

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen
October, 6, 2015

Mayor Wells called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Members present were John Harrison, Sandra Madison, Tanya Cordle, Ray Harrington and Richard Bowling.

Prayer was given by Ron Whitaker of the First Christian Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for the following:

Minutes for the September 1, 2015 regular meeting were approved with a motion by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor.

Minutes for the September 4, 2015 Special Called Meeting were approved with a motion by Alderman Bowling. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. All in favor.

Chief Depew introduced a juvenile by the name of Toby. Chief Depew continued by saying they had received a call at his address and the boy stated that he had packed his bags and was leaving. Officer Julian worked the call and decided that the boy needed something more than Juvenile court or detention. Officer Julian visited with the youth and told him if he behaved that he would take him fishing and with the mother's permission officer Julian and Officer Hubbard took him fishing. The officers presented Toby with a fishing pole and told him they were proud of him.

Citizen Comment-First Section

Rick Hill of 204 Jarrell Drive thanked the new aldermen and stated that they worked for their positions. Mr Hill stated that on Friday October 2 of this year he received a call from Chief Depew informing him that the Mayor / City Manager had fired him as a reserve officer for the remarks he had made during a meeting which was 15 months ago. Mr Hill stated that he got a call from Chief Depew yesterday stating that she had reconsidered her decision. Mr Hill stated that he was glad she did this since he had over \$1,000.00 tied up in uniforms and equipment he purchased to do this job. Mr Hill stated that just because he wears a uniform, but he did not wear a uniform either time he spoke at a meeting, does not mean he gives up his right to say what I feel as a citizen of this city. Mr Hill stated that he did not think he was rude to her. Mr Hill stated that he may be getting ready to say something that may get him fired again. Mr Hill stated that he felt there is a fault in the system when one person can say you are hired or fired without any discussion by the board. Mr Hill stated that in hiring and firing practices he felt that the board needed to be involved. Mr Hill stated that power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Mayor Wells stated that her thinking was that she wanted to see a change in Bluff City and she felt that he was singling her out. Mrs Wells stated that she took it when it happened and it was very hurtful. Mrs Wells stated that she had some employees going through some papers to get them ready to file and one of them showed it to her and she admitted that she reacted the way she should not have. When she saw it again it brought back hurt feelings. Mayor Wells asked Chief Depew to speak and he stated that the Mayor told him that if someone works here she did not feel that it was appropriate that they had made comments about the board and her. Mr Depew stated

that the Mayor was sorry and that she had made a mistake and wanted to correct it and he feels that she sincerely meant it. Chief Depew contacted Mr Hill and told him that the Mayor was sincere. Alderwoman Cordle stated that she would like to apologize to Mr Hill as she did not know that had happened. Alderman Harrison stated look at what she (Mayor Wells) has been through. Mayor Wells stated that she admits it and let's try to move forward. Mayor Wells stated I apologize to you.

Rick Hill stated that when he spoke 15 months ago he did not say it to be hurtful he just did not understand how that you in good conscious remain as Mayor when you have law suits against the city. Mr Hill stated that he hopes that it is all settled and is over. Mr Hill stated that he thinks highly of her. Mr Hill stated that it seems that the board is working together now. Mr Hill stated that he feels that it is ludicrous that the patrol officers only make \$12.61 per hour working for the city.

Carol Keith 305 Lakeview Circle stated she understands as she was a victim of a hate crime and the police were told to stay out of it. Mrs Keith stated that she asked the Mayor about having someone patrol around their church and she stated that the only thing she could do was tell people if they could have chickens or not. Mrs Keith stated that the police should be able to do what needs to be done.

Discussion / Action on hiring a new auditor.

Mayor Wells informed the board that the auditors Lewis and Associates resigned. Mrs Wells presented quotes from two others. Blackburn, Childress and Stigall quoted \$37,000 to audit the 2015 fiscal year and this is the group that will be going into partnership with Eddy & Eddy CPA's. The next quote is from Roderfer, Moss & Company at \$30,000 to do the audit. Mayor Wells stated that they are both approved by the comptroller. Alderwoman Cordle stated that she did not want to go with Blackburn because they are in with Eddy and Eddy our previous auditors. Motion to go with Roderfer and Moss was made by Alderwoman Cordle. Second by Alderman Harrison. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes for the September 22, 2015 Special Called meeting were approved with a motion by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor.

Discussion / Action Writing off the \$197,000.00 borrowed from the General Fund to the Water Fund.

Alderwoman Cordle stated that she asked for proof where it came from and the paperwork that the Mayor gave her showed contracts for work done for that amount. Mrs Cordle stated that she did not feel that it should be written off. Vice Mayor Harrington asked how the Water Fund is. Mayor Wells stated that it is in the red and the job is done and this shows the money has been paid and if the Comptroller allows it, writing this amount off will help us to be in the black. Mr Harrington stated that basically the Water Fund owes the General fund this amount and if they write it off it will take it off the water fund. Mayor Wells stated that this came about in 2011 when they had to replace the water line across the bridge and the city has not been in good enough shape to pay it back to the General Fund. City Engineer Dave Wilson stated that the bids were taken to reestablish water connection across the bridge. Mr Wilson stated that the money

went to Baker's Construction and Excavation. Mr Wilson stated that he did not know where the money came from but he has record of the payments made to Baker's. Mayor Wells stated that she has been summoned to Nashville to explain why we are in the red. Motion to write off the \$197,000.00 that the water fund owes the general fund was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. Vote went as follows: John Harrison – Yes, Sandra Madison-No, Tanya Cordle – No, Ray Harrington – Yes, Richard Bowling – Yes. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action – Sign for City Hall.

Vice Mayor Harrington asked Mayor Wells if General Shale had contacted her about the brick. Mayor Wells stated that they were willing to furnish the brick but she needs to get more info. Mrs Wells stated that she needs to get measurements to see what it would cost to lay the brick and hopes she can get it laid free. Alderman Harrison stated that he would like to see it located out front in the center. Mayor Wells stated that she would get back to them and maybe check with the Job Corp to see if they can help.

Discussion / Action War Memorial.

Baker's Construction will donate part of the concrete since the slab for the piece of equipment will need to be larger than they first thought. The man from the concrete plant stated that he would check with other vendors to see if he can get them to donate things needed for the project. Mayor Wells stated that Lt. Governor Ramsey stated that we would not have to worry about how to pick up the piece of equipment. Ms Wells stated that she should have an answer by next Thursday.

Jeanann Sanders of 351 Jonesboro Dr stated that Lowes makes donations and we may be able to get re- bar donated.

Mayor Wells stated that the East High School Art Class will do painting for us.

Mayor Wells stated that she has been talking to the person in charge of leasing the property on Main Street.

Mayor Wells stated that they have not purchased the tables and benches yet as they are waiting until the concrete trucks have finished. Mayor Wells stated that if the board wants to they can purchase them. Alderman Bowling stated that if we get them now we will have to store them.

Mayor Wells reported that the city garage needed heaters and in their packets there were 2 quotes: one from Acorn Electric for \$4,775 and Osborne for \$6,500. Motion to approve heaters from Acorn Electric was made by Alderman Harrison. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Wells reported the following:

She attended several meetings.

Mayor Wells read the Fund Balances as of August 31, 2015 were as follows: General Fund - \$249,961.00, Sanitation Fund - \$13,341.49, Special Police Fund - \$2,535.00, Debt Service Fund - \$210,321.80, Sinking Fund - \$3,094.75, FHA Reserve Fund - \$690.73, Water / Sewer Fund - \$257,951.00. Motion to approve the fund balances was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second By Alderman Bowling. All in favor.

Report from City Attorney Paul Frye.

Mr Frye reported that he had collected \$3,500.00 in delinquent property tax and the second letters are getting ready to go out.

Mr Frye reported that the Brewer case against Bluff City was dismissed and the court cost was taxed to Mr. Brewer.

Comments from Aldermen:

Alderman Harrison stated that he hopes everyone will be a little patient as things were in a mess and they still have a way to go.

Alderwoman Madison thanked everyone for coming.

Alderwoman Cordle thanked everyone for coming and stated that she tries to do what she thinks is best for everybody.

Vice Mayor Harrington thanked everyone for coming and looked forward to them coming back.

Alderman Bowling thanked everyone for coming and stated that he hated it has taken so long tonight but everything had to be done.

Report from the Chief of Police:

Presented Certificate of Appreciation to Bo-Jangles Restaurant for their service to the city and for their Donation to the Over Mountain Victory Trail Celebration.

Presented the monthly report

Chief Depew stated that Heritage Days went well and the city crew did a good job. Mayor Wells thanked the Chief for all they do for the city.

Chief Depew asked the board to consider letting his department go to time sheets rather than time cards. Motion to approve going to time sheets was made by Alderwoman Cordle. Second by Alderwoman Madison. Vote went as follows; Alderman Harrison – No, Alderwoman Madison – Yes, Alderwoman Cordle – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – No, Alderman Bowling – Yes. Motion carried.

Report from Public Works Director Hugh Thomason: Mr Thomason presented the monthly report.

Mr Thomason reported that we did not have trash left from Heritage Days

They did work before the Over Mountain Victory Trail Celebration

Found three leaks

Attached an employee evaluation form that he is going to use in the near future and it lets employee know what is expected of them and their duties and what goals to set for the future. Mr Thomason stated that this will be on their anniversary date of employment.

They are working on estimates on paving from Sullivan County.

Alderwoman Cordle asked about the truck being worked on. Mr Thomason stated that they are working on it and hopefully we will get it back soon.

No County Commissioner was present due to working on their budget.

Old Business – None

New Business-

Alderwoman Cordle stated that it was brought to her attention that the caboos needed some maintenance. She asked David Smith to speak about it. Mr Smith stated that it needed to be repainted and some places needed to be refinished with bondo.

Citizen Comments – Second Section

Rick Hill of 204 Jarrell Drive asked what happened to the request to close the crossing behind the church. Mayor Wells stated that the board voted not to do it. Mayor Wells asked City Attorney Paul Frye to address the question of whether citizens could vote on it. City Attorney Paul Frye stated that it was not something that we could have a referendum on.

David Smith of 200 Highland Circle stated that every time he asks a alderman if they have found anything and have we started checking back over two or three years, he would like to see results and they need to have the auditor get started on the books. Mayor Wells stated that the audit that they will be doing at this time will be the normal audit and if they want additional things done the auditor will have to come before them and see what exactly they want done as this audit will only be for the last fiscal year. Mr Smith stated we need to go back a few years. Mayor Wells stated that it will be additional money. Mayor Wells stated that she and Sharon had been checking things and found things that may have been posted to a wrong account but they have not found that a bunch of money is missing.

Carol Keith of 305 Lakeview Circle stated that she encourages Alderwoman Tanya and Sandy for standing up for what they believe in and not just go along with the majority. Mrs Keith thanked the chief for reaching out to the little boy that was here. Mrs Keith thanked Chief Depew for involving her with having a Thanksgiving Dinner reaching out to the community. Mrs Keith

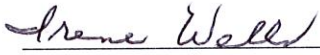
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asked was no one curious as to where the money has gone or are we just covering things up to stay in the black. Mrs Keith asked that they stay on top of it as it has been going on too long.

Don Weaver asked what the percentage of water loss is. Mayor Wells stated that it was 30% and the engineer says it needs to be down to about 20%.

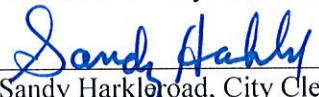
David Smith stated that they could put a valve and a gauge in every 3 to 4 miles and that could show leaks.

With no other business motion to adjourn was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderwoman Cordle and Alderman Bowling. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.



Irene Wells, City Manager

Attest this 6th Day of October, 2015



Sandy Harkleroad, City Clerk