

Minutes
Special Called Meeting
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen
August 20, 2015
11:00 A.M.

Mayor Wells called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Members present were John Harrison, Tanya Cordle, Ray Harrington and Richard Bowling.

Prayer was given by Richard Bowling, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sandra Madison arrived at approximately 11:04.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for the following:

Citizen Comments – First Section—There were none.

Discussion / Action- Approval on First Reading -Bluff City Budget for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2016

Motion to approve on first reading was made by Vice- Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Harrison. Vote went as follows: Alderman Harrison- Yes, Alderwoman Madison voted yes then changed vote to No, Alderwoman Cordle – No, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Bowling – Yes. Motion carried

Ordinance No. 2015-004 -- First Reading- Appropriations Ordinance for the year ending June 30, 2016

Motion to approve on first reading was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor. Motion carried.

Alderwoman Cordle stated that she wanted to make a comment on the budget. Ms. Cordle stated that there were a lot of things that weren't spelled out. Ms Cordle stated that salaries were lumped together. Ms Cordle stated that she felt the citizens have a right to know what is going on and where the money is going. Ms Cordle stated that as aldermen they should be able to ask about salaries and things like that before they approve anything.

Ordinance No. 2015-005 – First Reading.

City Attorney Paul Frye read the ordinance which provides for the General Revenue of the Town of Bluff City Tn. for the Fiscal Year 2015– 2016 Be it known as the Real and Personal Property Tax Levy Ordinance for fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, which is the same tax rate as last year. Motion to approve on first reading was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. Vote was as follows: Alderman Harrison – Yes, Alderwoman Madison – Abstained, Alderwoman Cordle – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Bowling -- Yes. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2015-006- First Reading

City Attorney Paul Frye read the ordinance which sets Water User Rates for Customers Inside and Outside the Corporate Limits of Bluff City. This represents an 8% increase in water rates.

Motion to approve Ordinance 2015-006 on first reading was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2015-007- First Reading

City Attorney Paul Frye read the ordinance which sets Sewer Rates for the Customers Inside and Outside the Corporate Limits of Bluff City. This represents an 8% increase. Motion to approve on First Reading was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor. Motion carried.

Citizen Comments – Second Section

Don Weaver of 4336 Bluff City Highway stated that when you make a statement that the board can't discuss salaries he can't see that because they always have. Mr. Weaver asked how they were going to know what they are voting on if they have it all bunched together, and how are the citizens going to know. Mayor Wells stated that we can't discuss salaries in an open meeting. Mr. Weaver stated show me where you can't attorney. Mr Weaver stated it is up to the board they are the legislative part of this town they can do what they want to do, but they can't violate the Charter. City Attorney Paul Frye stated it is up to the board to make the decisions. Mr Weaver stated to the Mayor that he was in her office when he was talking to her about putting a police officer on and you said we don't have any money and by the way I am calling Richard now to cancel the order on those trees. Mr Weaver asked Alderman Bowling if he got a call. Mr Bowling stated yes. Mayor Wells stated that she remembers that and they were still going through the budget and we have the money now for the trees and another police officer was hired. Mayor Wells stated that there were some problems in the budget and some things that were incorrect. Mr Weaver asked if there was a problem of someone making \$52,000 a year and it's not brought out and these guys don't know about it. Mayor Wells stated that Ms Cordle had requested a copy of the salaries and had been given a copy. Ms Cordle stated yes but she was told they couldn't discuss it on the floor.

David Smith of 200 Highland asked if they got another water and sewer increase. Mayor Wells stated we did. Alderwoman Cordle stated that it was where they changed it from 15%.

Carol Keith of 305 Lakeview Circle thanked the new board and asked them not to forget what they promised the people. Mrs Keith stated that it's like we are going backwards again. Mrs Keith asked why everyone is so secretive and don't want to let the people know. Mrs. Keith stated we need officers and they put their lives on the line and asked the board to do the research and make sure they have coverage 24 – 7.

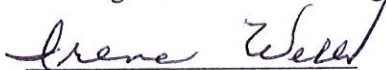
Mayor Wells asked Chief Depew to comment on the protection the police department offers. Chief Depew stated that he feels that we have some of the best and most qualified officers that they have ever had. Mr Depew stated that they are capable of answering anything put upon them and they have good equipment. Mr Depew stated that he puts his heart and effort into providing protection to the town. Mr Depew stated that he and the officers under him give 100% effort to protect the city including the schools. Mayor Wells asked if he would like to comment on what she had told him that the Comptroller had said about not hiring anyone or giving raises until they could see that they had enough money. Chief Depew stated you did tell me that when I had talked

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to you about hiring a police officer you said that the Comptroller had said that you needed to hold off until you got further into the budget which you did. Mayor Wells stated I told you I would make a decision as soon as it happened and did I not make the decision. Mr Depew stated you did.

Alderman Cordle stated that she has a child in school and goes there every morning and the police do a great job because it could be a chaotic mess there. Chief Depew thanked Ms Cordle and the BMA for their support.

With no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.


Irene Wells, Mayor

Attest this 20th day of August, 2015


Wanda Phillips, Clerk