

Minutes
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Regular Meeting
July 5, 2016

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

Members present Sandra Madison, Jack Stratton, Ray Harrington, John Harrison and Richard Bowling.

Prayer was given by Reverend Ron Whitaker, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for the following:

Comments from City Engineer Randy Beckner with Mattern and Craig:

Mr Beckner reported that the pump station construction has started. Mr Beckner reported that the water / sewer plans had been approved by TDEC at the last meeting and they had received Rural Development Comments and they have addressed those comments and sent them back but the person reviewing them has been on vacation for the last two weeks but is due back either the 5th or the 6th.

Citizen Comments-First Section – Audio containing citizen comments is available at City Hall for a \$3.00 fee.

Discussion / Action – Minutes from June 7, 2016 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. Votes were as follows: Alderwoman Madison abstained. All others in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion /Action – Minutes from the June 21, 2016 Special Called Meeting

Motion to approve was made by Vice- Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Harrison. All in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion /Action – Minutes from the June 24, 2016 Special Called Meeting

Motion to approve was made by Alderman Harrison. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action -Public Hearing on Ordinance 2016-005

City Attorney Paul Frye read the ordinance, which is an ordinance naming streets Daffodil Lane and William J. Private Drive for emergency services. Public Hearing opened at 7:06 p.m. With no

comments the hearing closed at 7:07 p.m. Motion to approve Ordinance 2016-005 on second reading was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Harrison. Vote was as follows: Alderwoman Madison – No. All others in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action – Railroad property

Mayor Wells reported that Mr Miller with Norfolk and Southern Railroad contacted her again about closing the railroad crossing behind the First Baptist Church and he sent information and there is approximately 1 and one half acres of land. Mrs Wells reported that if we agree to close that crossing the property appraised at \$38,610.00 and the railroad will give us \$25,000.00 toward that \$38,610.00 and TDOT will give us a total of \$7,500.00 toward the difference which would leave us a balance of \$6,110.00 that the city would have to pay for the property out on the end of Main Street. Alderman Harrison asked why that crossing. The Mayor stated that they say that one has the most danger to it. Vice Mayor Harrington stated that there are no crossing guards at this one and Greg has tried to get the Railroad to install them and he has called several numbers but everyone tells him to call someone else. Alderman Harrison stated that he felt that the one next to the old post office would be a better one to close. Mayor Wells stated that this one was the most dangerous one is what they said to her. City Attorney Paul Frye stated that before they consider it they need a written proposal from the Railroad and whoever the players are such as TDOT if they are involved in it and you need to get that in writing, and if they move forward they will have to have an ordinance. Mayor Wells stated that she was informed by Mr Miller that anytime a crossing was closed TDOT gives a maximum of \$7,500.00 toward the purchase of land. Mayor Wells stated that she would get the information.

Report from Mayor / City Manager

Mayor Wells reported that she had attended several meetings representing the city.

She stated that everyone can see the sign out front and hopes everyone likes it. They still have to smooth the ground down and plant grass seed. Mrs Wells stated that General Shale donated the brick.

Report from City Attorney Paul Frye- No report

Comments from Board Members

Alderwoman Madison thanked everyone for coming and invited them to come back.

Alderman Stratton thanked everyone for coming out and helping us to build a stronger Bluff City.

Vice Mayor Harrington thanked everyone for coming out and said the future is looking bright.

Alderman Harrison stated that he hopes everything keeps going forward and not be negative about stuff and keep going forward and get the town like it used to be.

Alderman Bowling stated he was glad to see everyone come out tonight and hopes they will come back. Mr Bowling stated that he was glad they finally got the sign in they had been working on for last 3 or 4 years.

Discussion / Action – Financial Report – Sharon Greene – City Recorder / Finance Officer

Ms Greene reported the following balances for period ending May 31, 2016.

General Fund-\$556,342.00, Sanitation Fund - \$11,330.00, Special Police Fund -\$2585.00, Debt Service Fund - \$119,722.00, Sinking Fund - \$3095.00, FHA Reserve Fund - \$691.00, Water/Sewer Fund- \$350,394.00. Motion to approve financial report was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor. Motion carried.

Report from City Officials and County Commissioners

Assistant Chief Dunbar reported the following: (SEE REPORT)

The only training coming up is for Mark Stewart to be certified to teach the defensive driving class as the Chief is currently the only one certified.

Mr Dunbar stated that re-opening the new section of Hwy 11-E has reflected speeds at approximately 78 to 79 mph in a 45 mph zone.

Report for Public Works Supervisor

Public Works Supervisor Allen Moultrie reported the following: (SEE MONTHLY REPORT FOR JUNE 2016)

The Igloo Pump Station is under construction but all stations are operating normally.

The street department has been working on brush pickups and mowing.

They have fixed numerous leaks throughout the system, mainly due to old galvanized pipes that have corroded and laterals that have failed. We have also repaired leaking meters and setters.

Report from Water Plant Operator

Water Plant Operator Dean Fields reported the following: (SEE MONTHLY REPORT)

Mr Fields reported that the water plant is operating normal and up to state specs. Mr Fields reported that the dry weather had not affected the output of the plant as of yet, but they do have a drought management plan.

Mr Fields thanked the work crew for their promptness in fixing water leaks. Mr Fields stated that the leaks they have found have been substantial ones and the water tank is doing better now than he has seen it in 6 or 7 months.

Mayor Wells commended all the city workers for the fine job they are doing.

Report from Sullivan County Commissioner

Andy Hare apologized for not being at the BMA meetings and explained that the meeting is held at the same time the Sullivan County Executive Committee meets. Mr Hare reported that the county is working on the budget. Mr Hare stated that he does not see any tax increase coming. Mr Hare stated that the \$5,000.00 for the Bluff City Park is in the budget. Mr Hare stated that in September the School Facility Plan should be presented to them. This will affect Bluff City as part of the plan is to close Bluff City Middle School as they are wanting to consolidate all of the middle schools. Mr Hare stated that if it happens they should have it completed by approximately the Fall of 2019 or 2020. Alderman Harrison asked what Sullivan County will do with the building if the school closes. Mr Hare stated that through the years some of the properties are deeded back to the county and they will sale it or auction it off. Mr Hare stated that he did not know the location of the new site for the school. Alderman Harrison asked that they keep Bluff City in mind if they close the school.

Mayor Wells thanked Mr Hare for coming.

Old Business- None

New Business

Mayor Wells reported that our insurance company has requested that the City get quotes on cameras for the shop, water plant, office and the police department. Mayor Wells stated that she did not know that the glass in the front office was not bullet proof, and she feels they need to consider a bullet proof replacement. Alderman Harrison asked if they could consider checking on an emergency button they could hit so the police could know there is a problem. Mayor Wells

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stated that they will have to have a button underneath their desks so whoever comes in will not know they are pushing a button and all we have now is a button to push on the phone and you can't do that in front of a crook.

Citizen Comments- Second Section- Audio containing citizen comments is available at City Hall for a \$3.00 fee.

With no other business a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Harrison. Second by Alderwoman Madison. All in favor. Meeting/adjourned at 7:36 p.m.



Irene Wells, Mayor / City Manager

Attest this 5th day of July, 2016



Sharon Greene, City Recorder/ Finance Manager