

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen
November 3, 2015

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

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

Prayer was given by Rev. Bill Duncan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for the following:

Motion to approve the regular meeting Minutes of October 6, 2015 was made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. All in favor.

Citizen Comments – First Section

David Smith of 200 Highland Circle asked Vice Mayor Harrington to look into the survey of asbestos at the old City Hall and report back. David Smith reported that Carol Keith was going to run for alderman and said she would not vote for anymore 62% tax increases.

Carol Keith of 305 Lakeview Circle thanked the Mayor and board for the job they are doing and stated that her concern is the water bills and the reconnect fees and asked that they do research.

Discussion / Action Resolution 2015- 002 thru 2015-011 which are donations to nonprofit organizations.

City Attorney Paul Frye stated that they have complied with the TCA Code 654-111 as well as a resolution that we have in place. Mr Frye read the resolutions allocating the following: Holston River Cleanup - \$600.00, Bluff City Vol. Fire Dept - \$5,000.00, Piney Flats Fire Dept - \$2,500, Bluff City Senior Citizens Center - \$1,000.00, Second Harvest Food Bank-\$500.00, Thomas Memorial Library- \$2,000.00, Bluff City Community Chest- \$1,100.00, Bluff City Rescue Squad-\$3,000.00, Children's Advocacy Center-\$1,000.00, Bluff City Boys and Girls Club- \$1,000.00. Motion to approve Resolution's 2015-002 thru 2015-011 was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling.

Discussion / Action – Sharon Greene, City Recorder / Finance Officer.

Ms Greene reported that in the audit, the wording in Resolution 2015-012 will identify the \$197,176.00 which is forgiven by the Debt Service Fund to the Water / Sewer Fund.

Discussion / Action Resolution 2015-012 to complete the write-off of the \$197,176.00 from the Debt Service Fund to the Water/Sewer Fund retroactively for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

City Attorney Paul Frye read the Resolution. Motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second By Alderman Bowling. Vote went as follows: Alderman Harrison – Yes, Alderwoman Madison,-Yes, Alderwoman Cordle- No, Vice Mayor Harrington- Yes, Alderman Bowling- Yes. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action – Add Sharon Greene Signature to Bank Accounts

Motion to add Sharon Greene's signature to bank accounts was made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Alderman Harrison. All in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action – Place Street light at walking trail / swinging bridge.

Motion to add street light was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Harrison. All in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action – Ham & Christmas Dinner for Employees

Motion to approve giving employees and the reserve officers a ham and a Christmas Dinner was made by Alderman Harrison. Second by Alderwoman Cordle. All in favor. Motion carried.

Report from Mayor / City Manager Irene Wells.

Mayor Wells reported that she had received 2 quotes for the sign for City Hall, not including the brick. Snyder Sign Company quoted \$6,560.00 and changed their quote to \$5,990.00 and Foster Signs quoted \$4,500.00. Alderman Bowling asked if that included the letters to put on the sign. Mayor Wells stated that Foster included one set and Snyder did not include any. Motion to approve Foster's quote was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Harrison. All in favor. Motion carried.

The pickup truck is almost finished. The heaters at the garage have been installed.

Needed to know the maximum amount that the city is willing to pay to de-militarize the military equipment for the war memorial. Motion not to exceed \$10,000.00 was made by Alderwoman Cordle. Second by Alderwoman Madison. All in favor. Motion carried.

Rebar has been donated for the war memorial footer. It is possible that 1 flag pole may be donated. The cost for cement for the war memorial is \$2,000.00.

The Auditor came on site Monday and will be there approximately 2 to 3 weeks.

She has missed several outside meetings but felt it more important to be at City Hall.

Sullivan County Commission meeting is on November 16 at 9:00 A.M. Mayor Wells asked if an Alderman was interested in attending. Vice Mayor Harrington stated he would go. Motion to appoint Mr Harrington to attend the Sullivan County Commission Meetings was made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Alderman Harrison. All in favor. Motion carried.

Financial Report – Sharon Greene – City Financial Officer reported the following:

General Fund - \$311,039.55, Sanitation - \$10,436.99, Special Police Fund - \$2,535.00, Debt Service - \$204,091.46, Sinking Fund-\$3094.75, FHA Reserve - \$690.73, Water / Sewer-

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\$281,365.02. Alderman Bowling asked if the balance reflected the \$197,000.00. Ms Greene stated that these figures reflected the actual money in the bank. Motion to approve the financial report was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor.

City Attorney Paul Frye reported the following:

He has collected about \$1,600.00 in delinquent taxes this month.

USDA has requested closing instructions on our first part of our water and sewer bond issue.

The lawsuit on Carol Keith vs. The Town of Bluff City has been settled. We have received a letter from Judy Dulaney's Attorney seeking payment of her attorney's fees in the amount of \$1,516.50. Motion not to pay Ms Dulaney's attorney's fees was made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Alderwoman Cordle. All in favor. Motion carried.

Alderman Comments:

Alderman Harrison thanked everyone for coming.

Alderwoman Madison- glad to see everyone and if they need anything feel free to call her.

Alderwoman Cordle- Thanked everyone for coming and said feel free to contact her anytime.

Vice Mayor Harrington- Appreciates everyone coming out.

Alderman Bowling – Appreciates everyone coming and invited them back.

Chief of Police- Mayor spoke in the absence of Chief Depew

Read the monthly report

Report from Public Works Director Hugh Thomason;

Mr Thomason reported that they had wrapped up the mowing

Concentrating on storm drains, and purchased cold patch to do some repairs to the streets.

Found 4 water leaks and fixed them

Waiting on Engineers to finish the design for the Rural Development grant.

No Sullivan County Commissioner present due to budget.

✓ Old Business;

Alderman Harrison asked what they decided about a generator for the station at Chinquapin. Public Works director Thomason stated that is usually a costly expense and what they tried to do is get

them wired with a pig tale so they can be accessible to a generator. Mr Thomason stated that the main reason they have not done it so far is that there is no 3 phase power in that area.

Alderwoman Cordle asked about the truck. Mr Thomason stated it would be a couple of weeks.

New Business:

Alderman Bowling stated that he found out that on the left side of the road in Piney Flats the actual business and buildings are not inside the city, only part of the parking lot. Mr Bowling asked if Mr Frye would look into incorporating them into the city. Mr Frye stated that one thing, we would have to provide them sewer.

Citizen Comments – Second Section

Julie Venable Carty of 209 Smith Street Extension, phone 423-538-7931 asked if the chipper is still working as she has not seen it all summer. Public Works Director Hugh Thomason stated that since they only had 1 dump truck, they pick it up and take it to the garage and chip it there. Mrs. Carty asked if they have money for new trimmer equipment for next year. Mr Thomason stated that 2 new ones were put in budget.

David Smith 200 Highland Circle asked what Richard what he was talking about annexing in (Piney Flats) Kentucky Fried Chicken and Burger King. Alderman Bowling stated no, on the left hand side. Mr Smith stated that Mr Frye said we could not annex it because we did not have sewer there. Mr Frye stated we would have to provide sewer as that would be part of the plan of services. Mr Smith stated we should not be there anyway, we have only robbed them for money and we do not put money in there and we do not even mow the medians. Mr Smith stated that he felt that the city should give it up.

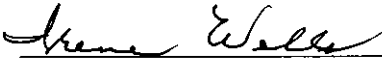
Carol Keith 305 Lakeview Circle wanted to remind everybody about November 21st the Bluff City Police Department is sponsoring a Thanksgiving Dinner and everybody's welcome. Mrs Keith asked if there was something we could do to help get donations to help people with their water bills and medication. Mayor Wells asked City Attorney Paul Frye how we would have to handle it. Mr Frye stated that they would have to decide what they want to do and what they are voting on first. Vice Mayor Harrington gave an example in reference to the electric company putting on their bill to set aside money to help neighbors. Alderman Bowling stated that the Bluff City Community Aid does a lot of that too. City Attorney Paul Frye made a suggestion that we make a list of community resources for us to give out at City Hall. Mr Bowling stated that he should have a report on the number of persons they have helped and the money spent as he is on that board. Mr Bowling stated that they advertise for help for people with a 37618 zip code. Member of the audience asked if the list of resources could be put on the website as well. Mayor Wells asked how far out are we reaching if it is put on the website. Mr Frye stated that the agencies are already set up. Mr Bowling stated that is why they put the zip code in place because they were having people from Virginia come for help.

Public Works Director Hugh Thomason reported that he was getting a proposal together for reducing the reconnect fee and should have it ready by the next meeting. Alderwoman Cordle asked about the connection fees when people first move here. Ms Cordle stated that she had been


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told that when someone wanted to put a business here and they were going to be charged \$600.00 connection fees and that is turning away business that will bring money into our city. Mayor Wells stated that she would see that they get a copy of the fees.

With no other business, motion to adjourn was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderwoman Madison. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:50.


Irene Wells, City Manager

Attest this 3rd day of November, 2015


Sharon Greene, City Recorder