

Minutes
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Regular Meeting
February 2, 2016

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

Mayor Wells stated she had an accident on December 27th which caused a concussion and she was unable to come to work until the 25th of January. Mrs Wells gave thanks to the Lord for taking care of her. She explained that she was called by Mrs Moore and was asked if she would come down there. While at the Moore's house (where the sewer overflowed) talking to the Public Works Director on the telephone about the situation she got cold. She decided she was going home and Mrs Moore asked her to come back so she went home and that is when she fell on the concrete steps and ended up with a concussion. Mayor Wells thanked the citizens that helped her during that time. Mayor Wells stated that she was glad to see everyone here.

Mayor Wells explained that during Citizen Comments we will provide provisions for everyone to speak that wants to speak. Mayor Wells explained that it is for 3 minutes during each section and you give your name address and phone number and you have to come to the podium, if you don't come to the podium you won't be allowed to speak. Mayor Wells stated this is not anything against anyone, we need to handle this meeting like a business meeting. Mrs Wells stated that they will be recognized by raising their hand and she asked the board to raise their hand and be recognized as well, so there would not be two people talking at the same time, and hopefully we can keep order in the meeting and everyone can get something out of the meeting and we don't want to be accusing people of things that can't be backed up. We just need to come and speak on what you want to talk about. We are not going to have people accusing people of this and accusing people of that, because this is not a court of law.

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

Prayer was given by Reverend Bill Duncan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for the following:

Minutes for the January 5th 2016 Regular Meeting were approved with a motion by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor.

Lucaus Triplette with Boy Scout Troop 108 spoke to the BMA. Mr Triplette stated that he had been working toward the Eagle Scout. Mr Triplette stated that he wanted to work on it in Bluff City. Mr Triplette made reference to the Civil War and the bridge that was burned in Bluff City. He wants to put a marker there with background information. He stated that the State Historian of Tennessee is on board with the project. Mr Triplett stated that he would pay the cost involved. Mayor Wells stated that if possible he wanted them to vote on it tonight. The paving will be down where the Veterans Memorial Park will be and his group would pay for it. Alderwoman Cordle made a motion to approve the project. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. All in favor. Motion carried.

Citizen Comments – First Section

Kimberly Arrowood of 312 Harr Drive, stated that she was present to let them know she was a citizen and a tax payer of Bluff City for 13 years. Mrs Arrowood stated that she demands answers in public from someone about the sewer lines. Mrs Arrowood stated that her home has been damaged twice by the sewer system and the bottom of her home is gutted and cannot be used. Mrs Arrowood stated Hugh says my backup was not sewer it was water, no one from City Hall

came into her home or looked at and smelled of my home or they would know it was sewer that did the damage. Mrs Arrowood stated that she will continue to fight the City.

Becky Buchanan thanked John (Harrison), Ray (Harrington) and Richard (Bowling) for respecting the City of Bluff City that they proudly live in and for respecting all the citizens. Mrs Buchanan asked Alderwoman Madison why they are going to have a march on February 13th. Ms Madison stated that she needed to ask Carol as she was the one that wanted to have the march. Mrs Buchanan stated that she was the alderperson so she would like to hear it from her. Mrs Buchanan told Alderwoman Cordle that she had heard a rumor that she was going to run for Mayor the next election. Alderwoman Cordle stated that she had heard a lot of rumors. Mrs Buchanan asked if she (Ms Cordle) won the election would she be willing to give up her job to run the city full time without pay. Alderwoman Cordle stated, I haven't said if I am going to run for Mayor, but if I were I would be willing to do that.

Carol Keith 305, Lakeview Circle thanked Vice Mayor Harrington for the job he did. Mrs Keith stated that as far as the march, Sandra (Alderwoman Madison) had nothing to do with it. Mrs Keith stated that she was a victim of a hate crime that happened in the city and she stands for change. Mrs Keith stated that she had gone to Mrs Arrowood's home and the downstairs is destroyed. Mrs Keith stated it has a bad odor. Mrs Keith stated that Ms Moores home is terrible. Mrs Keith stated that she is not trying to be ugly or to start anything, all we want to do is stand for what is right. Mrs Keith stated that she was going to run for Alderwoman. Mrs Keith asked Alderman Bowling if he remembered talking to her and the news lady stating he did not want James to lose his job and he felt that he had been treated unfairly. Mrs Keith asked Alderman Bowling and Vice Mayor Harrington to reevaluate the firing of (James Richardson) and stated that he filed for unemployment and it had been stopped. Mrs Keith stated that she stood with the Mayor because it was the right thing to do and she is on nobody's side only what is right. Mrs Keith told the Mayor she stood with her but she is very disappointed in her.

Alderman Bowling stated that he did say that he would like to see James get his job back but he does not remember saying that he was treated unfairly.

David Smith 200 Highland Circle asked when it came to renewing the contract on the speed cameras the aldermen did not get to vote on it. Mr Smith stated that he did not feel that Ms Dulaney had the authority to renew the contract and the city may have to go back and repay it. Mr Smith asked Alderman Bowling if he found out anything about the leak detector. Alderman Bowling stated no. Mr Smith asked Vice Mayor Harrington if they had found out anything about the asbestos in City Hall. Mr Harrington stated he had not had a chance to talk to Sherry (Grubb) yet. Mr Smith stated that he was in favor of the city losing the Charter and he will do anything humanly possible to get people elected to get rid of the Charter. Mr Smith stated that the town had been operating about 30 years without a full time City Manager. We need to get somebody in here that knows how to run a town and get more business's in here. With the leak detector down, that is our most revenue and every drop of water that goes through the system we need to get paid for. Mr Smith asked if it was operational. Public Works Director Hugh Thomason stated we used it Friday.

Julie Venable Carty of 209 Smith Street Extension stated that a few months ago they voted to change the Police Department from the time clock to the time sheets and she is curious why they did it and they had problems with the timeclock and that is what happened to James (Richardson). Mrs Carty stated how do you know if they (P.D.) are late as they can write anything in there they want.

Alderwoman Cordle stated that their time is recorded by dispatch. Chief Depew stated it is by them going 10-8 thru dispatch and there are cameras at the building entrance they can verify by.

James Good Jr. 305 Jonesboro Street stated that he had made a trip Sunday to the cemetery and found that his Great Grandfather was born in this town in 1887 and his grandmother was born here in 1913 and his dad was born in 1932 and he was born in 1956 in this town. Mr Good stated that the Charter was formed in 1929. Mr Good stated that the census in 2010 for Bluff City was 1733 people and they had a little over 200 people vote. Mr Good stated that he had read about the charter being dismissed and his thinking on this is that Bluff City has a lot of history and not all is good but not all is bad. Mr Good stated that the town didn't fold when they put the 4 lane in and that is when all the businesses went astray. Mr Good stated that it was the same way in little towns for instance Erwin. Mr Good stated he had researched what would happen if this were to take place such as the county setting up a special tax group and the citizens of Bluff City would be taxed at a certain rate, those inside the corporate limits. Mr Goode stated that the county rate for garbage is about \$18, your fire insurance would probably go up for your home because the county does not maintain fire hydrants. The utility would be sold and whoever buys it will raise the rates because they have some work to do to fix it. The Police Department would go away along with the city workers. The city pays about \$3000 a month for street lighting and the county does not provide street lighting. Mr Good stated that any city properties would be sold to pay the debt that the city owes. Mr Good stated that he would like to see the citizens, the board, Police Department, city workers and the ladies in the office and everybody. Mr Good stated that we have been a town for a long time and he does not think we should just throw in the towel and go away and he would like to see everybody work together and put the city in a positive way.

Discussion / Action Resolution 2016-001

City Attorney Paul Frye read the resolution which authorizes the Police to make applications to the TML Pool 2015 – 2016 Property Conservation matching grant program. Motion to approve was made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. All in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action Notice of Violation Sewer Overflow from Igloo Pump station

Mayor Wells stated that they have to have an approved corrective action letter sent to Johnson City by February 5th. Mayor Wells read the violation letter (may be viewed at City Hall) Mayor Wells read the Corrective Action Letter (may be viewed at City Hall) Motion to approve the corrective action plan letter was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Wells asked the board to approve to pay Xylem a total of \$3,783.00 for the rental of the pump at the Igloo Pump station used after the overflow. Motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Wells asked the board to consider keeping the rented sewer pump until the renovation of the pump station is complete. One quote was from Xylem for \$2,973.60 per month. The other quote was from Rain for Rent for \$3671.10 per month. Motion to approve Xylen pump rental was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor. Motion carried.

Report from Mayor

Mayor Wells stated that she was happy to see so many people here and hopes they will continue attending the meetings. Mayor Wells thanked the board members and Sharon for all they have done in her absence. Mrs Wells stated that they continue to be concerned about the citizens and their problems.

Report from City Attorney Paul Frye

Mr Frye stated that he was reporting back to the Board on the abolition of the Charter. Mr Frye stated that it is his opinion that there is no statutory mechanism currently in place to abolish the Charter. Mr Frye read the response informing them that the Town of Bluff City is not a General Law Chartered Town but it is a Charter under a Private Act. A Charter amendment would be necessary for a legal mechanism to be set up to abolish the Charter of the Town of Bluff City, Tennessee. (Complete letter available at City Hall) Letter was mailed to residents inside the city.

Comments from Board Members

John Harrison thanked everyone for coming.

Alderwoman Madison thanked everyone for coming and apologized to the ladies that had sewer issues.

Alderwoman Cordle thanked everyone for coming. Ms Cordle stated that she had treated every citizen with respect that had contacted her and she has done everything in her power to support them and will continue to do that.

Vice Mayor Harrington thanked everyone for coming. Mr Harrington stated that they continue to work for the people and will do their best to do that.

Alderman Bowling thanked everyone for coming and stated that he hoped they could get the sewer problems resolved quickly.

Report from City Recorder/Finance Officer

City Finance Officer Sharon Greene submitted the financial reports as of December 31, 2015 for approval. The fund balances are as follows: General Fund - \$343,701.00, Sanitation Fund - \$10,741.00, Special Police Fund - \$3,904.00, Debt Service - \$176,744.00, Sinking Fund- \$3,095.00, FHA Reserve Fund- \$691.00, Water / Sewer - \$324,574.00. Total Fund Balances = \$862,450.00. Motion to approve financial report was made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. All in favor. Motion carried.

Report from Police Chief Depew

Chief Depew presented the monthly report. (SEE ATTACHED)

Chief Depew reported that the repairs on the two 2008 Dodge cruisers are estimated to be over \$3,000.00 to repair. Chief Depew stated that they needed to sale the cars instead of leaving them parked. Chief Depew reported that they are down to 4 cruisers including the Durango. He asked

that the City Recorder look into leasing or buying new ones. Mr Depew stated that they would like to consider Ford Taurus and Explorer as other agencies locally are pleased with them.

Report from Public Works Director

Public Works Director Hugh Thomason presented monthly report. They have reordered salt for the roads as they used approximately 20 to 25 tons so far. They currently have about 45 tons of salt. Mr Thomason reported that they had found 2 significant leaks.

No County Commissioners were present

Old Business- None

New Business

Mayor Wells asked if the board would like the letter that Mr. Frye read to be sent to the residents. Alderman Bowling asked Mr Frye if it was alright to send the letter. Mr Frye stated it was. Alderman Bowling made a motion to send a copy of the letter to all the citizens. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. Alderman Harrison stated that he would like to see more information go out with it. Vote went as follows: Alderman Harrison- Yes, Alderwoman Madison – Yes, Alderwoman Cordle stated that if you just send the letter people are not going to understand and it will put fear into some people that may be unnecessary fear. Alderman Harrison stated that is why he wants more information to go with it. Mayor Wells stated that some people already have a lot of fear. Alderman Harrison stated I know but exactly what is going to happen to the town if it does happen with the Charter. Alderwoman Cordle stated she would just vote – No, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Bowling – Yes. Motion carried.

Alderwoman Cordle asked if they needed to make a motion for her to look into leasing the cars for the Police Department. City Attorney Paul Frye stated no we can just check into it.

Alderwoman Cordle stated that the board instead of just one person should make decisions as to when employees are terminated. Alderwoman Cordle made the motion. Second by Alderwoman Madison. Alderman Harrison stated that if we do that it would do away with her job. Alderwoman Cordle stated her job is not just hiring and firing people. City Attorney Paul Frye stated that the parameters how you would change the Charter would have to be in her motion. Alderwoman Cordle asked Mr Frye to tell her what. Mr Frye stated it would have to be something to be drawn up and it would add an appeal level for the Board. Mr Frye stated that the appeal now is before the City Manager. Mr Frye stated a Charter change would have to be made to allow the appeal to be before the board. Alderwoman Cordle made a motion to allow the appeal be before the board. Alderwoman Madison made a second. Mayor Wells asked if they needed to wait until he drew something up. Mr Frye stated that he would rather have a vote as to whether he drew something up to add an appeal level to the board. Alderman Harrison stated you are saying it would go to the board instead of her. City Attorney Paul Frye stated right the appeal would go to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Alderman Harrison asked what does that do as far as her power to hire and fire, it just takes it away from her. Mr Frye stated it would be curtailed. Mr Harrison stated it would be just like it was before. Mr Frye stated no it has always been this way since he has been City Attorney. With a motion and a second on the floor, Vote went as follows: Alderman Harrison- Abstained, Alderwoman Madison – Yes, Alderwoman Cordle – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – No, Alderman Bowling – No. With a tie vote Mayor Wells voted –No. Motion failed.

Citizen Comments- Second Section

Carol Keith 305 Lakeview Circle stated that she is glad that the citizens have seen what has taken place. Mrs Keith asked Alderman Bowling if he would put in a motion for James (Richardson) to have his job back. Alderman Bowling stated that it is up to the Mayor. Mrs Keith stated we need help here in Bluff City because people aren't being treated fairly.

Kimberly Arrowood of 312 Harr Dr stated that we do have a lot that is wrong in Bluff City. Mrs Arrowood stated that people are making up scenarios of what's happening with this sewer. Mrs Arrowood stated that Hugh (Thomason) made the suggestion that I was doing laundry the day that the sewer overflowed and I was not doing laundry. He says it comes from my upstairs to my downstairs and my laundry room is on the lower level. Mrs Arrowood stated that she called Irene (Mayor Wells) and asked her if there was one more thing that anybody could do to help her and she said because our employee went through the insurance we can't help you. Mrs Arrowood stated I did not do that your employee did. Mrs Arrowood stated that Irene (Mayor Wells) said she had no right to do that. Mrs Arrowood stated that since your employee went through an insurance that denied my claim because of the lies that were told, and because your employee went through an insurance they can't do anything to help me. Mayor Wells stated that it was actually handled properly. Mrs Arrowood stated you told me that she had no authority. Mayor Wells stated she did not know that there was a form on file that was signed and that she had talked to you but it is in the insurance hand. Mrs Arrowood stated you think it is but it's going a little further than that, but we do need help. Mrs Arrowood stated these people are lying and they are putting the people in Bluff City behind in the drop in a bucket, we are nothing. Mrs Arrowood stated it's almost time for voting and there are some of you are not going to be sitting her, I promise you that. Mrs Arrowood stated I am well known in Bristol and I work for a well know establishment. Mrs Arrowood stated there's going to be some people not sitting here when voting comes up.

Becky Buchanan of 750 Drybranch Rd stated "You want to get rid of the Charter right". Alderwoman Cordle stated what I have said is that if the city does not start standing behind its people, I feel that some of the people up here have turned their back on the citizens. I do feel that the Charter should be dissolved if things are not going to be done. Alderman Harrison asked what proof she had that people have turned their backs on the citizens. Ms Cordle stated when you have people come in here and speak like Mrs Arrowood and the Moore's and they are treated with disrespect or anything like that, that to me looks to me like the city is turning its back on people. Alderman Harrison stated I talked to Robin (Moore) in there at least 3 or 4 days a week and she never said one word about sewer problems. Alderwoman Cordle stated that has nothing to do with me John, I am just telling you how I feel. Mr Harrison stated I have been throwed in the paper and everybody else in here has and they are saying we are doing stuff wrong and we are not. Mrs Buchanan stated you just asked to change the Charter, do you want to get rid of the Charter or change it. Alderwoman Cordle stated I am one person on this board and the other people on the board voted and they don't want to get rid of the Charter so if we are going to have a Charter there needs to be some changes in it. Mrs Buchanan asked what changes she thinks that need to be made if the Charter is kept. Ms Cordle stated the one she just spoke of. The reason she made that request was, a few months back there was a reserve officer (they are not hired they are appointed) who was in here who the Mayor had fired because something he said had hurt her feelings so she fired him and then turned around and said she was wrong and hired him back. Ms Cordle stated that in the case of James Richardson 3 people on the Board said he was wrongly fired, he should not have lost his job but she is the one that made the decision. Ms Cordle stated that she did not feel that the person that fires you and the person the appeal goes in front of should

be the same person. That makes no sense in any business. Mrs Buchanan stated that the city does not need all the bad publicity. Mrs Buchanan stated they need to work this out together. Mrs Buchanan stated that she hopes that the news media will mention the young man that spoke to them tonight about his project. Mayor Wells stated that she had fired the man and hired him back and apologized to him, because it bothered her that she would let something that was said against me make me fire somebody and she is not too big to admit that she was wrong. Mayor Wells stated that she would continue to follow the employee handbook as long as she is here.


David Harmon, 200 Holston Drive stated that in 2014 they (BMA) voted on money to fix the sewage and everything and asked why it has not been done as it was supposed to have been started this Spring. Mr Harmon stated that he read about the water rates going up and he felt like he was misrepresented in that. Mr Harmon stated that then it came out in the paper that you said if we don't do this it will go up 30 more percent just like that other group said we were going up 45%. Mr Harmon asked why they don't fix the water, quit arguing with each other and do your jobs that they run so hard to get. Mr Harmon stated to Alderman Harrison, you John, boy you were so excited to (sentence interrupted) Alderman Harrison stated I am still excited but I- Mayor Wells stated John listen he is speaking. Mr Harrison stated he's done it to me. Mr Harmon stated do the job (sentence interrupted) Alderwoman Madison stated I'm trying. Mayor Wells stated we have had a good meeting here tonight. Alderman Harrison stated that would not go on and it just went on. Mayor Wells stated she was stopping it from going on because it's not showing respect (sentence interrupted) (Alderman Harrison stated that's right) to the citizens when all of us are talking at the same time. Mayor Wells stated we need to (sentence interrupted) Mr Harrison stated it isn't respect to us when he puts us down either. Mayor Wells stated he has a right to make a comment. Mr Harrison stated not to me like he just did. Mr Harrison stated I'm done. Mayor Wells stated don't be that way. Mr Harrison stated I'm done.

City Engineer Dave Wilson with Mattern & Craig, stated Mr Harmon was correct, we had tentative plans to begin back in the Spring and we did have a signing and preliminary award from Rural Development last year to move forward with the project. Mr Wilson stated that there were some changes in the city administration and the board and they expanded the project. Mr Wilson stated that it was September 29 when Rural Development gave approval for the project and to move forward and they have been trying as best they can and hopefully they are on schedule for the pump stations. Mr Wilson stated that if anyone had any questions he would be happy to answer them and he encouraged them to have a work session to discuss what has been planned and if they want to do project meetings as they go to keep up with it and they can keep the citizens informed. Mayor Wells asked if the board would like to do project meetings. Vice Mayor Harrington stated definitely.

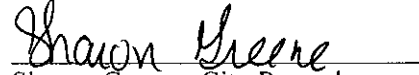
Julie Venable Carty of 209 Smith Street Extension stated she hoped John (Harrison) did not quit for good, just for tonight. Mrs Carty stated to Mayor Wells we have been friends for years and I would hope that you would take into consideration again to rehire James Richardson. Mrs Carty stated to Mayor Wells remember back when Judy the old city manager fired somebody how upset they got over it. Mrs Carty stated that it is hard to take it if the same person that fired you is the same person to decide if you are coming back or not. Mrs Carty stated that she does think that should be a board decision, but only that as she thinks the city manager should have all the rights she has. Mrs Carty stated remember how we said that before when she let Officer McClintock go, we thought it was awful. We all said that should be a board decision. Mrs Carty said she remembers the meeting that the officer she fired and brought back spoke and he was plum awful to her. It was embarrassing to listen to someone talk to her like that. Mrs Carty asked that since she took consideration to him would you take the same consideration to Mr. Richardson.

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BMA
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With no other business, motion to adjourn was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. Vote was as follows Alderman Harrison had left the podium just before the motion to adjourn. All others in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



Irene Wells, Mayor / City Manager
Attest this 2nd day of February, 2016



Sharon Greene, City Recorder