

Minutes
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Regular Meeting
April 2, 2019

Mayor Wells called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members present were Eric Ward, Ray Harrington and Richard Bowling

Members absent were: Sandra Madison and David Smith

Prayer was given by Vice Mayor Harrington, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Wells opened the floor for the following:

Discussion / Action – Dave Wilson – City Engineer - Not present

Citizen Comments – First Session

Cory Bowling of 405 River Chase Cove, asked why it is \$150.00 to have your water turned on, and stated that it should be lowered as Johnson City's is only \$25.00. Mayor Wells stated that we could discuss that during the next budget. Alderman Ward stated that's the way it was put in the budget and they will have to look at it when we look at the water sewer budget. Vice Mayor Harrington stated we will get some figures from other cities.

Discussion / Action - Minutes for February 5, 2019 Regular Meeting and February 12, 2019 Special Called Meeting

Motion to approve minutes for the Regular Meeting on February 5, 2019 was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. Vote was as follows: Alderman Ward – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes and Alderman Bowling – Yes. Motion carried.

Motion to approve minutes for the Special Called Meeting on February 12, 2019 was made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. Vote was as follows: Alderman Ward – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes and Alderman Bowling – Yes. Motion carried.

Report from Mayor/ City Manager – Irene Wells

Mayor Wells stated that she wanted to address the statements being made that to be able to move into the City of Bluff City it will cost you \$500.00. Mayor Wells stated that is not true and if anyone wants to come to City Hall and get some information we will be happy to give it to you. If we have any citizens that have any complaints or want to know anything to do with the water / sewer, garbage or taxes come to City Hall and we will give you the correct information in writing. You won't have to wonder if something is correct. The city gives adjustments once a year on your water if you have leaks, don't count on what someone says when you can have a copy of anything due to the open records. In case you haven't noticed, your water bill includes water, sewer and garbage on the same card. I see that Mrs Keith is not here, I was wondering if she had gotten her water leak fixed as it is on her side. I would like everyone to know that even though we charge \$7.50 for picking up brush, there has been no one that has received an extra charge for picking up brush. Anyone is welcome to come to City Hall to ask questions or fill out

paper work to request copies of documents or information. Don't be fooled about being able to reduce your water rates. However at the end of this fiscal year on June 30, 2019 our contract with the State will end. Don't look at half of the water/sewer/trash card. Look at the whole card. There will be no increase for the next fiscal year. We are not expecting to raise any rates at this time.

Mayor Wells reported that we received \$10,000.00 from Sullivan County to use on the boardwalk. We are still putting new planks in and doing electric work at the boardwalk. We hope to have it stained soon.

Report from City Attorney Paul Frye – No Report

Discussion / Action – Financial Report – Sharon Greene – City Recorder / Finance Officer

Mrs Greene reported the following fund balances: General Fund - \$1,412,843.00, Sanitation Fund- \$23,950.00, Special Police Fund - \$13,183.00, Debt Service Fund - \$132,234.00, Sinking Fund - \$3,095.00, Water / Sewer Fund - \$603,227.00. Motion to approve the financial report was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. Vote was as follows: Alderman Ward – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes and Alderman Bowling – Yes. Motion carried.

Comments from Board Members

Alderman Ward thanked everyone for coming. Mr Ward stated that he thought when looking at the financial report, that it was starting to look at the new budget tonight. Mr Ward stated Mrs Greene and the Mayor are working on that now. Mayor Wells stated yes.

Vice Mayor Harrington thanked everyone for coming out and he looks forward to the election. With eight candidates they will have to work hard because it will take less votes to get in and every vote will count.

Alderman Bowling thanked everyone for coming and stated that he wished they had a house full.

Report from Chief of Police Greg Depew

Chief Depew reported that they did get the new cruisers in and they are very thankful for them.

Chief Depew reported that they have had a good month. We have Justin Byrd back with us helping out.

Chief Depew presented the monthly report for March 2019. –SEE ATTACHED

Report from Public Works Supervisor – Allen Moultrie

Mayor Wells reported that Allen could not be with us tonight, but everything was going good. We have quite a bit of water pressure and we are getting quite a few lines to break. The men are taking care of everything and doing a good job.

Report from Sullivan County Commissioners - Dwight King, Hershhal Glover – Not Present

Old Business

Mayor Wells reported that we have 18 lights out at the Park. We will be replacing some of the fixtures.

Alderman Ward stated that when he was reading over the minutes, in reference the audit report, he (the Auditor) made some suggestions in it. Mr Ward asked if we have looked at any more of that such as the cash drawers, the investment policy or the Flexgen Software. Mayor Wells stated that they have looked at purchasing cash drawers for each of the ladies, and then some other things they have talked about.

New Business

Vice Mayor Harrington stated and we are working on the budget now. Mayor Wells stated yes. Mr Harrington asked if, before the next meeting, they could get some paper work from Johnson City's Water/Sewer Department so they can maybe set ours accordingly. Alderman Ward stated for the connect fees. Vice Mayor Harrington stated for the connect fees and disconnect fees and all that stuff.

Mayor Wells stated I was hoping that Dave Wilson would be here tonight so he could discuss with you the things that we are facing, because when the project II, I don't know when the payments will start, but you need to have that information when you are discussing those things. Vice Mayor Harrington asked how far they are on the budget. Mayor Wells stated we have several things and Mrs Greene stated most departments have sent their requests in. Chief Depew reported that the tasers they carry are about 10 years old and they can't get replacement parts for them and they are trying to get some quotes on them. Alderman Bowling asked for a ballpark figure on what one of them cost. Chief Depew stated that one is about \$1,500.00 to \$1,800.00. Officer Watson stated that they can no longer train on this unit because it is not in the training curriculum.

Mayor Wells stated some people don't understand that we can't use voluntary funds to pay peoples water bills. I would not like to see the Fire Department or Rescue Squad go down. We give them a donation along with other organizations. Our rates (for insurance) go down based on the Fire Departments rating. I just want people to understand that we can't take money from the volunteer groups and give it to the water department to pay the water bill.

Vice Mayor Harrington stated I would like to set a workshop as soon as they can with the budget so they can get working on it. Audience member asked if the workshop would be posted on Bluff City's website and could anyone attend. Vice Mayor Harrington stated yes.

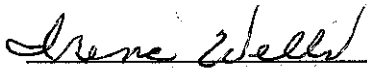
Citizen Comments – Second Session

Julie Venable Carty of 209 Smith Street Ext. stated that when the man mentioned the \$150.00 deposit for the water, how long has it been in effect, is it years. Mayor Wells stated quite a while. Mrs Carty stated she has been hearing that it just happened. Alderman Bowling stated no.

Mrs Carty stated I know it's not but she wanted them to say it. Mrs Carty stated that when people leave and do not pay their water bill they do deduct it from that.

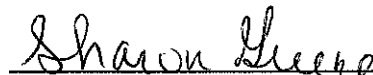
David Harmon of 200 Holston Drive stated are you saying that the \$150.00 is just a deposit and they get it back when they move. Alderman Bowling and Mayor Wells stated no. Alderman Ward stated I think there is two. I think there is a \$150.00 deposit and \$150.00 connect. Is that right? Vice Mayor Harrington stated yes, Mayor Wells stated yes. Mayor Wells stated that the water connect service is non- refundable. Alderman Ward stated that there is a \$150.00 deposit. Mayor Wells stated that it is a total of \$350.00 for renters and \$150.00 for home owners.

With no other business a motion to adjourn was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. Vote was as follows: Alderman Ward – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes and Alderman Bowling – Yes. Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.



Irene Wells, Mayor / City Manager

Attest this 2nd day of April, 2019



Sharon Greene, City Recorder/ CMFO