

Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
Bluff City Board of Mayor & Aldermen  
September 6, 2016

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

Mayor Wells stated: anyone wanting to comment has three minutes in the first session and three minutes in the second session. The Board members do not have to comment unless they want to. Anyone wanting to comment must come to the podium and give their name address and telephone number. No talking out in the meeting. If you would like to talk while the meeting is going on, you must go outside or in the hallway. Others want to be able to hear. If you have a request for information, you must come to the office at City Hall during office hours 8 AM to 4:30 PM and fill out the proper request form.

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

Members absent were Alderman Stratton.

Prayer was given by Alderman Bowling, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Lucas Triplett, 396 VI Ranch Road, Bristol, TN 276-698-0522: thank you for having me tonight. I was here back in February to discuss putting a historical marker in Veterans Park to discuss the 1861 bridge burnings. Although it was approved, the location has some flaws in it. It needs to be revisited, maybe moved down to the west a little bit. We have decided that pending TVA approval it would be best to move the sign close to the gazebo down there. I have an aerial photo, and given each one of you one of those with the locations marked we hope to move them to. The first one would be put at square, two at circle, three at diamond, and four at triangle. I am willing to take questions on the locations of the markers, if you have any. I also request that you consider approving more than one of the locations in case we run into flaws with the TVA or we run into some pipes or electrical lines. If you would consider approving all four of those it would be great. That pretty much covers everything I am here for. Thank you for having me.

Mayor Wells asks does anyone have any questions you want to ask him before he sits down. If you cannot tell where the four places are, it's right by the building. There are four straight in a row. Do you want to ask them what their preference is? Mr. Triplett states "The first preference would be square. It would be easier. The civil war trails representative was down here a couple of weeks ago and said it would be easier for people in wheelchairs to roll right up and read it because they can fit right under the sign. The same with the next two down next to the gazebo as well. Those are the three top three I like. We could put it at triangle we discussed that earlier. That would be a little difficult because like I said the people in wheel chairs would have a hard time rolling up to the grass to get to those. It would work but we would prefer to put it down closer to the concrete."

Action – Approve the four sites for placement of a Historical Marker in Veterans Park.

Motion to approve made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling.  
Motion carried

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Alderwoman Madison	Yes
Vice Mayor Harrington	Yes
Alderman Harrison	Yes
Alderman Bowling	Yes

Jeff Broyles, 660 Kentucky Ave. 276-274-3548: Thank you for your time. I will be brief. I come this evening representing Bluff City Ruritan. I have a letter for you. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to give it to you yet. We would like to make a patriotic request here in town. We would like the honor and privilege of maintaining the colors here at City Hall and the Pavilion. What that would entail is our group would monitor the condition of the flag, its serviceability and if needed, we would change it with a short ceremony. We would be obligated to purchase the flags and hold the City non-labile for purchase. If the City has a special request for a flag we have removed to present to a citizen, we would be glad to do that. I will leave you with this letter for you to consider, allowing us this privilege. Thank you.

Carolyn Payne, 4818 Bluff City Hwy, 423-538-9108: I have a copy of the questions that I will read. I know that I am limited. Am I allowed to step forward? I am going to read real fast. Reference to igloo pump station corrective action plan. I know that is on the agenda to be addressed, dated 7-19-2016. Why was the pump station number 1 not completed as outlined August 1<sup>st</sup> or sooner? If that had been done the three occurrences, August 13, August 16 and August 21 at 4434 Bluff City Highway would not have happened. I was glad to see that if the substantial completion dates of November 10, 2016 that the contractor will be fined \$650.00 per day. Please note that the two pump stations pump station #1 and pump station #2 is not for repair but replacement. Reference document 3490C, updated specs 3-17-16. It is well over a 400 page document. In response to my email to Mattern & Craig they meaning David Wilson date 8-31-2016 the response I received stated "that due to ongoing litigation concerning the waste water issues the City asked that they not respond directly to inquiries related thereto. I called each board member to verify if they were aware that the City had made the request to Mattern & Craig to not respond and only two board members answered. They both said "no". I believe the request from the City to Mattern & Craig was done by Irene Wells in her position as City manager, possibly with input from our City attorney. I do not know for sure but it definitely puts the City and Mattern & Craig in a very poor light. It appears that an attempt was made to hide things from the residents, just my opinion. That might not have been such a good move on the part of the city because all of this is public information as I will mention below. I also sent an email to Cody McElroy dated 8-21-2016 which I did not receive a response to my request. I now have part of said request in PDF file 16-0405-part 1 1-7. Mayor Wells states that Ms. Payne's three minutes are up. Thank you.

Kim Arwood, 312 Harr Drive: I am here tonight to talk about the three overflows that happened on The Moores' property in the two weeks. It has been told to the media as well as many residents around here that there was clear running water coming from that manhole. Ladies and gentlemen let I give you a clear idea of what was coming out of that manhole. This is not clear running water. This is not appropriate and this is not satisfactory for just ignoring someone's property and just sweeping it under the rug like it doesn't exist. This is what the Moores' walk through. This is what they have to live with in their back yard. As someone who specializes in microbiology let me tell you that in sewer there are known and unknown pathogens floating all through this sewer. Do any of you call this clear running water? Of course not, because it is not. To say so, would make you a liar.

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I do not have every answer of what to do. But I do know this, their case is done, their case is solved. This is not clear running water. They are at risk for many diseases for many illnesses, bacteria and viruses that float through the sewer system every day. This water runs up on their property. This is what comes out of the manhole on the Moores' property. This is what comes up in their yard that Irene told everyone was clear running water. I can give you three guesses of what is floating in this. I am sure none of you would want to wash your hands in it or rub your feet in it. Now there are a small group of us yes that is known to not want to give the City a chance. But let me say this, all we want is truth and honesty and we want what is right. We are not going to stop fighting for what is right against the ones who are not doing right. We are not going away. We will be at every meeting. We will be at every open meeting that you have. We will continue to fight and we will not give up. We will not go away. In the end we will all prevail. As I say again this is not something to sweep under the rug for citizens of this city that you are supposed to be looking out for. This is unacceptable. And to tell everyone including the media that is clear running water is a lie. Thank you.

Carol Madison Keith, 305 Lakeview Circle: The reason why I am here tonight also is to stand in support of everyone, victims of bluff City that have been done wrong. Right now my concern too, is our water bills. This weekend I spoke with a lot of people that is having the same problems that I am having. My water bill is \$116.00. I have been traveling a lot. I have been out of town for the last two to three weeks. Still my water bill is \$116.00. My husband bought me a Jacuzzi for my birthday in April. It still has the tag on it because I cannot use it because of the water bill. I am wandering since the old plant is run down and wore out, is there any way that we would be able to maybe purchase water from Bristol Bluff or Johnson City? Because this is turned the citizens out. These water bills are ridiculous. I spoke with a young couple with two little children. Husband and wife trying to make it told me that their water bill is \$175.00. Then I spoke with someone they told their water bill is \$133.00. In my neighborhood there is a man up there his water bill is over \$200.00 and he had sewage in his bathtub. What else do we do? We need help. You all are bankrupting the citizens. You are not helping the citizens. I do not know how it got this way. I know it did not happen overnight. There is no way that we can keep paying high water bills. When people tell me that they have to take their medication and break it in half because they cannot afford to get the whole thirty days. Now you are not helping the citizens. If you love Bluff City, you need to love the citizens too. Because you are not helping the citizens. Then someone tell me there is going to be another increase. My son lives close the Charlotte area in the city. His water bill is only \$30.00. I carry my water bill in my purse to show people what I pay and they cannot believe it. Irene we are having all this trouble with our water. Is there anything that can be done? I would like to ask Alderwoman Madison if she would put in for a vote or make a motion that we could at least compare prices on how much it would cost to get Bristol water or Johnson City water. Something that would give the citizens some relief because we cannot afford it. People are moving out. Big businesses are shutting down because of harassment. Brian's Garage, what do you expect to see? It is a garage. Do you expect to see a flower or something in front of it instead of cars? We need help in Bluff City so is there anything that can be done? Would you put in for a motion that you would at least check on buying water from Bristol- Bluff City, Johnson City or whatever. When there is only a valve. You can sit me down all you want to but I am here to tell you I will run. I can promise the citizens I will keep those water bills down and I will not vote on an increase. It is time to clean up.

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Mayor Wells asks if anyone else has a comment. She tells Carolyn Payne that she has to wait until the second session. Ms. Payne states she thought she could speak again. Mayor Wells says, no it is one time at each session. Does anyone else have a comment?

Becky Buchanan, 750 Dry Branch Rd., 276-1165: You know people needs to work together to solve these problems. You got all this negative energy stirring up stuff. Take that energy and turn it into positive energy to help the City, to help the people in the town. At one board meeting the City had the choice raising your trash bill or let the City pick up the tab. The City picked up the tab on that so your trash bill wouldn't go up. You know if you don't like this town...which it is a great town, then move out. Go somewhere else if you do not like this town. I love this town and I do not even live in it anymore. I did for twenty-two years and I loved every minute of it. So instead of using negative energy uses some positive energy and helps everybody. Thank you.

Discussion/Action – Approve Contract for Mattern & Craig to receive bids and to perform Basic Construction Administration Services on behalf of the town.

Dave Wilson, Mattern & Craig, 423-979-2220: I am here tonight to update on our project and here to discuss another project. As being stated here, there have been overflows during the past month. Those occurred at two different rain events in August. Main reason those overflows occurred is because we had rains in excess of two inches in four hour periods. We believe we have identified what caused those. We have been working with Mr. Moultrie to identify other areas that we are going to try and take corrective action on through our next set of plans to replace sewer and we had an interim meeting, a progress meeting at the end of the week before last. The contractor when he submitted his pay request which I believe was probably before you for approval tonight. They indicated that after the first of the year we may have an opportunity to secure more grant funding to try and fix some of those problems if we can identify them. We certainly want to do that and keep an eye open and listen to the City employees where they believe that the main problems are. I wish we could find the one big issue where the rain is getting in, but it is not normally the case. With that said, we did have success this weekend. Last week the pumps were actually shipped. They will be in this week I am told. Today they are working on getting the electrical installed to the cabinet. The pumps are almost here and almost ready to go in. We will be having other corrective actions on the project but as far as I know the substantial is still complete for the same date in November. If that changes we will notify you immediately. Are there any questions regarding that? Mayor Wells asks "are you wanting to go for your contract on this one?" The second item that I have tonight is, I understand there has been a request to hook five sewer connections up in the River Bluff Landing subdivision. That subdivision is located below the igloo, so there will not be any flow from there that would go to the igloo. To that end there are three immediate connections required and five in total that may be necessary. The City cannot perform that work in house due to the construction difficulties, not having the appropriate equipment and the depth of the lines. In order to make those connections we will need to put together a contract document for Mr. Frye's approval to solicit competitive bids from contractors to make those installations. What I have in the letter to you is an outline of the scope of services on our behalf and asking that we enter into an additional agreement through our general engineering services contract to perform those services for the City. Mayor Wells asks if there are any questions.

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Motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Harrington Second by Alderman Bowling  
Motion Carried

Alderwoman Madison	Abstain
Vice Mayor Harrington	Yes
Alderman Harrison	Yes
Alderman Bowling	Yes

Discussion/Action - Minutes from August 2, 2016 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve was made by Alderman Bowling Second by Vice Mayor Harrington  
Motion Carried

Alderwoman Madison	Yes
Vice Mayor Harrington	Yes
Alderman Harrison	Yes
Alderman Bowling	Yes

Discussion/Action - Minutes from August 9, 2016 Special Called Meeting

Motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Harrington Second by Alderman Bowling  
Motion Carried

Alderwoman Madison	Yes
Vice Mayor Harrington	Yes
Alderman Harrison	Yes
Alderman Bowling	Yes

Discussion/Action - Consider appointing Jerry Malone to serve four years on the 911 Board.

The reason being the terms have been changed to a four year term. Alderman Harrison asks what were the terms before? Mr. Malone states it has been four. Right now it still has two years left. They are trying to set it up like a sheriff when he comes in office, and the county commissioner on the board and the EMA those elected people. It's got out of sequence. They are trying to come up with a plan. Right now we still have to get state approval and then the Mayor and the County Commission. This is something we are going to recommend but it may not happen. We will know for sure in a couple of months. It is still a four year term and I have served two of the four. They want to extend mine to four. You do not have to act on it if you don't want to.

Motion to approve was made by Alderman Bowling Second by Vice Mayor Harrington  
Motion Carried

Alderwoman Madison	Yes
Vice Mayor Harrington	Yes
Alderman Harrison	Yes
Alderman Bowling	Yes

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Report from Mayor/City Manager: We have been very busy in the office. I wanted to bring this to your attention. I received this from the state. It is a contract on the project, the road completion. They want the City to know that they are responsible for the signs and things in that area and I would like someone to make a motion to ask Mr. Frye to check into someone appointed to change the name out at the exchange and the Bluff City Board did not have any input into that. According to this letter, I feel like that the Board should have had some input in naming that exchange. Do I have a motion for Mr. Frye to check this out?

Motion to approve made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Alderman Harrison

Mr. Frye asks what is it he's checking out. Mayor Wells states that area was turned over to Bluff City. Bluff City has the responsibility for it. I cannot understand why someone else would have the authority to name that exchange without even considering the Board. The Board might have decided to name that same individual but I feel like that Bluff City should have had some input on that position. Mr. Frye states, we do not need to vote he will check into it.

City Attorney Paul Frye report: No report.

Comments from Alderman:

Alderwoman Madison thanked everyone for coming out and please come back again.

Vice Mayor Harrington wanted to thank everybody for coming out. We are moving forward slowly but we are getting there. I appreciate everyone for their comments.

Alderman Harrison I appreciate everyone coming out. Just be positive about stuff and not negative and it will help us help you all.

Alderman Bowling I want to thank everybody for coming out and I appreciate all the comments they are very helpful.

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)

County Commissioner Andy Hare called Mayor Wells stated he could not attend the meeting and did not have anything to report.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for the following: Old Business – None New Business - None

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Citizen Comments-Second Section:

Carolyn Payne 4818 Bluff City Hwy, 538-9108: I will pick up where I left off. PDF File 16-0405 part 2 pages 8-13 along with PDF File 16-0405. I scanned those documents and it is for what appears to be sewer lines only. So the four sets of documents, I do not know this to be a fact yet, but I am thinking that probably there is a set of documents out there for the water replacements lines and probably one for the water treatment for the water plant. I believe we already have the one for the two igloo stations or sewer pump stations whatever you want to call it. I would like to tell anybody in here if you will give me your name and email address, I will be glad to forward these documents to you. You can download them and view them for yourself. I also have a copy of the loan received from USDA rural development if anyone cares to receive that document as well. I would like to go back to what Mr. Wilson stated. We are talking about five lines. Before that goes that has to be outsourced. I would like to know the total cost to Bluff City to just add five new sewer taps. Before anybody makes a vote or a motion on that, I sure hope that there is a special called meeting on it. I want to tag in on what Carol stated. That is about the water and sewer rates. The sewer rates for 2016 water and sewer rates both are going up 9% 2016, 9% 2017, 5% in 2018 which will bring us up to a 52% increase by year end 2018. I am on Johnson City water. How would you all like to know that my last month's bill was \$20.00? Thank you. I am not being negative, I am being proactive. I think you will clearly see in all these documents that I have researched proves it. I am not negative. It's just 3.6 million dollars. That's a thirty-eight year loan with a 2year deferred and when the speed cameras goes away with an estimated this year of \$600,000.00 what are we going to use to pay off this loan? You property taxes will go up. Mayor Wells states Ms. Payne's time is up.

David Smith, 200 Highland Circle: I would like the board members to think about this for a little bit. Ray did you ever get that information I asked you about the asbestos and stuff. It's been almost a year and a half. Alright thank you for doing that. What I would ask, if we pay the cruisers off in cash because we will have to go back and look at the water tank about the time this bill comes up. With the speed cameras coming down and no money. I think we ought to try and pay for that if there is any way possible we have the funds to pay cash for those cruisers. So we don't have that extra debt on us when the cameras come down. Please pay that off.

Carol Madison Keith: I had asked if you would put in for a motion about checking on the water. Getting Johnson City water or Bristol water. Something that will be a little cheaper for the citizens. Is there any way that we can do that. I mean this is for the people, the citizens. Can we vote on it? Mayor Wells asks Mr. Frye if he has a comment on this. He states we can bring it up at the next meeting because we are already through new business. Whatever the board desire is though. Ms. Keith asks if we can do it now. These high water bills are tearing the citizens up. Also another thing the only functional thing we have going for Bluff City is the police department. It's a shame they have been trying to get these cars for I don't know how long and they are still fighting for them. What's the problem? I want to ask one more question, are you all are working for the citizen rights? Do you really thing you are helping the citizens with these high water bills? I mean Mayor Wells I have seen on the tape that you have said we could go out and get a loan. Everybody can't go out and get a loan to pay their water bill. You did say that right? I've got the tape.

Mayor Wells asks does anyone else have a comment. If you do, come to the podium.

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Becky Buchanan, 750 Dry Branch Road, 276-1165: Young man would you stand up for a minute please? Here is a young man 16 years old. He is going to do something positive for Bluff City. You know what everyone in here the board and everybody needs to follow this example. You know he is setting a fine example for everybody in here. Let's follow his lead. This is a great example of our next leaders. Thank you young man. Talking about water bills. Mr. Frye was here he read off the increases of the water bills and sewer bills. Everybody had a voice, a time to say something about it. I live outside the City. My water bill it did go up. I am not complaining. It was \$32.05. I pay \$12.00 a month for trash pickup. I had sewer put in with fill lines put in when I moved there. It cost me over \$4,000.00. I have it pumped every ten years. This time it cost me \$500.00 to have it pumped. You just figure out, you all are really lucky really truly lucky. You all are doing a great job. Oh yes there is an election coming up and by the way, the ones that's going to re-run to get in, I will support you 110%. The new ones that run, I will be behind you to tell the truth to the people and I will be running in the election. Thank you.

Mayor Wells asks if we have a motion to adjourn.

Kim Arwood, 312 Harr Drive: Some people may not want to hear what I have to say but I do thank you for stopping the hurry and trying to get this over with. I just want to let it be known that me, Kimberly Arwood, 312 Harr Drive I am going to be running in this next election because I think Bluff City needs a change. I think they are going to see me work for the citizens of this City.

Mayor Wells ask Sandra Madison to control herself. You do not know how to act. That's enough or you need to leave.

Motion to adjourn made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Alderman Harrison

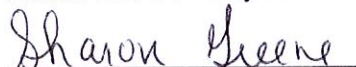
Alderwoman Madison	Yes
Vice Mayor Harrington	Yes
Alderman Harrison	Yes
Alderman Bowling	Yes

Meeting adjourned at 7:50



Irene Wells, Mayor

Attest: This 24<sup>th</sup> Day of October, 2016



Sharon Greene, City Recorder/Finance Officer





2016      Sept  
Year      Month

NUMBER OF:	CITY	PINEY	COUNTY	TOTAL
CALLS FOR ASSISTANT(S)	76	58	30	164
ISSUED CITATION(S)	38	45	0	83
WARNING CITATION(S)	10	14	0	24
PATROLED MILE(S)	2203	1849	0	4052
ARREST(S)	9	5	0	14
OFFENSE REPORT(S)	6	4	0	10
ALARM(S)	4	2	3	9
ACCIDENTS	3	7	0	10
ANIMAL CALL(S)	4	0	0	4
MSD REPORT(S)	7	3	0	10
FUNERAL ESCORT(S)	2	0	0	2
DOMESTIC ASSAULT(S)	2	0	0	2
VEHICLE SEIZURE(S)	0	1	0	1
MISSING PERSON(S)	1	0	0	1
D.U.I.(S)	0	2	0	2
DRUG VIOLATION(S)	0	3	0	3
USE OF FORCE REPORT(S)	0	0	0	0

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approved by: *Chief My Papa*

# **CITY OF BLUFF CITY**

## **Department Of Public Works Board of Mayor and Alderman Monthly Report for September 2016**

### **Sewer Department:**

The Igloo and bridge pump stations are operating along with the other two pump stations. We are still in the process of evaluating our storm water issues. We haven't found the main source of the issues yet, but currently making efforts to find them. Sewer line flushing has continued but we do ask that if you see or smell any signs of sewage please report it to City Hall promptly.

### **Street Department:**

The staff has been working hard keeping up with the brush pickup. Now that the fall season is here, we are making preparation for leaf pick up. Mowing around town will continue until the grass stops growing. In the past couple of weeks we have encountered water leaks ranging from leaking water valves, to old galvanized lines rusting to the point of much needed repair. Our approach regarding this, is to replace sections of water lines that continuesly give us issues and/or replacing leaking water valves. Road ways that have had construction due to these water leaks will be repaired in the coming weeks.

If you have any questions, please give me a call 612-4145. Thank you.

Allen Moultrie  
Public Works Supervisor

**CITY OF BLUFF CITY**  
**Water Plant & Distribution System**  
**Board of Mayor and Alderman Monthly**  
**Report for September 2016**

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**Water Plant:**

The Water plant is operating normally pumping an average of 260 thousand gallons per day. Our water tank level was at an average of 48.4 feet with 60 feet being full. In the month of October we will begin our entry point sampling which will test for numerous contaminants and plan to be finished by mid-November.

**Distribution System:**

As we continue fixing leaks in our distribution system we are finding that the majority of leaks are coming from old galvanized service lines. As we find these lines we are trying to replace as much as we can. We are in the process of painting the hydrants with 80percent being completed. In the month of September we had our 11 backflow devices tested by "The Backflow Doctor" out of Knoxville with all passing except one. The failing backflow was rebuilt and as of 9/30/16 all backflow devices are in compliance.

If you have any questions please call City Hall at 538-7144. Thank you.

Dean Fields  
Water Plant Operator  
Distribution Operator.