

Minutes
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Regular Meeting
June 2, 2020

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

City Attorney Paul Frye read the following: Pursuant to Governor Bill Lee's orders and guidance from the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury, Public Access to this meeting will be limited to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens in light of the Coronavirus. A recording of the meeting will be on Bluff City's website at www.bluffcitytn.org. Live Stream Meeting June 2, 2020.

Members present were Carol Keith, Jeff Broyles, Ray Harrington, Eric Ward and Richard Bowling.

Prayer was given by Jeff Broyles, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Mayor Harrington opened the floor for the following:

Discussion / Action- Minutes for Regular Meeting, January 7, 2020

Motion to approve was made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Alderman Ward. Vote was as follows: Alderwoman Keith – Yes, Alderman Broyles – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Ward – Yes, and Alderman Bowling – Yes. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action – Minutes for Special Called Meeting, February 11, 2020

Motion to approve was made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Alderman Ward. Vote was as follows: Alderwoman Keith – Yes, Alderman Broyles – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Ward – Yes, and Alderman Bowling – Yes. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action – Minutes for Special Called Meeting, March 2, 2020

Motion to approve was made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Alderman Ward. Alderwoman Keith asked if that was concerning the minutes on Citizens Comments. Vice Mayor Harrington stated yes. Vote was as follows: Alderwoman Keith – No, Alderman Broyles – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Ward – Yes, and Alderman Bowling – Yes. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action – Minutes for Special Called Meeting, March 17, 2020

Motion to approve was made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Alderman Ward. Vote was as follows: Alderwoman Keith – Abstained, Alderman Broyles – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Ward – Yes, and Alderman Bowling – Yes. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action – Resolution 2020-001

City Attorney Paul Frye read the resolution which adopts Sullivan County Tn. Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mr Frye explained that we have to do this because we are under Sullivan County's Emergency Management Plan. Motion to approve was made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Alderman Broyles. Vote was as follows: Alderwoman Keith – Yes, Alderman Broyles – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Ward – Yes, and Alderman Bowling – Yes. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action Cox Disposal Contract (2 Years)

Vice Mayor Harrington reported that Cox Disposal has submitted a rate of \$13.00 per household for the first year and increase to \$13.50 the next year. A&I was another option, but they were unable to get a quote on trash cans so they did not give a quote. Alderman Ward asked if we were stuck in the contract for 2 years or is there a way out of it if it goes up so much. City Attorney Paul Frye stated you would have to vote on any increase. Motion to approve Cox Disposal was made by Alderman Ward. Second by Alderman Broyles. Vote was as follows: Alderwoman Keith – Yes, Alderman Broyles – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Ward – Yes, and Alderman Bowling – Yes. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action – Recreation Agreement

City Attorney Paul Frye stated that this is an agreement that we have with the Little League, which is required by our insurance company, and we had to update it with new provisions in it. It is a 1 year contract. Motion to approve was made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Alderman Broyles. Vote was as follows: Alderwoman Keith – Yes, Alderman Broyles – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Ward – Yes, and Alderman Bowling – Yes. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action – TCRS Employers Contribution Rate Certification

Vice Mayor Harrington stated that last year we did 3%. CMFO Sharon Greene stated that our rate is 0% according to TCRS when they do the actuaries, because our liability is actually an asset because we are actually over funded. They put a 0 because it is not required, but they give you an option to do higher than 0. It is up to you. Alderman Ward asked Ms Greene what she recommended since she sees the finances every day. Ms Greene stated at least 2% if they did not want to go with the 3%. Alderman Broyles stated I am interested in taking care of our employees. I imagine the difference between 2% and 3% is minuscule, so it is my recommendation to the Board that we remain at 3%. Alderman Ward stated this does not affect how much they get for retirement. It is just how much we are investing to build the retirement fund. Alderwoman Keith stated that was my concern to make sure it would not affect our employees. The way I understand it, is it will not affect them at all. Vice Mayor Harrington stated no it is just making sure we have the money in there to pay the retirement. Motion to keep the rate at 3% was made by Alderman Broyles. Second by Alderman Bowling. Vote was as follows: Alderwoman Keith – Yes, Alderman Broyles – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Ward – Yes, and Alderman Bowling – Yes. Motion carried.

Report from Mayor – Unable to attend.

Report from City Attorney

City Attorney Paul Frye stated that all he had was ongoing business that was being transacted. I am doing a lot of COVID law.

Discussion / Action – Financial Report- City Recorder / CMFO

CMFO Sharon Greene presented the following Fund Balances as of April 30, 2020:

General Fund - \$1,632,540.00, Sanitation Fund - \$17,770.00, Special Police Fund - \$11,240.00, Debt Service Fund - \$156,880.00, Sinking Fund- \$3,090.00, Water Sewer Fund - \$666,420.00. Motion to approve was made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Alderman Ward. Vote was as follows: Alderwoman Keith – Yes, Alderman Broyles – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Ward – Yes, and Alderman Bowling – Yes. Motion carried.

Comments from Board Members

Alderwoman Keith stated I would like to ask my fellow board members to stand and do what is right and don't compromise, but listen to the people. I have received calls from people that say people have hung up on them or blocked them. When people call, it is our job to talk to people when they call. Mrs Keith asked for a moment of silence for prayer for the Floyd family and everybody involved along with our community to come together.

Alderman Broyles thanked Alderwoman Keith for bringing that point to us. There are some good things going on in Bluff City. I have been working with Chris Laisure, the man that purchased our Middle School. There will be several phases of the project one of which is the Veterans Memorial phase.

Vice Mayor Harrington thanked everyone. Mr Harrington stated one day at a time, we are coming together and getting things done. We are finally having meetings again. We have to keep moving forward.

Alderman Ward thanked everyone for watching and hopefully we will get to see everybody next month. Stay safe.

Alderman Bowling thanked everyone and stated hopefully we are sticking together on things.

Report from Chief of Police

Chief Depew presented the monthly report for May, 2020 (SEE ATTACHED)

Chief Depew stated he had spoken to the Mayor about this and she is in agreement. He asked the Board to consider giving him the authority to allow the officers, when they are on duty and working their shifts, to take their car home. It will save downtime and serve the department better. Chief Depew stated that it would be supervised by him. Vice Mayor Harrington stated they have had an incidence where they had to go by a wreck to come here to get their stuff and a car and go back out to the wreck. Motion to allow this was made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Alderman Broyles. Vote was as follows: Alderwoman Keith – Yes, Alderman Broyles – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Ward – Yes, and Alderman Bowling – Yes. Motion carried. Chief Depew thanked the board for their decision.

Chief Depew stated update on vehicle - COVID -19 has slowed a lot of things down. We had hoped it would be here this week but they are giving a good promise for Tuesday.

Report from Public Works Supervisor

Supervisor Allen Moultrie presented the report for Water Plant and Distribution System (SEE ATTACHED) Mr Moultrie stated that the plant is operating normally.

We are continuing to repair leaks coming from old galvanized lines.

The staff has been working hard to keep up with mowing and brush pick-up. We have been staining the pavilion.

We are working on I & I sewer issues with the help of Elizabethton. Hopefully we will be able to resolve these issues. I am asking for a little more patience as we are working on it. Mr Moultrie stated this has also been one of the 2 wettest years on record. Alderman Ward asked if there were any overflows last month. Mr Moultrie stated no. Mr Ward asked if we had received any flow meters. Mr Moultrie stated they are coming, but we don't have an exact date at this time. Mr Ward asked if Mattern & Craig had been in touch with him on doing the bypass hook up at the igloo pump station. Mr Moultrie stated they had.

Alderman Ward asked if they needed to be talking about a holding station. Mr Moultrie stated if you invest in a holding tank and you are still fixing issues and you get to a point where it is not needed then you have the structure there not being used. When you use it, it has to be drained or it can become septic. Alderwoman Keith stated Allen you are doing a great job. You can only work with what you have. How come we can't get a plan? We need to do something. Vice Mayor Harrington stated we could look into possible grants. City Attorney Paul Frye stated I think that is already being done. Vice Mayor Harrington stated I talked to John Lundburg a few weeks ago and right now there is no money due to all this COVID going on. Alderwoman Keith stated I was hoping I would find in our packet more information about the meeting with Senator Lundburg. Alderman Broyles stated, the minutes of that meeting were shared with me. Alderman Bowling asked, why weren't they shared with everybody. Mr Moultrie stated that meeting was upon invitation. Alderwoman Keith stated shouldn't we (the aldermen) know. Alderman Bowling stated we were supposed to have gotten a copy of those minutes on those meetings. Vice Mayor Harrington asked City Recorder Sharon Greene to put in a request for those minutes for us.

Old Business -- None

New Business

Alderwoman Keith stated that she was told that the man that purchased the Middle School was going to put the War Memorial there and it was not going to cost the city anything. Alderwoman Keith asked if the extra \$10,000.00, when they do their budget, is there any way that we could do an increase on the employees Christmas Bonus. Vice Mayor Harrington stated that since they voted on it that money from the sale of the old City Hall was designated to go to the War

Memorial. City Attorney Paul Frye stated I would have to look at that. Alderwoman Keith stated it was told that this man was going to pay for everything so I didn't know. Alderman Broyles stated that in regard to the matching grant, Mr Chris (owner of the old Middle School) has a figure he is willing to devote for the next 3 years. What I intend to bring before you is that we add to his generous donation so we can get the project started.

Alderman Bowling asked about our code enforcer Kim Birchfield. He stated that he had been off 2 or 3 months and nobody knew it. Alderwoman Keith stated I did not know he was off. Vice Mayor Harrington asked Chief Depew to speak on this. Chief Depew stated that with Mr Birchfield's retirement he could only work a certain amount of time, so he had to take 2 months off. During COVID-19 we are not going to be going to people's houses over high grass and stuff.

CMFO Sharon Greene stated we are going to have a budget workshop. I will give you a rough draft and you all will have to look at it and make your decisions. I am getting close to a rough draft.

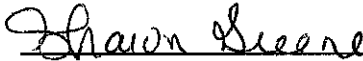
Alderwoman Keith stated nobody is attacking anybody, we just want to do what is right. If you blame anybody, blame the Aldermen because it is our fault for not speaking up.

With no other business a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Ward. Second by Alderman Bowling. Vote was as follows: Alderwoman Keith – Yes, Alderman Broyles – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Ward – Yes, and Alderman Bowling – Yes. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.



Irene Wells, Mayor / City Manager

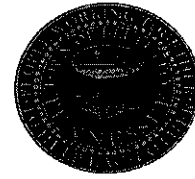
Attest this 2nd day of June, 2020



Sharon Greene, Recorder / CMFO



Bluff City Police Department



MONTHLY REPORT
2020 MAY

Year Month

NUMBER OF:	CITY	PINEY	COUNTY	TOTAL
CALLS FOR ASSISTANT(S)	65	78		143
ISSUED CITATION(S)	14	68		82
WARNING CITATION(S)				
PATROLED MILE(S)	2532	3425		5957
ARREST(S)	5	12		17
OFFENSE REPORT(S)	5	10		15
ALARM(S)	3			3
ACCIDENT(S)	1	3		4
ANIMAL CALL(S)	1			1
MSD REPORT(S)	8	5		13
FUNERAL ESCORT(S)	2			2
DOMESTIC ASSAULT(S)	1	2	1	4
VEHICLE SEIZURE(S)				
MISSING PERSON(S)				
D.U.I.(S)		1		1
DRUG VIOLATION(S)		3	1	4
USE OF FORCE REPORT(S)				

approved by: Chief Alex Deppa Date: 6-2-2020

CITY OF BLUFF CITY
Water Plant & Distribution System
Board of Mayor and Alderman Monthly
Report for May 2020

Water Plant:

The Water plant is operating normally pumping an average of 230 thousand gallons per day. Our water tank level was at an average of 42.8 feet with 60 feet being full. In the month of April the Water tank level was completely full once this month.

Distribution System:

We are continuing to repair leaks in our distribution system as they show. Most of our findings remain to be those coming from old galvanized service lines. As we find these lines we are trying to replace as much as we can in house. The next area of interest that needs to be replaced is on Mill Street. In this year alone we have visited this line 3 times, with leaks being within 5 ft. of each other.

If you have any questions please call City Hall at 538-7144. Thank you.

Allen Moultrie
Public Work Supervisor

CITY OF BLUFF CITY

Board of Mayor and Alderman Monthly Report for May 2020

Streets Department: In the streets department the staff has been working hard to keep up with the mowing and brush pickup throughout town. We have been at the pavilion staining the board walk as that project should be completed this week. If you are a customer who takes advantage of our brush pick-up program, you need to know the following.

17-113. Collection of brush from residential customers.

- Each residential customer shall get one free brush pick up per month without charge.
- No grass clippings will be picked up.
- The size of brush shall be no larger than two inches (2”) in diameter.
- All brush shall be deposited curb side by the residential customer for pick up by the town and shall not be placed in any part of the street.
- After the residential customer has been credited with the one free brush pick-up per month, each additional load shall be picked-up at a rate of seven dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50) per load

(Ord. #97-003, May 1997, as amended by Ord. #97-008, Aug.1997)

Sewer Department: In the month of May we have been working diligently throughout town trying to figure out the source of our, I & I issue. With the help of the City Elizabethton we were able to CCTV multiple sewer lines throughout the system, along with flushing and vacuum out debris from line. Along with the smoke test results, which were provided by Mattern and Craig, we can now conclude that we have multiple issues throughout town mostly being in the oldest segments. Most issues stem from old abandon sewer taps, private sewer line defects, and guttering still being connected, along with a couple line defects on the cities right of way.

If you have any questions please call City Hall at 538-7144. Thank you.

Allen Moultrie
Public Works Supervisor