

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Bluff City Board of Mayor & Aldermen
May 9, 2013

Mayor Wells called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Members present were Melvin Carrier, Brian Mullins, Robert Miller, and Lon Gene Leonard.

Prayer was given by Deacon Fred Lowry followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes for the April 11, 2013 meeting were approved with a motion by Alderman Carrier. Second by Alderman Mullins. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for Citizen Comments – First Section.

1. Richard Boling of 4534 Bluff City Hwy asked about the lawsuit against Melvin Carrier. Mr. Boling stated that someone from First Baptist Church had called him in reference to the mess behind his barbershop. Mr. Boling stated that he was asked why nothing had been done about it. Chief Depew stated that Mr. Carrier had been sent a letter and he was doing paperwork on it today and action would be taken on it tomorrow.
2. Julie Venable Carty of 209 Smith Street Extension asked if we were still having to buy a lot of water, and have we found any leaks. Public Works Supervisor Ron Miller stated that they are fixing the leaks as they find them and they have had to buy water off and on.
3. David Smith of 200 Highland Circle stated that the first lawsuit against Melvin Carrier was about \$8,500.00 and he figured that he owes the city around \$14,000.00. Mr. Smith stated that the city had not collected the money yet and he thinks that there is some kind of favoritism being given to Mr. Carrier. Alderman Miller stated that the city took Mr. Carrier to court and had a judgment placed against him and if they were showing favoritism they would not have done that. Mr. Smith asked if anything had been taken toward the property or what. Mr. Smith stated, why he doesn't just move the stuff. Mr. Smith asked the board to get a total and attach a lien to his property. Alderman Miller made a motion to have Mr. Frye look into what the legalities are. Mr. Smith stated that he had heard that Mr. Carrier had been bad mouthing some of the city workers and if he can't come down here and be nice he needs to stay away. With a motion on the floor Mayor Wells called for a second. Motion dies due to the lack of a second.
4. Thomas Rutledge of 162 Main Street stated that he had received a letter stating that his property was not up to standards and stated that they need to look at the properties on each side of him as his is up to par. Mr. Rutledge stated that he had been told for three years that we were going to fix the water runoff from Cedar Street over his driveway and it has not been done. City Manager Dulaney stated that she would look at the water runoff.
5. Judy King of 315 Lakeview Circle asked when the road (Railroad Street) was going to be fixed. She was informed that construction was starting on Monday the 13th.

Mayor Wells opened the public hearing on Ordinance No 2013-002 at 7:15 p.m. an ordinance to Establish and Update Occupational Safety and Health Program. There were no public comments. Mayor Wells closed the hearing at 7:16 p.m.

Mayor Wells presented Ordinance No 2013-002 to the board for consideration on second reading. Mayor Wells read Ordinance No. 2013-012. Motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Leonard Second by Alderman Miller. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Wells opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2013-003 at 7:17 p.m., an ordinance to Rezone Certain Property from B-3 and R-1 to M-1 Parcel 16.00, Sullivan County tax map 111, and located on Highway 11-E. Hearing opened at 7:17 p.m. There were no public comments. Mayor Wells closed the public hearing at 7:18 p.m.

Mayor Wells presented Ordinance No. 20013-003 to the board for consideration on second reading. Motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Leonard. Second by Alderman Mullins. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Wells presented Resolution 2013-002 to the board for consideration. Resolution No. 2013-002 would authorize Mayor Wells to sign an agreement regarding a letter of Direction for Periodic Payments in the Glenworth Annuity # 3885494 and Direction of Payments and Release in Order to Effectuate Final Distribution from the Lester Childs, Jr. Revocable Trust, which is in the amount of \$10,140.51. Motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Leonard. Second by Alderman Mullins. All in favor. Motion carried.

City Engineer Dave Wilson reported the following:

1. The Rural Development loan application is still ongoing and he is working with Ms. Dulaney.
2. The relocation of the water line on SR 357 and Whitehead road (due to the TDOT project) will be open for bids by June 4th and if all is acceptable the work should start on or about June 17th and finish around the end of July. City Manager Dulaney stated that we would not be able to do the work in house due to the geographics of the land. Ms. Dulaney stated that they need board approval to put this out on bid. Motion to allow it to be put out for bids was made by Vice Mayor Leonard. Second by Alderman Miller. All in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Wilson stated that they should have the pricing by the next meeting in June.
3. Tipton Construction is scheduled to start work on Railroad Street on the 13th, and the project should be completed by August 12th 2013. Mr. Wilson thanked the board for allowing him to work for the city and stated that if they need anything to call him.

City Manager Dulaney reported that the bathrooms at the park are going to be constructed by the Job Corp at no cost to the city. Vice Mayor Leonard was instrumental in getting this done for the city.

Mayor Wells reported the following:

1. Attended the Bristol Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting
2. Attended the Networks Partnership Board Meeting. Mrs. Wells stated that the primary goal of Networks has always been job creation and business location in Sullivan County.

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3. Attended the Northeast Tennessee/ Virginia Home Consortium Board Meeting. They recognized the 10 year anniversary of the Home Consortium. Bluff City Homeowners balance available is \$44, 700.00. Bluff City's Rehab/ Reconstruction available balance is \$134,145.55. Members approved the action plan for 2013-2014 and Bluff City receives \$10,000.00 on this plan.
4. Attended the Children's Advocacy Center's signing of the proclamation that states that April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month.
5. Voiced her support of the Bluff City Library 100%.

Comments from Aldermen:

1. Alderman Carrier thanked everyone for coming.
2. Alderman Mullins stated that he was glad to see a good crowd and apologized for being absent at some of the meetings but his job has him work different shifts.
3. Alderman Miller thanked everyone for coming and stated to Alderman Mullins that everyone has to work and may miss a meeting. Alderman Miller encouraged everyone to vote on the 21st.
4. Vice Mayor Leonard thanked everyone for coming and he would like to see a full house.

Report from City Manager Judy Dulaney:

1. At the park the asphalt and rocks were removed and they are going to plant some small root base butterfly bushes. Hopefully won't be long until the bathrooms are completed.
2. Work has started on the budget but it is going slow as she is waiting on information from the state and the county and because of the re-appraisals it may be in August or September before they have a certified tax rate and this slows the budget process.
3. Presented the financial statement and cash balances to the board members on Tuesday prior to the meeting. For the record the General operating account balance is \$398,435.27, the General Fund savings is \$145,616.79, the Sanitation Fund is \$2,117.27, the Special Police Drug Fund is \$1,921.29, Sinking Fund is \$3,320.79, the Debit Service Account is \$210,252.55, the Water and Sewer is \$290,053.25. I have submitted the financial reports for all funds and cash balances to the BMA for April, 2013 prior to the meeting for their review.
4. All of the bank statements, reconciliations, deposits, invoices and journal entries are reviewed by the Board's designee, Vice-Mayor Leonard who also has cosigned all checks with the city manager for the months of April. Motion to approve April, 2013 Financial Reports was made by Alderman Miller. Second by Alderman Mullins. All in favor. Motion carried. City Manager Judy Dulaney asked if anyone had questions. Mrs. Peterson of Vickers Road (adjacent to Union Park) stated that she lives just outside the city limits but she stated that since this board has been here she has never seen the park or the city looking better than it does now.

Mrs. Peterson stated that people from other cities notice it as well. Mrs. Peterson stated that what Judy and the workers had done at the park had greatly improved it. City Manager Dulaney stated that the mowing and general upkeep has improved and if anyone sees anything that needs to be done just give us a call and the men will be glad to take care of it.

Public Works Director Ron Miller reported the following:

1. Railroad Street project will start Monday.
2. Will be starting some projects that have been put off for a while such as pothole repairs and driveway repairs.
3. In process of ordering materials ordered for Park bathrooms.
4. Put concrete steps in at the ballpark area to the lake.

Chief of Police Greg Depew reported the following:

1. Chief of Police Greg Depew presented the BMA with a report on the police departments production for the month of April.
2. Had a full house in Driving School.
3. K-9 presentation for consideration. Stated that Officer Josh Johnson grew up with a K-9 family as his father was a K-9 officer and he (Josh) would be our K-9 handler. Member of audience asked what a K-9 dog would cost. Chief Depew stated that Chad Baker had offered to help with a \$2,500.00 donation and they could use drug fund money, but the cost to put this together and get the program on the road would be around \$15,000.00. Chief Depew stated that this includes the vehicle. Lillian Cutten asked if they could go around the neighborhood asking for donations. Chief Depew stated that other agencies that have started this program said the people have donated to their departments. Lillian Cutten stated that she would give them \$500.00 to help. Motion to approve the K-9 program and create a new position in the police department was made by Alderman Miller. Second by Alderman Mullins. Vice-Mayor Leonard stated that he had done limited research and it seems that this is a norm for drug dealers to go to small towns or out in the country and he feels this is what we are seeing here and he is very much for the program. With a motion and second on the floor, the vote was as follows: All in favor. Motion carried.
4. Chief Depew introduced J R Matthews as the newest reserve officer.
5. Sullivan County Commissioner Dwight King was not present due to a budget meeting.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for Old Business. There was none.


Mayor Wells opened the floor for New Business.

1. Alderman Mullins stated that his neighbor wanted to have 3 to 5 chickens and is going to build a nice pen. Mayor Wells reported that the Building Inspector checked and he did not qualify as it is too close.
2. Alderman Carrier reported that they got the street lights up in Riverbluff Landing.

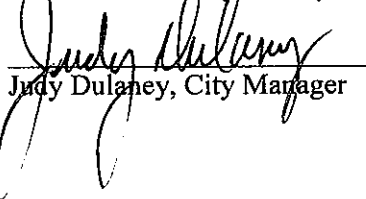
Mayor Wells opened the floor for Citizen Comments- Second Section.

1. Dewey Scalf of 115 Whitehead Road asked why the city did not mow near their house. City Manager Dulaney stated that TDOT mows the 4-Lanes.
2. Julie Venable Carty of 209 Smith Street Extension reported that there was a leak on her street and she had called it in.
3. David Smith stated that we need to get City Attorney Paul Frye to look into putting a lien on Alderman Carrier's property because of the judgment against him. Vice-Mayor Leonard stated that Mr. Frye was not here tonight and when he is here we will have Mr. Frye proceed with it. Mr. Smith stated that they could vote on it. Mr. Leonard asked what he wanted them to vote on.
4. Brenda Leonard of 508 Cedar Street asked if Mr. Carrier owes the city money and does any of the other board members owe the city money. Mrs. Leonard asked if any of the BMA members had cost the city money. Mrs. Leonard stated that she feels that they nitpick at him because he is an alderman. Alderman Mullins stated that he felt that the attorney should be present. Vice Mayor Leonard stated that this is what he said and he did not want to vote on something without the attorney there to advise them.
5. Lillian Cutten complained about neighbor having 9 cats but they are in the county and the county will not do anything about it. Mrs. Cutten stated that it is not just the city and she pays both city and county taxes.
6. Betty O'Dell of Carter Street stated that she had not met a finer Police Force that we have now.

Mayor Wells adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.


Irene Wells, Mayor

Attest: This 9th Day of May, 2013


Judy Dulaney, City Manager