

Minutes  
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen  
Special Called Meeting  
June 17, 2024

Mayor Broyles Called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

Members present were Jerry Malone, Lori Staton and Carol Keith

Ben Adams and Lisa Arnold were absent

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

Mayor Broyles opened the floor for the following:

First Session – Public Comments

Carolyn Payne of 4818 Bluff City Highway stated today the Board will vote to go up on water and sewer and this is going to be the third year in a row. We do not have a 5 year or a 10-year plan. Ms. Payne voiced concern about our lack of growth.

Discussion / Action – Ordinance 2024-003

Mayor Broyles read the ordinance which is the Annual Budget and Tax rate for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025. Vice Mayor Keith asked if this is including an increase on rates. Mayor Broyles stated this reflects that there will be no increase on property tax. It will stay the same as last year. Motion to approve was made by Alderwoman Staton. Second by Alderman Malone. Vote went as follows: Alderman Malone – Yes, Alderwoman Staton – Yes and Vice Mayor Keith – Yes. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action – Ordinance 2024-004

Mayor Broyles read the ordinance which Sets Water User Rates For Customers Inside and Outside The Corporate Limits of the Town of Bluff City, Tennessee. Alderwoman Staton stated I did research into the inflation portion of what is going on with utilities. Even Bristol Tennessee's rates are going up as well. One of the biggest factors is the rise of cost in treatment chemicals. Vice Mayor Keith stated to Alderwoman Staton that they had been trying to find a way to save water and not spend so much. Alderwoman Staton stated I tried to pay attention to what was going on and factor it into the budget. Vice Mayor Keith voiced concern about raising the water/sewer bills. Mayor to approve was made by Alderwoman Staton. Second by Alderman Malone. Vote went as follows: Alderman Malone – Yes, Alderwoman Staton – Yes and Vice Mayor Keith – No. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action- Ordinance 2024-005

Mayor Broyles read the ordinance which sets the Sewer Rates for Customers Inside and Outside the Corporate Limits of the Town of Bluff City, Tennessee. Motion to approve was made by

Alderwoman Staton. Second by Alderman Malone. Alderman Malone voiced concern saying if they did not raise it a little bit, they will end up doing a large increase all at once. Second by Alderman Malone. Vote went as follows: Alderman Malone – Yes, Alderwoman Staton – Yes, Vice Mayor Keith -No. Motion carried. Vice Mayor Keith stated sadly you just come on board. You don't know what has been going on the past few years to be able to throw that vote out there.

Second Session – Public Comments

David Harmon of 200 Holston Dr stated inflation rate is not 9.3% it is 3.3%. My water bill in the last 4 years has increased \$180.00 per year. Mr. Harmon stated these private meetings you are having with the Mayor, you are not supposed to do that. You are supposed to come down here and discuss everything in front of the people.


Carolyn Payne 4818 Bluff City Hwy stated the majority of people living in Bluff City are at or below poverty level. Ms. Payne voiced concern about our growth of customers being low. Ms. Payne stated she hopes letters will be sent to customers about the increase.

Julie Venable of 209 Smith Street Ext. stated if the customers got a notice they would feel better, but it is a shocker when you get your next months bill and it has really jumped. Ms Venable stated that she thought we were doing so good last year that rates would not have to go up this year.

Vice Mayor Keith stated I would like to take this opportunity to let the citizens know that I am very sorry.

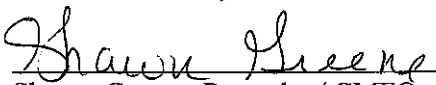
Alderwoman Staton stated this was difficult for all of us. I would like to clarify that when I went to you to speak to you about the number of people who were at the base rate. Mayor Broyles stated yes. There was nothing clandestine, I asked for information, and you gave it to me. Mayor Broyles stated no laws have been broken.

With no other business, Mayor Broyles adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.



Jeffery H. Broyles, Mayor

Attest this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024



Sharon Greene, Recorder / CMFO