

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen
March 8, 2012

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

Members present were Melvin Carrier, Robert Miller, Lon Gene Leonard and Sheena Cornwell.

Bryan Mullins was absent.

Prayer was by Mayor Irene Wells, followed by the Pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for Citizen Comments – First Section. There were none.

Sabrina Arnold presented \$2,710.44 to Sheena Cornwell for the Bluff City Boys and Girls Club which was raised from fundraisers in the 1980's along with a check for \$500.00 from Betty Combs as a donation to the Boys & Girls Club as well.

Mayor Wells opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2012-004 at 7:05 p.m. City Attorney Paul Frye read the Ordinance No. 2012-004, which is an ordinance To Amend the Bluff City Municipal Code 4-214 to add Presidents Day as a legal holiday. There were no public comments. Public Hearing closed at 7:06 p.m. Motion to approve Ordinance 2012-004 on Second Reading was made by Vice-Mayor Leonard. Second by Alderman Miller. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Wells opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2012-002 at 7:07 p.m. City Attorney Paul Frye read the Ordinance No. 2012-002, which is an ordinance to reclassify certain territory owned by C. Thomas Jarrell located adjacent to Jarrell Drive from R-1 to R-3. There were no public comments. Public Hearing was closed at 7:09 p.m. Motion to approve Ordinance 2012-002 on second reading was made by Alderman Miller. Second by Alderwoman Cornwell. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Wells presented Resolution 2012-003 for consideration by the BMA. City Attorney Paul Frye read the Resolution No. 2012-003, which is a resolution amending the City Charter to provide authority to enact a hotel/motel tax, change meeting dates, change method for filling vacancies on the Board and in the Office of Mayor, change the time for the Board Of Mayor and Aldermen to take office, recall provisions, remove judicial functions of the Mayor and City Recorder and other matters to clarify the City Charter. Alderman Carrier made a motion to approve. Second by Alderman Miller. Alderman Carrier made a motion to amend Resolution 2012-003 by removing line one in reference to the hotel/motel tax. Second by Alderman Miller. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Wells presented Ordinance 2012-005 on First Reading, to the BMA for consideration. City Attorney Paul Frye read Ordinance No. 2012-005, which is an ordinance to close city hall on any election day that the city hall is used as a voting precinct. Motion to approve was made by Alderman Carrier. Second by Vice-Mayor Leonard. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for discussion/action on the Right of Entry Agreement between the City of Bluff City and James Cross with regard to work being done on the drainage system on Lakeview Circle. City Attorney Paul Frye stated that the board had voted to do the drainage work on Lakeview Circle to correct a drainage problem and this is an agreement to use James Cross's property as a staging area and not an easement. Motion to approve was made by Alderman Carrier. Second by Alderman Miller. All in favor. Motion carried.

Vice Mayor Leonard made a motion to allocate funds in the amount of \$5,000.00 the Bluff City Youth's Baseball and the funds be used for underprivileged children. Second by Alderman Miller. All in favor. Motion carried.

Report from Mayor Wells. Mayor Wells thanked everyone for coming. Mayor Wells reported that she was on the board of the First Tennessee Human Resource Agency. Mayor Wells read their annual report. Mayor Wells presented the 2012 Score Card report for Networks.

Comments from Aldermen:

1. Alderman Carrier reported that the boardwalk was looking good and thanked everyone for coming out.
2. Alderman Miller thanked everyone for being there. Alderman Miller stated that as the weather gets better there are several outdoor projects in the plans. Alderman Miller stated that they had sidewalks between the schools planned and plans to help prevent erosion and maintain the park and green space.
3. Vice-Mayor Leonard thanked everyone for coming and invited them to come back.
4. Alderwoman Cornwell thanked everyone for coming out and introduced Greg (Weaver) as the director and Jessica (Rose) as the administrative assistant of the Boys and Girls Club when it gets up and running. Alderwoman Cornwell thanked Lillian (Cутten) for her donation to the Boys and Girls Club and also Watson's Marina.
5. Alderman Miller announced that there will be a car show fundraiser on March 31st for the Boys and Girls Club.

City Manager Judy Dulaney reported the following:

1. They had been working with the Railroad on the lease of the Over Mountain Victory Trail Park and they said that they would lease it to the city for \$3,570.00 per year and she told them no, but they are still negotiating
2. The park is approximately 40% complete.
3. Working with engineer on the road paving program and that should be completed in less than 10 days.
4. Water mapping should be completed in less than 10 days
5. Engineer drawing up plans for water line replacement on Summit and Cedar to submit to the state at a cost of \$100.00 to submit.
6. Water loss this month went over the limit with 35.5% and in keeping with that, she had given the board a letter from the Comptroller's Office from Joyce Wellborne, and there was an error made in last year's report but with the help of TAUD they found that it was only 33.21%. The state told our auditor to resubmit the paperwork and the hearing for July 12th.

will not be necessary. Ms. Dulaney said that she is initiating night time leak detection 2 nights per month as part of an Action Plan to reduce the water loss.

7. Received a letter from Johnson City Power Board stating that Sullivan County had notified them to take the billing for the traffic light in Piney Flats out of their name, that it belonged to Bluff City. Alderman Miller asked that it be looked into by City Attorney Paul Frye.
8. Gave a Summary of Financial Statement to the BMA.
9. On March 6th she had taken her 7th CMFO test and passed it and she has 4 more to go.
10. Ms. Dulaney asked the BMA to authorize her to advertise for a water distribution and sewer collection operator. Motion to approve the advertisement for a water/sewer distribution and collection operator was made by Vice-Mayor Leonard. Second by Alderman Carrier. All in voted favor.

Motion to approve the Financial Statement was made by Alderman Carrier. Second by Vice Mayor Leonard. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Works Director Ron Miller reported the following:

1. Haven't had very good weather to work on leaks, but are scheduled to work on one at Affordable Dentures on Monday.
2. Had several sewer backups this month.
3. Had to have Pittsburg Tank come back to work on the site gauge again as it was sticking but seems to be working now. We are keeping the tank at about 50 to 55 feet out of 62 feet which keeps the pressure at about 86 at the old City Hall gauge.
4. Been picking up the leaves and brush
5. Cleaned out the ditches on Railroad Street, cleaned up at the garage as well

Chief of Police Greg Depew presented the report for March. (SEE ATTACHMENT I) Chief Depew reported that it was going to be a busy month as the race was coming up, along with a 5K race and the car show. Chief Depew stated that they are prepared and everything is going well.

In Old Business, City Manager Dulaney reported the following:

1. The city purchased a used stage for events.
2. Turned the electrical service off at the old city hall because of the wiring, but the city will have boxes at 4 locations on the street for vendors, which will be ready in time for the car show.

Alderwoman Cornwell stated that Sullivan County provides 3 employees, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at the Rescue Squad that are allowed to address issues when they go on a call. Roger stated yes and they had volunteers that come in and help.

Alderwoman Cornwell stated that the \$45,000.00 donated to the Rescue Squad from the city was used to purchase a truck. Roger stated yes to the best he could remember as that was before his administration.

Alderwoman Cornwell stated that she wanted to make a correction and report that it was not Sullivan County that sold the tools but it was actually Blountville EMS that sold the tools from the Bluff City Rescue Squad to Grainger County and she asked why the Rescue Squad was not able to purchase them and Lynn said that it was not feasible because they were not equivalent to the equipment of other agencies in the area that would be assisting them. Roger stated that Blountville and South Holston have the same tools that they are looking to purchase and right now they are not compatible. Roger reported that the new tools run on mineral oil and are safer. City Manager Dulaney asked if the Rescue Squad had any money to go toward the tool. Roger stated that their operating budget is very slim but they may have about \$3,000.00.

Alderwoman Cornwell stated that she felt that the city needs to support the Rescue Squad Mayor Wells stated that she agreed. City Manager Dulaney stated that she had given the BMA a financial report that reflected the difference in the traffic citations income from the previous year and she is concerned with all the projects that the BMA wants done. Vice-Mayor Leonard stated that he supports the Rescue Squad but we need to table it until the BMA can take a look at the budget. Mayor Wells asked if the Rescue Squad could refuse to go on a call since they don't have those tools. Roger stated no, they could not refuse a call for help. Alderwoman Cornwell stated that maybe they could speak to Commissioner Dwight King about the county helping with the tools.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for Citizen Comments- Second Section.

1. Lillian Cutten reported that there is someone in her neighborhood that leaves their trash cans out at the road all the time and two cars met and one had to go into a yard to avoid colliding. Ms. Dulaney stated that she would look into it.
2. David Smith of 200 Highland Drive stated that he had noticed the city had sent out some letters on properties that had not been kept up and wanted to know if they had been checked on. Mr. Smith stated that he could not see anything that had been taken care of at the trailer park other than he had removed one. City Manager Dulaney stated that it was a slow process but it is being taken care of. Mr. Smith asked which streets they were paving. Ms. Dulaney stated that the city was prioritizing based on the condition of the roads. Mr. Smith asked how much they had given the Rescue Squad. Ms. Dulaney stated since last year it has been about \$50,000.00.
3. Vance Cole of 4077 Highway 11-E, reported that he would like to ask what the cost of the power bill for the red light in Piney Flats was. City Manager Dulaney said that it was approximately \$50.00 a month. Mr. Cole asked if Bluff City accepts the responsibility of the bill does that include accepting the responsibility for the liability if the light is not functioning. Mr. Cole stated that he was on the Board of Directors for a short time last year when they gave them (Rescue Squad) the money for the truck and he knows that there has been controversy over how the money was spent and he agrees that it was not spent correctly. Mr. Cole stated that what happened initially was, when they requested the money there was a truck available but in the time it took to get the money the truck was changing model years and there was no trucks that met the qualifications so that is why they bought the truck they did as it was the best they could get for the amount of money they had. Mr. Cole stated that

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this was based on one person's opinion but once done there was nothing the Board of Directors could do about it. Mr. Cole stated that since that time the Board of Directors and the personnel for the Rescue Squad had changed. Mr. Cole stated that they have approached Sullivan County about help with tools but they are like everyone else as they are struggling too.

Mayor Wells adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Irene Wells, Mayor

Attest this 8th Day of March, 2012

Judy Dulaney, City Manager