. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### Resolution 2015-001 TDOT Multi Model Grant:

City Attorney Paul Frye read the resolution. Cody Mcalroy with City Engineers Mattern & Craig explained that this loan/grant was a sidewalk grant for 95% grant and 5% local match up to \$1,000,000.00. Mr. Mcaroy reported that the total amount of the grant application was \$953,000 which would be \$906,000.00 grant and the city's part would be \$47,000.00. Motion to approve Resolution 2015-001 was made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Alderman Leonard. All in favor. Motion carried

#### Discussion/Action Motorola Radios for Police Department:

City Manager Dulaney stated that the board needed to consider authorizing the chief to order the radios for the County 911 system and the city could save money by ordering with Sullivan County. Ms Dulaney quoted the different options and said, if the city goes with option 2 it is 5 years with no payment for a year and the interest is 3.45%. Motion to approve Option 2 was made by Alderman Leonard. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### Discussion/Action- Quotes to repair 2008 Dodge Police Cruiser:

One quote from Andes Transmission was for \$6,088.00 and the other was from Carl Gregory for \$9,135.00 for the jasper engine. The transmission repair shop stated that the rest of the car is in really good condition. Motion to accept Andes Transmission's quote was made by Alderman Leonard. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### Mayor Wells report:

Reported on the meetings she attended during the month. Thanked everyone for coming out.

Report from City Attorney J. Paul Frye:

Mr Frye had no report.

Comments from the Aldermen:

Alderman Carrier thanked everyone for coming and wished them a happy and healthy New Year.

Vice Mayor Harrington thanked everyone for coming.

Alderman Leonard thanked everyone for coming and asked them to come back anytime they can.

Alderman Bowling thanked everyone for coming and said he wished that they had a full house every time so people in the city would really know what is going on.

City Manager Dulaney reported the following:

One of our men, Allen Moultrie, has taken his sewer license exam and passed it. Ms Dulaney stated that he only makes around \$10.00 per hour and requested that they consider increasing his pay to \$13.00 per hour. Motion to approve was made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Alderman Leonard. All in favor. Motion carried.

Cash balances as of January 6 are as follows: General Fund-\$102,191.82, Sanitation -\$878.49, Special Drug Fund- \$1,094.91, Sinking Fund-\$3094.75, Debt Service- \$205,276.29, Water/Sewer- \$316,366.29, FHA Reserve Acct.-\$609.75

Recommended giving a donation to the Fire Department in the amount of \$5,000.00 in 2 \$2,500.00 increments before June 30<sup>th</sup>. Motion to approve was made by Alderman Leonard. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sent the financial records to the board for review and approval. Motion to approve November / December Financial Records was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor. Motion carried.

The allegations of money missing and using people to do work on her property have been reported to the Comptroller's office and this has cost the city money to have investigated. Ms Dulaney read a letter from the District Attorney General stating that after the TBI investigated this and presented his findings to the grand jury they took no action and determined there was no basis for a criminal prosecution and stated that he would not litigate the lawsuit.

Mayor Wells stated that she has not received anything from her attorney and does not know anything about this except that Ms Dulaney gave her a copy in her packet and if anyone has any questions they need to contact her lawyer.

Chief of Police Greg Depew reported the following:

Presented the police report for December.

Complemented Wanda and the others that worked on the parade as it went well.

Alderman Bowling complimented the Police Department on their toy drive. Chief Depew stated they were glad to do it.

Sullivan County Commissioner was not present.

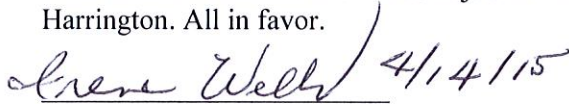
Old Business: None

New Business: None

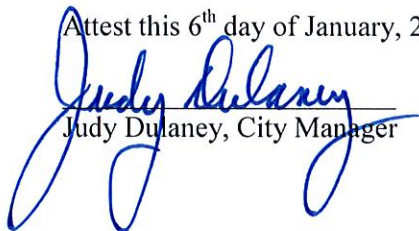
Citizen Comments – Second section:

Pat Morris stated that this is the second month her water has been turned off and she called the emergency 6030 number and the man that answered stated that there was a \$25 reconnect fee. Mrs. Morris stated that she called the next day and Sandy told her that the fee had gone up to \$50.00, and she said to pay the balance with the next bill, but when she came home her water was off. Alderman Carrier made a motion that we send the people a 5 day notice if we are going to cut them off. Motion failed due to a lack of a second. City Attorney Paul stated that he would check on it.

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

  
Irene Wells, Mayor

Attest this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2015

  
Judy Dulaney, City Manager