

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen
July 10, 2014

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

Members present were Melvin Carrier, David Harmon, Ray Harrington, Lon Gene Leonard and Richard Bowling

Prayer was given by Reverend Erwin Green followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes for the May 8, 2014 meeting were approved with a motion by Vice-Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Harmon. All in favor.

Minutes for the June 12, 2014 meeting were approved with a motion by Alderman Harmon. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for Citizen Comments-First Section

Rick Hill of 204 Jarrell Drive stated "Suppose for a moment that we were in a board meeting and a large trash can in the middle of the room suddenly begins smoldering and smoking and finally erupts into flame and fortunately the fire chief and a few of his men are present at the meeting. They quickly remove the flaming trash can from the meeting and order is restored. Madam Mayor would you ask the Fire Chief to apologize for his actions" Mr. Hill stated last month when you told Chief Depew to apologize for his actions at the previous meeting, he was absolutely correct in his refusal to apologize for doing his job. Mr. Hill stated that they have one of the better equipped and trained police forces in the area. Mr. Hill stated that they have a newly formed narcotics division that so far are responsible for over 80 drug investigations and disrupted 4 active meth labs within our city and recovered over \$30,000 worth of stolen property stolen at the flea market, and should they apologize for that. Mr. Hill voiced concern about the board considering lowering the number of police officers as their department produces revenue to the city.

Mayor Wells stated that if she needed some help she would let somebody know it.

Chris Berry with Piney Flats Fire Department was present to request funding for the department.

Chase Carrier with the Bluff City Fire Department was present to request the board to reconsider their funding request which helps fund turnout gear to the volunteer firemen.

David Smith of 200 Highland Circle suggested that the board give the fire departments \$10,000 each along with the request from the rescue squad.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for the following:

Public hearing for Ordinance 2014-002. City Attorney Paul Frye read the ordinance, which is an ordinance clarifying Section 1-102 of the Bluff City Municipal code dealing with citizen comments at Special Called Meetings was opened at 7:16 p.m. There were no comments so the hearing closed at 7:17 p.m. Motion to approve on second reading was made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Alderman Harmon. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2014-005 on first reading. City Attorney Paul Frye read the ordinance which is an Appropriations Ordinance for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015. Motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Harmon. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2014-006 on first reading. City Attorney Paul Frye read the ordinance which is a Real and Personal Property Tax ordinance. Motion to approve was made by Alderman Harmon. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. Vote went as follows: Alderman Carrier-Yes, Alderman Harmon-Yes. Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Leonard- No, Alderman Bowling- abstained. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2014-007 on first reading. Mayor Wells asked when it was decided that they were going to have a 15% for 3 years as it was not discussed at any workshop she attended. City Manager Dulaney stated that she believes they did and also with Joyce Wellborn from the State of Tennessee and the Board of Commissioners required this. Ms. Dulaney stated that Ms. Wellborn had called and informed her that the board of commissioners met and accepted all of the budget ordinances as written and if they change she will have to let them know to see if they approve them or if they have to step in and take further action. City Attorney Paul Frye submitted the ordinance which sets water user rates representing a 15% increase each of the next three years. Motion to approve was made by Alderman Leonard. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2014-008 on first reading. City Attorney Paul Frye read the ordinance which sets the sewer user rates which represents a 15% increase each of the next 3 years. Motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Harmon. All in favor. Motion carried.

City Manager Dulaney stated that they had to do this or the state would have stepped in and do it for us but before the 3 years are up and they don't have a loss, they can revisit the ordinances.

Ordinance 2014-009 on first reading. City Attorney Paul Frye read the ordinance which sets rate for court costs. Motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2014-010 on first reading. City Attorney Paul Frye read the ordinance which amends the Bluff City Municipal Code Title 18 Dealing with Water and Sewer Connection Fees. Motion to approve was made by Alderman Harmon. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2014-011 on first reading. City Attorney Paul Frye read the ordinance which amends the Bluff City Municipal Code Title 18 dealing with Water/Sewer Adjustments reflecting that sewer only will be adjusted unless there is a clerical or meter reading error. Alderman Bowling stated that it says that an affidavit had to be signed by a plumber, does that mean they have to have a plumber come if they have a little water leak. City Attorney Paul Frye stated that it was whoever fixed it and Mr. Bowling stated so we can fix it ourselves. Mr. Frye stated yes. Motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Harmon. Vote went as follows: Alderman Carrier- Abstained, All others in favor. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2014-012 on first reading. City Attorney Paul Frye read the ordinance which amends Section 17-111(1) of the Bluff City Municipal Code Regarding Garbage Collection Fees which

sets the rate to \$10.50 per month. Motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Leonard. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2014-014 on first reading. City Attorney Paul Frye read the ordinance which repeals Ordinance 2013-012 which made Railroad Street one way. Alderman Leonard stated that he was under the understanding that the request was from J Forrest Thomas Street to Dr. Carrier Street which would clear the church parking lot. A resident of Railroad Street asked that speed bumps be put on the street to slow traffic as they were speeding on that street and was informed that it did not meet requirements for that and that is why they requested it be one way. City Manager Dulaney stated that it may be a good place for a tabletop speed hump. Alderman Harmon stated that we needed to patrol more there. Resident stated that the police department comes by often and he understands they have a lot to do. Mr. Harmon stated that they would ask the Chief to patrol it more. Motion to approve repeal back to two ways was made by Alderman Harmon. Second by Alderman Carrier. Vote went as follows: Alderman Carrier-Yes, Alderman Harmon-Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington- No, and Alderman Bowling-No. Having a 2 to 2 vote Mayor Wells voted to take it back to a two way street. Motion carried.

Alderman Leonard left at 7:45 p.m.

Mayor Wells reported the following:

She attended the First Tn. Human Resource Agency meeting on June 30, 2014

The Sullivan County, Bluff City and Kingsport Animal Board Meeting was held on June 26, 2014.

The Networks Board Meeting on June 19, 2014 discussed changes to the by-laws.

She attended the Networks Executive Board on June 17th.

She and Alderman Richard Bowling attended the Bluff City Planning Commission Meeting on July 8, 2014.

Stated that City Manager Dulaney was supposed to provide the information on where she said that the Police Department is self-supporting and the Chief was going to get a letter from the Judge stating that the Bluff City Police is the best for providing materials for court cases and she has not received them. Ms. Dulaney stated that the information about the police department is on the first page of the budget. Chief Depew stated that he had some things for them.

City Attorney Paul Frye reported the following:

Upon looking into giving a food vendor a contract down at the park, our lease with the U.S. Government will not allow us to contract out to a for profit entity.

U.S. District Court Judge Ronnie Greer dismissed all federal racial discrimination claims on the lawsuit against the Town of Bluff City for Irene Wells, Milton Boyd and Lee McClintock plaintiff's and remanded any state issues back to state court for disposition. Mayor Wells stated that she has a copy and they did not dismiss it they recommended it back to the city court. Mr.

Frye stated that the order states dismissed. Mayor Wells stated if you want me to read it to you I will. Mr. Frye stated he has a copy. Mrs. Wells stated that her attorney had explained it to her. City Manager Dulaney stated that the attorney had called her and said the same thing.

Comments from Aldermen:

Alderman Carrier reported that 2 new restaurants had opened up in Piney Flats this week and thanked everyone for coming.

Alderman Harmon thanked everyone for coming.

Vice Mayor Harrington thanked everyone for coming and stated that he looked forward to working with them.

Alderman Bowling stated that he appreciated everyone coming and hoped that they could get together on the Rescue Squad and the Fire Department. Mr. Bowling stated that on the budget on page 3 line 730 it says Bluff City Community Chest and it should say Bluff City Community Aide. Mr. Bowling stated he was on that board and wanted to let people know where the money had gone. Mr. Bowling stated that since 1993 the program has given out over \$61,000 for people that needed it for utilities and for rent. Mr. Bowling stated that they had a food bank as well.

City Manager Judy Dulaney reported the following:

Presented the ad in the newspaper in regards to the old city hall building.

Informed Mayor Wells, since she has been going to the SBK meetings, that in the newspaper they have it Sullivan County – Blountville – Kingsport and would she ask them to put the true name as Sullivan County, Bluff City, and Kingsport. Mayor Wells stated that she would bring it to their attention.

Joyce Wellborne with the State called after 4 p.m. with regard to Water and Wastewater Finance Board accepting our increases in the Water/Sewer and General Fund to increase our fund balance. Ms Dulaney stated that if they wanted to give some to our fire department they could increase our tax rate to \$1.30 instead of \$1.28. Ms Dulaney stated that the reason that Piney Flats was not in the budget is because they said they did not want it that it was not even enough to buy their gas. Ms. Dulaney stated that even if they did not go with that they could go back and look and try to do something as money comes in and they could always do an amendment.

Cash balances for the Financial Report as of June 30th were as follows:

General Fund Operating -\$108,328, Sanitation Fund- \$9,338, Police Drug Fund - \$3,287, Sinking Fund - \$3,094.78, Debt Service - \$206, 568, Water/Sewer Fund- \$272,797, FHA Reserve - \$690.72.

Submitted the financial statements ending June 30th for approval. Ms. Dulaney stated that Alderman Bowling and Alderman Leonard have individually signed the statements and reconciliations. Motion to approve the Financial Report was made by Vice-Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor. Motion carried.

Due to family emergency Public Works Director Ron Miller was absent.

Chief of Police Greg Depew reported the following:

Thanked the fire department for the job that they do to help the police department, and offered to help them with some type of fund raiser.

The monthly report. (SEE ATTACHED)

With Alderman Carrier's suggestion, he contacted a man at the vocational school, and they are going to fix the dump truck at no charge for labor, only parts.

No Sullivan County Commissioner was present.

In Old Business:

Mayor Wells asked when they were going to fix some streets such as Carter and Cedar Street. City Manager Dulaney stated that she would check into it and get pricing. Mayor Wells asked if the new machine would help. Ms. Dulaney stated that Ron was going to start that toward the end of July.

In New Business:

Alderman Carrier asked what City Manager Dulaney said about the additional 2 cents on the taxes. Ms Dulaney stated that it could help give some money to the Fire Department but they could amend the budget at any time and she would look into it.

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

Chase Carrier with the Bluff City Fire Department stated that someone had asked him how many calls they had inside the city limits vs. in Sullivan County and during their heaviest call volume it is 2 to 1 ratio and they do not charge anyone for their service they just send a fund raising letter.

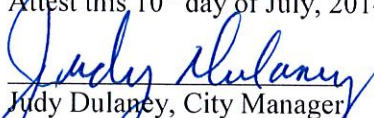
Rick Hill of 204 Jarrell Drive stated that it is his opinion that anybody that serves in a position of trust and responsibility should be held to a higher standard of accountability than the normal populous. Mr. Hill stated that he felt that it is disgraceful that Alderman Carrier has a lien on his property for failure to pay for a fine for not complying with an ordinance of the city that he represents.

With no other business, Alderman Harmon made a motion to adjourn. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.



Irene Wells, Mayor

Attest this 10th day of July, 2014



Judy Dulaney, City Manager