

Minutes
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Regular Meeting
June 4, 2024

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

Members present were Lori Staton, Carol Keith, Ben Adams, and Lisa Arnold.

Prayer was given by Carol Keith, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Greg Depew

Mayor Broyles opened the floor for the following:

Recognitions, Proclamations, and Awards

Mayor Broyles thanked everyone that was watching us virtually and those who are in the audience.

Briefing by Mattern & Craig Engineering

Mayor Broyles stated that they could not be here, as they are at a conference. Mayor Broyles stated I did talk to them today and on the TDEC Project and the Carter Street Project, we did take bids for the work on Carter Street and the firm awarded the bid will be Thomas Construction. The construction should start in less than 60 days. We do have a rough preliminary engineering report on the Water Plant Project.

Discussion / Action: Meeting Minutes for January 2, April 2, and May 13, 2024

Vice Mayor Keith stated that she was told the comments from David Harmon are not full, on the January 2nd meeting. Ms Keith stated I was not here, but there was a lot missing. Failed due to lack of a motion to approve January 2, 2024 minutes.

Motion to approve April 2, 2024 Minutes was made by Alderman Adams. Second by Vice Mayor Keith. Vote went as follows: Alderwoman Staton – Yes, Vice Mayor Keith – Yes, Alderman Adams – Yes, Alderwoman Arnold – Yes. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Minutes for May 13, 2024 Special Called Meeting was made by Alderwoman Staton. Second by Alderwoman Arnold. Vote went as follows: Alderwoman Staton – Yes, Vice Mayor Keith – Yes, Alderman Adams – Yes, Alderwoman Arnold – Yes. Motion carried.

First Session of Public Comments – None

Discussion Action: Appointment of Alderperson to the Vacant Board Seat

Mayor Broyles stated that Jerry Malone was present and wanted to be considered to fill the vacant

seat to fill our vacant seat until November, 2024. Mayor Broyles recognized all the Boards Mr Malone had served on. It would be my recommendation to the Board to seriously consider allowing him set in that seat. Mr Malone stated I was born in Bluff City. I don't want to change things in Bluff City, I just want to make it better. Mr Malone gave a description of his time in the Fire Department and the changes that were accomplished. Mr Malone continued to describe the different organizations he has been associated with. Vice Mayor Keith stated Mr Malone you are not afraid to stand alone and if you have to vote are you going to vote for what you believe in, not just go along to get along. Mr Malone stated no. Alderman Adams stated I have known Mr Malone for a number of years and I have a ton of respect for him. I think it would be an honor for you to set on the Board. Alderwoman Staton stated with all the love you have for this city and all the things you have done; it would be an honor for me to serve with you on this Board as well. Motion to appoint Jerry Malone to the open board seat that expires November 8, 2024 was made by Alderwoman Arnold. Second by Vice Mayor Keith. Vote went as follows: Alderwoman Staton – Yes, Vice Mayor Keith – Yes, Alderman Adams – Yes, Alderwoman Arnold – Yes. Motion carried. Mayor Broyles swore Mr Malone into office.

Discussion / Action: Town Contribution Rate to the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement

Mayor Broyles presented a copy of the state of our retirement fund. Mr Broyles stated we are not required to contribute anything because of the health of the account. My recommendation to the Board is to consider to continue the 3%. It is do-able for us to be able to help our employees. What we really need to think about is as we grow and increase the amount of employees. Vice Mayor Keith stated why can't we have a workshop to discuss this. We need to have these things to discuss and not just brought up at a meeting. We have to have transparency. Mayor Broyles stated I believe we have already discussed this. Vice Mayor Keith stated no not that. Mayor Broyles stated yes, we did, in a workshop. Vice Mayor Keith stated no you didn't say you were going to bring this up for discussion. Mayor Broyles stated it was in your packet. Vice Mayor Keith stated you can send anything in a packet. Ms Keith stated I think we need to have a set-down because there are some things I don't understand. We were doing good. Mr Broyles stated we are still doing good. Ms Keith stated I don't call this good. Mr Broyles stated you don't think that contributing to our employee's retirement is good. Ms Keith stated I think every employee here would tell you that I try to help. I was at the grocery store last week and had people crying to me about their water bills. We need to set down and discuss, yes, we need to help the employees, but don't forget the people. That is why I'm here. Ms Keith stated we need more detail on this.

Alderwoman Arnold stated my understanding we just went over the budget and this was already worked into the budget because we were already contributing 3%. Mayor Broyles stated yes.

Alderman Adams asked what the history was on us making contributions. Mayor Broyles referred the question to CMFO Greene who stated at least 5 years ago we were contributing 5%. Alderman Malone stated you have to be here 10 years to be vested in the retirement. Mr Broyles stated right. Mr Malone asked how many employees have been here over 10 years.

Mr Broyles stated probably a third to a half of them have. Mr Malone stated 3% is low compared to most places it's 4% to 10%. I think the 3% is just an insurance or safety net for us as a board.

Alderman Adams stated Is this something we can temporarily do to cushion the water rates. Mayor Broyles stated no if we took this money off the table, it would not affect that. Mr Adams stated that with just 22 employees and a 3% match, I am not imagining that would be an exorbitant amount of money. Mr Broyles stated that everyone is not paid from water and sewer. We have a very healthy General Fund and that has nothing to do with water and sewer.

Alderwoman Staton stated it was originally 5% and we are down to 3% because the fund is healthy. We are not paying as much as initially because the fund has grown.

Vice Mayor Keith stated take into account that health insurance is going up. I am all for helping, but I look at the full picture. Alderwoman Staton said I think we also need to understand that our employees are our people too.

Mayor Broyles stated I stand with my recommendation that we stay with 3%. Motion to approve 3% in the next Budget was made by Alderwoman Staton. Second by Alderman Adams. Vote went as follows: Alderman Malone – Yes, Alderwoman Staton – Yes, Vice Mayor Keith – No, Alderman Adams – Yes, Alderwoman Arnold – Yes. Motion carried.

Alderman Adams stated I realize after asking my question, this is a General Fund issue not a Water and Sewer Fund issue. CMFO Greene stated it is both, but we only have 3 employees in Water and Sewer and the rest are in General Fund. Alderman Adams stated if this was a way to cut cost and not pass this water increase on to our citizens, I would like to do that. This isn't a way to do that. Mayor Broyles stated if it were, I would tell you. I would not make a bad recommendation to the Board. Mr Broyles stated we have to think ahead.

With a motion and a second on the floor, Vote went as follows: Alderman Malone – Yes, Alderwoman Staton – Yes, Vice Mayor Keith – No, Alderman Adams – Yes, Alderwoman Arnold – Yes. Motion carried.

Report from Town Manager Jeff Broyles

Mayor Broyles stated I want to talk about the wonderful things and accomplishments that this Board has done in this budget year. On Chief Depew's side we implemented Watson RMS. We did a complete overhaul of the police department in the personnel side for the better. We had a successful relationship with the DTF. Chief Depew has a very successful relationship at the State Level with other Police Chiefs. We had the Regional DUI Officer of the Year elected from Bluff City. The Blue Team had over 100 felony arrests and pounds of drugs and thousands of dollars taken off the streets. In Public Works we finished a project that had laggard since 2015. We put our foot down and 10 months later we were done. We have fixed leaks, and improved water and sewer efficiency and improved some streets. We brought on some team members in the last year.

Mr Moultrie has been successful from a managerial level at very accomplishing and on time with a very high-level task at the State level with TDEC.

Mayor Broyles stated in Finance and Administration, Sharons white team did a complete hardware and software upgrade and did not miss a customer doing it. Sharon received another audit with no findings. 2023-2024 budget is coming within appropriation.

Mayor Broyles stated we are going to do wonderful things with our park next year. We are working. It has been a great privilege to sit in these chairs for the past 5 years.

Second Session / Public Comments

Carolyn Payne of 4818 Bluff City Hwy. thanked Vice Mayor Keith for bringing up the item they just voted on because that should have been in s budget meeting. Transparency is what we need down here. You are going to give the employees a 3% raise, their insurance is going up. You are going to go up on Water / Sewer.

Report from Town: Attorney Paul Frye

Mr Frye reported that they will soon start collecting last years delinquent taxes.

Discussion / Action: Financial Report: Sharon Greene, CMFO

Ms Greene reported the following Fund Balances as of April 30, 2024: General - \$2,548,200.00, Sanitation Fund - \$27,663.00, Special Police Fund - \$4,692.00, Debt Service Fund: \$135,474.00, Sinking Fund - \$3094.00, Water / Sewer Fund - \$730,854.00. Motion to approve was made by Alderman Adams. Second by Alderwoman Arnold. Vote went as follows: Alderman Malone – Yes, Alderwoman Staton – Yes, Vice Mayor Keith – Yes, Alderman Adams – Yes, Alderwoman Arnold – Yes. Motion carried.

Report from Chief of Police: Greg Depew

Chief Depew stated this has probably been one of the best years I've been a party of. We have the best staff that I have worked with.

Chief Depew presented the Monthly Report for May, 2024 (SEE ATTACHED)

Chief Depew thanked everyone for their thoughts.

Report from Public Works Supervisor: Allen Moultrie

Mr Moultrie presented the report for May, 2024. (SEE ATTACHED)

Mr Moultrie reported that the water plant is working properly. Our water tank level is at an average of 39.44 feet. We are awaiting results on our sanitary survey.

We made a total of 4 water line repairs and one water tap during the month. We will be collecting a lead service line inventory throughout the town. We will be going on the city's side as well as the customer's side. Mr Moultrie continued to discuss more projects including lines that may have lead in them.

Mr Moultrie reported that the sewer department is working well with no overflows this month. All pump stations are working.

Vice Mayor Keith thanked Mr Moultrie. Alderman Adams stated everyone is doing a wonderful job. Mayor Broyles stated Allen had evaluations for TDEC and TOSHA this month, and the preliminary results were very favorable for us. Mayor Broyles stated we appreciate you, Allen. Vice Mayor Keith stated so we are doing better with our water. Mr Moultrie stated, yes, we are. Vice Mayor Keith said to think about that when you vote again.

Finance and Administration – Sharon Greene – CMFO

Ms Greene stated we are trying to get the end of the year stuff done for the auditors.

Vice Mayor Keith thanked Sharon for helping her with a citizen about some property he was looking into.

Board of Mayor and Aldermen Comments:

Alderman Jerry Malone thanked the board for their vote of confidence. I want to make Bluff City better. I am not looking for anything for myself.

Alderwoman Staton stated that things seem to be going very well. I am happy to be here and serve any way I can.

Vice Mayor Keith thanked everyone for being here. Ms Keith asked for prayers for her family, the Keith family, as her brother-in-law just passed away. Mayor Broyles stated we pray for you and Kenney. He is a wonderful man and I admire him.

Alderman Adams welcomed Alderman Malone aboard. Mr Adams stated every department: Mr Frye's done an excellent job collecting taxes. Sharon: how do you do 10 years in a row with a perfect audit. Allen: fantastic job as our water system is improving every day. Our Police Force is going so well. I am glad to be a part of the positivity. Mr Adams thanked Mayor Broyles for everything he does for the town.

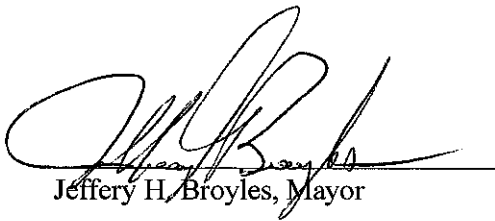
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Aldерwoman Arnold welcomed Jerry Malone aboard. I want to thank all our teams because our town wouldn't be what it is without our teams. I am very happy to be here.

Old Business – None

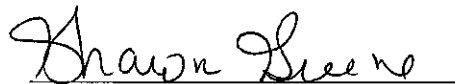
New Business – None

With no other business Mayor Broyles adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.



Jeffery H. Broyles, Mayor

Attest this 4th day of June 2024



Sharon Greene, Recorder / CMFO



Bluff City Police Department

MONTHLY REPORT



2024

MAY

Year

Month

NUMBER OF:				TOTAL
CALLS FOR ASSISTANT(S)				203
ISSUED CITATION(S)				217
WARNING CITATION(S)				81
PATROLED MILE(S)				7,421
ARREST(S)				15
OFFENSE REPORT(S)				25
ALARM(S)				11
ACCIDENTS				14
ANIMAL CALL(S)				2
MSD REPORT(S)				25
FUNERAL ESCORT(S)				3
DOMESTIC ASSAULT(S)				3
VEHICLE SEIZURE(S)				0
MISSING PERSON(S)				0
D.U.I.(S)				2
DRUG VIOLATION(S)				5
USE OF FORCE REPORT(S)				3

Approved by: Chief Depew

CITY OF BLUFF CITY

Water Plant & Distribution System

Board of Mayor and Alderman Monthly

Report for May 2024

Water Plant:

The Water plant is operating normally, pumping an average of 256 thousand gallons per day. Our water tank level was at an average of 48.12 ft., for the month, with our minimum tank level being 39.44 ft. The max our tank level for the month was 54.80 ft. The water plant operated flawlessly with no shutdowns occurring during the month other than for maintenance. We had the pleasure of hosting TDEC this month for our Sanitary Survey.

Distribution System:

In the distribution system, we are continuing to track leaks and repair leaks in the system. We made 4 waterline repairs, along with 1 water tap installed during the month. We will be conducting our Lead Service Line Inventory all throughout town. The Data that will be collected would be type of service line on City and on Customer the side. With this data we are working to build an inventory so we can educate customer on the importance and the goal of removing all lead lines out of the system along with galvanized lines, which are more numerous in older homes predating 1986.

Sewer Department:

Sewer Department is operating well with there being no overflows during the month. All pump stations in town are operating and performing great. The public's works department is continuing to flush sewer lines throughout the system.

Streets Department:

City workers are working hard maintaining the brush pickup throughout town. Our designated day for brush pick up is on Wednesday and Thursday, with work orders being top priority.

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

Allen Moultrie
Public Work Supervisor