

Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
Bluff City Board of Mayor & Aldermen  
August 2, 2016

Mayor Wells called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Members present were Alderwoman Madison, Alderman Stratton, Vice Mayor Harrington, Alderman Harrison and Alderman Bowling.

Prayer was given by Vice Mayor Harrington, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

My name is Gary Parker, I am the Executive Vice President of Care Centers Management Consulting, Inc. We are located at 2020 Northpark, Suite 2D, Johnson City, TN on the backside of the Johnson City Mall. We have nursing facilities in Green, Carter and Washington counties. We just delighted to be coming to this area of Sullivan county. We are building a new facility out on 394. It will be a 120 bed skilled nursing center. The name is Christian Care Center of Bristol. We are going to hire roughly 120 people.

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

Carolyn Payne 4818 Bluff City Hwy., 538-9108: As I discussed with Jack Stratton first thing I am going to ask is that you start putting back citizens comments into the meeting. Otherwise, it's a dictatorship. But I did pick up a tape. Thank you I loved the clarity of it. I especially loved the June 24<sup>th</sup> when the meeting was over and you all sat here and laughed at me about making phone calls and blocking my number. Shame on you, shame on all of you. Now let's get down to the last report. Let me know when my three minutes are up. Because I left the house so mad I left everything on. We got such a wonderful report from Dean Fields from May 24<sup>th</sup> - 27. Well not quite so. There is a twenty-six page report from TDEC. Hello. Moratorium against Bluff city's sewer. No tax. I guess that goes into phase two after a 3.6 million dollar loan. Then how is River Bluff building houses if they can't tap onto the sewer? The sewer line might be bare but I have a very clear understanding of what is in front of your house and what's required to tap into it. Now because I left all that sitting on the table I am going to miss some things. But I am going to go to M and M. You ran him off from down here. They never got any violations. You tell me how they located to another Bluff City location and got a Bluff City permit? Somebody wants to buy that property down there. You all know it and I know it and when it comes out we will all know it. And we will know how dirty you all are. Let's see if I can think of anything else in between that. Um, are you aware of the moratorium for getting sewer taps? You all sure couldn't laugh and make fun of me. Can you not answer me now? The lawsuits. Why will Poole not cover the lawsuits? Is it a negligence on Bluff City's part? Because we left \$182,000 on the table approved on September 28, 2015 with a \$850,000 grant. If you had taken that money then and started replacing the sewer pump stations you wouldn't have the lawsuits and the Moores' property would not be tore all to pieces. Now I think I have covered most of my notes. Well, anybody want to respond to anything I have said?

Alderwoman Madison stated: I do, I am sorry I wasn't making fun of you. Carolyn Payne states: You were not present. Alderwoman Madison thanks Ms. Payne. But wonderful quality. But shall we put it back about putting citizens comments back into it? And is so why not? Do you not want us to speak? Because right now I am speaking. When it goes into the minutes of the meeting it will never be heard. They will have to go down there and pay \$3.00 for it. Why?

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1. Why? And then hopefully they will know how to download it. Now I have enough good sense to download it. Oh lets speak about the 52% increase. I talked to comptroller's office in Nashville. We were investigated. Thank you. Mayor Wells states that Ms. Payne's three minutes are up. Mayor Wells asks if anyone else has a comment.
  
2. Julie Venable 209 Smith Street Ext. 538-7931- I just want to make a comment about M&M. If M&M wanted to move and was being treated so bad by Bluff City, why would they relocate to another Bluff City address? Carolyn Payne states they were run off. Ms. Venable states they did not get out of bluff City though and states they were not run off and that she did not know the whole story. The people that owned it states they have had problems with their relatives. You know what I am talking about. If I had a business and I was having such a hard time with the City. I would not move to another location that is still in the City.
  
3. Becky Buchanan 750 Dry Branch Road 276-1165 stated I think they City is a wonderful city and it does not need to be put down every time we have a board meeting. Carolyn Payne laughs. Ms. Buchanan states she will laugh in her face too. Carolyn Payne starts clapping. Mayor Wells states that was enough or you can be removed. Ms. Buchanan states that she is glad that this City is growing and that we have a new job situation coming in for the people of Bluff City to increase the revenue of Bluff City and I just want to thank the board and I am talking about all the board members and Wanda and the front office workers and Mr. Frye and Sharon Greene and all of them. I just want to thank you for all the hard work that you do for the city of Bluff City and for the police department for all the city workers. Because the police department does a good job. And I stood up for them Sunday at the Boardwalk, there was somebody downing our cops. I politely told them the truth and I just want to thank you all very much. Thank you.

Approval of July 5, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Vice Mayor Harrington Second by Alderman Bowling

Alderman Madison abstained  
Alderman Stratton Yes  
Alderman Harrington Yes  
Alderman Harrison Yes  
Alderman Bowling Yes

Approval of July 11, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Alderman Bowling Second by Vice Mayor Harrington

Alderman Madison abstained  
Alderman Stratton Yes  
Alderman Harrington Yes

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Alderman Harrison Yes  
Alderman Bowling Yes

Discussion/Action: Compass Minerals contract for salt- J. Paul Frye states, this is our yearly purchase for salt. It is 50 tons \$98.40. Mayor Wells asks for Motion to approve this contract.

Approval of Compass Minerals contract for salt  
Motion made by Alderman Bowling Second by Vice Mayor Harrington

Alderwoman Madison Yes  
Alderman Stratton Yes  
Alderman Harrington Yes  
Alderman Harrison Yes  
Alderman Bowling Yes

Discussion/Action: Rodefer Moss Co. contract for Audit- J. Paul Frye states this is the contract for our annual audit. The cost is \$30,000.00.

Approval of Rodefer Moss Co. contract for audit.  
Motion made by Alderman Bowling Second by Vice Mayor Harrington

Alderwoman Madison abstain  
Alderman Stratton Yes  
Alderman Harrington Yes  
Alderman Harrison Yes  
Alderman Bowling Yes

Mayor Wells reported the following: the sewer down in River Bluff. Albert Moretz has five places to build homes on. He was intending to build 50 some townhouses, but decided against it because of the cost of materials at this time. He is building three and he will have two more spots for two more houses but right now he is building three. The city is responsible for putting in the sewer on the property. I need permission from you all to ask Mattern and Craig if they will do a print for us to give to the bidders because the city workers cannot dig the sewer because of the fact that it is nine feet deep. We would have to have the walls. Therefore, I would like for the board to approve for me to get the engineers Mattern and Craig to draw up drawings for me to put in the paper and submit for bids. Do we have a motion.

Approval of Mattern and Craig drawings for River Bluff sewer.

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Motion made by Alderman Harrison Second by Alderman Bowling

Alderwoman Madison Yes  
Alderman Stratton Yes  
Alderman Harrington Yes  
Alderman Harrison Yes  
Alderman Bowling Yes

The board voted for us to get prices of vehicle for the police department. The board voted on the Taurus and an Explorer. They had given us prices on the 2016 Taurus and when Sharon went to talk to them about instead of getting the 2016 Taurus to get the 2017 and at that time they informed us that we could not get a 2017 because they have not made up their mind whether they are even going to build a 2017. Sharon and I talked about it. If they are no longer building them we feel like that we should possibly go ahead and get two 2017 Explorers. The Explorer is built better. Well do you want to get a car that they no longer make. It is going to make the value go down. They are still making the Explorer the Taurus is the one they are thinking they are no longer going to make. The Explorer is \$34,808.72 and the 2016 Taurus is \$29,408.72, then you have to add the light bar and the center control petition and that would make it \$5,400.00 added onto that. It would make it \$34,808.72. The Explorer 2017 is about \$3,000.00 more. Chief Depew states the drive train and the torque on the Explorer are basically the same exact thing as the Taurus. Alderman Harrison states they are all wheel drive. Chief Depew states yes and there is a lot more room inside the Explorer. He states it is the same engine as the Taurus. Alderman Stratton states that it will use more gas. He states it is a bigger engine bigger body and it will use more gas. Chief Depew states he has not checked that. Alderman Stratton states on the 2016 Taurus will still be the same warranty. They will still fix it. They are selling it so they are going to fix it right? I would think. Alderwoman Madison states that she is all for it and thinks we should get the two Explorers. Mayor Wells asks do we have a motion to change it to two Explorers instead of one Taurus and one Explorer?

Motion made by Alderman Harrison Second by Vice Mayor Harrington

Alderwoman Madison Yes  
Alderman Stratton Yes  
Alderman Harrington Yes  
Alderman Harrison Yes  
Alderman Bowling Yes

Mayor Wells states she is sorry a member of the engineering firm could not be here tonight. However, the only thing we lack down at the pump station the igloo is the motors. The motors should be here in two weeks. They are already working on the one at the bridge. It is moving along good. They think they will be on schedule and hope to finish in advance of the completion date. Right now the completion date is at the end of August or the first part of September.

I would like to ask the board to change the position for the traffic court clerk from part-time to full-time and agree to \$11.00 per hour. The person would not only be traffic court clerk but would also be utility

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clerk. We need a backup. This time has proven that we need a backup for each one of the jobs. We are trying to make sure that if somebody is out sick that we have a backup for each position.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Harrington Second by Alderman Bowling

Alderwoman Madison	Yes
Alderman Stratton	Yes
Alderman Harrington	Yes
Alderman Harrison	Yes
Alderman Bowling	Yes

City Attorney Paul Frye did not have any comments.

Comments from Alderman:

Alderwoman Madison thanked everyone for coming out and apologized to Ms. Payne for her feelings getting hurt because she felt that someone made fun of her.

Alderman Stratton was glad to see everyone here and appreciates everyone.

Vice Mayor Harrington wanted to thank everybody for coming out.

Alderman Harrison I just wish everyone would calm down and go with us. It would be easier than beating us to death all the time. We have been in here a year and I think we have come a long way in a year.

Alderman Bowling I want to thank everybody also for coming out and please come back.

Chief Greg Depew reported the following:  
(See Report)

Public Works Supervisor Allen Moultrie reported the following:  
(See Report)

Water Department Dean Fields reported the following:  
(See Report)

Mayor Wells states a tree fell at the water plant. It has been cut up and removed by outside person. On Main Street we had a tree in front of Melvin Carrier's. It was rotten. That has also been removed.

The city received a well head protection area plan approval certificate award. It is presented to the Bluff City Water Department for having successfully completed all supplementals for the implantation of the program to protect our source of drinking water. It is presented by the Tennessee Division of Water Resources. It was presented to us on July 8, 2016. The survey indicates a 97. Dean Fields presented that to the Board. We met with TDEC, they were here three days and they went over everything. She states she is proud of the employees we have here at the City and their job performance.

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County Commissioner Andy Hare was present. He states that the Sullivan County budget was approved. The tax rate stayed the same. No one has taxes going up. Commissioner Hare stated funding coming this way towards the park; helping the county to fund the Volunteer Fire Department and the Rescue Squad from the county level. It was a good year and hope things continue to move in the right direction.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for the following:

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Citizen Comments-Second Section:

Carolyn Payne 4818 Bluff City Hwy., 538-9108: I am not going to give you a pat on the back if I do not think you are doing the right thing. Include it in the minutes of the meeting. Do not make it difficult. Just go ahead and pass it and put it back in the minutes. I do want to get back to the moratorium. You are talking about laying new sewer lines at River Bluff Landing. The meaning of moratorium is ??? so how are you going to get around that? Mayor Wells asks if Mr. Frye has a comment. Mr. Frye states no. We do not even know when the moratorium is going to be lifted. It means literally, I got an email from TDEC. So there is a moratorium against the sewer taps. I mean what's the answer? Mayor Wells states, she can say one thing that if we didn't have it we wouldn't be making them. Mrs. Payne states do you all want for me to forward you a copy of the email? Does anybody need a copy of it? You all cannot just do what you want to. I mean TDEC is watching. Nashville watches. Everybody watches. Will you at least vote to include citizens comments? I think that it is a shame when they were taken out. Put it back in there. I do not understand why it was taken out to begin with.

Motion made by Alderwoman Madison Second by Alderman Harrington

Alderwoman Madison	Yes
Alderman Stratton	Yes
Alderman Harrington	Yes
Alderman Harrison	Yes
Alderman Bowling	Yes

Julie Carty 209 Smith Street Ext. 538-7393- I do agree that citizens comments should be put back in for the fact that it protects you all and it protects us from hear say. I would like to say that police vehicles need be to fully marked.

Carol Keith- did water go up again? I have been traveling the past month. My water bill is \$100.00 it is usually \$120 or \$116 a month. Ya'll are wanting to get more business in. Ya'll are going to run them out with water bills like that. I mean for two people my water bill is \$100.00. My second question is Vice Mayor I have asked you about if someone does an appeal that they would be able to come before the board. He states no, I haven't been able to I have been working extra at Ridgewood about 60 hours per week. I think it would be nothing but fair, to do an appeal, they should be able to come before the board. I understand its only eight more months before the election. Mr. Frye states we would need to have a

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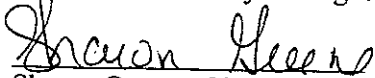
private act passed by the legislature by the state. Ms. Keith states she has a friend that is in there and she will speak with him about that. She states she would like to thank the police officers for the good job they are doing and I am thankful that the chief is doing a really good job and he now has the authority to take care of all the citizens. All the officers are doing a good job. Ms. Keith states that she sees Irene rolling her eyes and that is not very nice. Mayor Wells states she was not even looking at Ms. Keith. I am not rolling my eyes but you can say whatever you want to say. Ms. Keith states she is a victim of Bluff City along with the Moores'.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Wells. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.



Irene Wells, Mayor

Attest: This 30<sup>th</sup> Day of August, 2016



Sharon Greene, City Recorder/Finance Officer