

Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
Bluff City Board of Mayor & Aldermen  
February 7, 2017

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

This is a business meeting. Not a court of law. No personal attacks. I welcome each of you here tonight. 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. You can be asked to leave if you are out of order. 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 Alderman Stratton, Vice Mayor Harrington, Alderman Harrison and Alderman Bowling.

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

Vice Mayor Harrington introduces Chad Lewis and Bill Short with Bluff City Volunteer Fire Department, the police department and City have done a great job working with us this year. We just wanted to give a little plaque to the City and the Police Department. You have always been there when we needed you and we want to thank you and let you know you all do a great job.

Comments from Mattern & Craig Engineer David Wilson: Thank you all for having me this evening. I have several updates. Probably most of them are the same as last month or close to it. I do have an update on the pump stations project contract 1 for the USDA Rural Development Grant/Loan. That has been completed. We have one outstanding item that the contractor is taking care of. Our final closeout meeting is next Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am here. Lewis Trivette from the USDA will be here and all the final payments. We should receive the contractor's statement of warranty and their release of liens and grant of insurance. The CMOM and CAP update worked that was commissioned. The field work has been completed, the smoke and dye tests. Many defects have been identified since the last time twenty years ago. Including a lot on Main Street and Carter Street. We are going to use that information to map those defects. Once that is completed we are going to update the PER for USDARD and possibly change our existing project or apply for additional funding. Again contract 3 we are awaiting that information to update the PER and then if we wish to include any revisions to those plans based upon that PER update we will do it with that revision. Of course the River Bluff sewer connections that was completed previously and I had reported that and was awaiting application for payment and contacted Mr. Buchanan and he said he had already made it to the City and you all had paid it. We did review the work and it was in good shape. The Mayor had asked me also she noted that she had received several calls about the signal that is in Operation on State Route 44/19 that new signal. We had Jason Carter who is a traffic engineer who does a lot of our bids he works out of our Kingsport office. He sat and observed the operation. It is not working correctly. This project was turned over by the Contractor on April 22, 2016 there is a one year warranty period. If there is any defect found with the work, I would think that we could possibly go back and try to make amends with that contractor. Micheal Dick was the contracting officer for TDOT. He has been adamant that the issue was Bluff City's. TDOT does not want to handle the issue. What we think may be happening is either the controller is not programmed

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correctly and it is skipping the phase that cuts off the left turn lane from 19 onto 44. It is not allowing the call to cause it to go back into motion since it is skipping phase 5.

Amber Torbett- As you know the Over Mountain Victory Trail Association are volunteers. They have a strong organization and a strong partnership with the National Park Service. Ms. Torbett discussed the Planning Grant for Over Mountain Victory Trail Association project. She discussed expanding the Over Mountain Victory Trail. She advised the National Park Service will fund 2/3 of the project. The remaining funding will come from pledges from surrounding communities, Abingdon, Sullivan County, Elizabethton, etc. Alderman Bowling stated to make a motion donating \$3,000.00 to the project.

Motion by Alderman Bowling. Second by Alderman Harrison  
Motion Carried

Alderman Stratton	Yes
Vice Mayor Harrington	Yes
Alderman Harrison	Yes
Alderman Bowling	Yes

Vice Mayor Harrington opened the floor for Citizen Comments-First Section.

Carolyn Payne, 4818 Bluff City Highway, 538-9108: I wish that the engineering firm had not left. I have some questions on project 2 and 3. Then resolution 2016-002 and Section 4 of that. It appears as though we are going to get a special levy tax on us. The residents there are 1700 of us. I am not quite sure I understand the \$200,000 that was water and sewer inner fund loan capital outlay extension series 2014 not to exceed \$133,334. Then you jump back to attachment one. It is an inner fund capital outlay extension note for water and sewer for general funds. December 3, 2014. Maturity date December 3, 2017. Nothing really is making sense. Let's go back to the streets. Main Street was listed as far as I can read in those documents you're going to replace water lines only on 13 streets. Main Street is not even listed. You're going to replace sewer lines on just 7 streets. I mean I have them listed here somewhere in all of this. Pineola, Lakeview, Jarrell, Bluff City Highway, Vicars, now Highland Drive is added, Highland Circle, Lakeview Circle, James Ave., Kentucky Ave., Summit Ave., Jonesboro Dr. That's 13 streets and Main Street is not even on there and that's just for water. Seven streets Highland Dr., Highland Circle, Lakeview Cir., James Ave., Kentucky Ave., Summit Ave and Jonesboro Dr. Seven streets? I mean do I have this right or do I have this wrong? We have got 1,045 water users that pay and only 665 sewer users that pay. Where is the rest of this money going to come from? Let's talk about the 400,000.00 bond that has a balloon rate on it from our last meeting of the 30<sup>th</sup> with the auditor's report. How many bonds do we have out there? How much do we owe? Vice Mayor Harrington states that her time is up. He will ask for the bond part that 397,000 what that was the first sewer part that we did. It was 356,000.00 I believe that what it was. We are just using what money we need as of right now. They haven't set up the payment plans of yet. So that balloon payment shows up on there because it has not, we haven't used all the money we are not done using all we need. So once we get done with it, everything will be set up on the payment plan. Ms. Payne asks am I correct on the streets? I mean how many streets are we doing here? Vice Mayor Harrington states we just picked the ones that had the most wear and tear and damage and dead end lines.

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Shirley Clark, 932 Lona Lane, 423-878-5707: This is just about my third visit here, so I don't understand the financial aspect of a lot of things. Just like the lady that was here a few minutes ago. If you could just explain to me how you know we have got this huge debt. However, we have got money set aside and I don't understand where that comes from and how that can be applied to things instead of being applied to some of the debt that we have? If you could just explain that to me I would appreciate it. Vice Mayor Harrington states that it was just where we were under budget. Sharon Greene states you can have money in the bank but you have to appropriate what you have coming in for the year. The payments we have to appropriate the payments each year. Not the total loan. It has to be appropriated with payments and interest. Thank you.

David Smith, 200 Highland Circle, 538-4736: Really I don't see why the citizens are paying for this period. We have had the cameras down there. All them millions of dollars we have took in we have never stuck a dime in the infrastructure and done nothing to the old water tank treatment plant out there. We were supposed to put a million and half dollars in it 9 or 10 years ago. We have'nt stuck no money in it. Now the camera money is leaving. I don't see where you going to come from. That's all I have got to say.

Discussion/Action- Open Public Hearing at 7:34 pm, closed at 7:35 pm – Ordinance No. 2017-002- Ordinance to Amend Section 15-305 of the Bluff City Municipal Code regarding speed limit (change speed limit on Hwy. 44/Hwy. 390 to 35 miles per hour)- be it therefore ordained by the Board of Mayor and Alderman and the Town of Bluff City, Tennessee that Section 15-305 of the Bluff City Municipal Code be hereby amended by changing the speed limit the stretch of Hwy. 44/Hwy. 390 to 35 miles per hour. This is ready for Public Hearing and Second Reading.

Discussion/Action- Second Reading Ordinance No. 2017-002

Motion by Alderman Bowling. Second by Alderman Stratton  
Motion Carried

Alderman Stratton      Yes  
Vice Mayor Harrington Yes  
Alderman Harrison      Yes  
Alderman Bowling      Yes

Discussion/Action- Open Public Hearing at 7:48 pm, close at 7:49 pm on Ordinance No. 2017-003 – An Ordinance to amend Title 10 Chapter 2 of the Bluff City Municipal code dealing with adequate food, adequate shade and adequate shelter for dogs and cats. Title 10 Chapter 2 of the Bluff City Municipal code hereby amended by adding the following code sections and renumbering 10-208 dealing with violations of the same. This has to do with adequate food, adequate shade and adequate shelter for dogs and cats. Any violation of this ordinance would be a fine between \$10.00 and \$50.00.

Discussion/Action- Second Reading Ordinance No. 2017-003

Motion made by Alderman Harrison    Second by Alderman Bowling  
Motion Carried

Alderman Stratton      Yes  
Vice Mayor Harrington Yes

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Alderman Harrison Yes

Alderman Bowling Yes

City Attorney Paul Frye most of the delinquent tax payers have been served. The ones that have not been served we will be publishing it in the paper soon for that.

Discussion/Action on Financial Report: Sharon Greene, City Recorder/Finance Officer

Motion to Approve Financial Report

Motion made by Alderman Bowling Second by Alderman Harrison

Alderman Stratton Yes

Vice Mayor Harrington Yes

Alderman Harrison Yes

Alderman Bowling Yes

Comments from Alderman:

Alderman Stratton- I appreciate everybody. I know I tell you every time that we meet. I really do. I like to see people come out. Whether you agree or disagree with me. Come on out. I want to look at those smiling faces and we got one ready to cheer I think. I also would like to thank the police department. I have had to use them quite a bit here recently but I appreciate them for what they do. I don't know how many of you realize there is a lot of drugs there is a lot of stuff floating around the people. Thank you.

Alderman Harrison- I appreciate everybody coming out.

Alderman Bowling- I appreciate everybody coming out. I would just like to say that I know you people is concerned about the way the City is run. I just hope we can get everything worked out. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Harrington- I appreciate everyone coming out and thank you for taking it easy on me. It could be a lot worse. So I appreciate that. Irene should be back tomorrow or Thursday.

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)

Vice Mayor Harrington opened the floor for the following:

Old Business: Working on coordinating with the State regarding trash rates.

New Business: None

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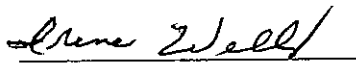
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Citizen Comments-Second Section:

Carolyn Payne, 4818 Bluff City Hwy., 538-9108: Sharon read off some of the dollar figures from the appropriated funds for fiscal year. That is Ordinance 2016-006 sinking fund that has never been in there. So I am going to repeat myself again on Resolution No. 2016-002 and read you a paragraph- the governing body of a local government hereby authorizes the levy and collection of a special tax on all taxable property of the local government over and above all the other taxes authorized by the local government to create a sinking fund to retire the notes with interest as they mature and amount necessary for that purpose. The next sentence is, the extension note shall be further secure and I am sorry I am upset tonight. The extension note shall be further secured by the revenues of the local government's water and sewer utility. Everything's going up. Not on the agenda for approving those minutes. That's not right. I please ask that Bluff City's website be fully updated. I had to get a printout of the resolutions for 2016. They are now on there. But I paid out of pocket to get them. 2015 and I did request and spoke to Sharon about this. Update 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012 same thing with the ordinances. We cannot leave anything out there to chance. When we get the reports from Chief Depew, Allen Moultrie, Dean Fields that's an attachment. It should be attached to the minutes of the meetings and I want it that way. I also want to be able to fill out and file a request form online. We do have an age of technology. My experience right next door of being escorted out by the Police was not a good experience. Only because I went in there to pick up a request form. Now I want to send it in via email and get my response via email with attachments. Can you make that happen?

Becky Buchanan, 750 Dry Branch Rd., 276-1165: I do not have a comment but I have a question. The road in front of the middle school where Jack Stratton lives at. In the afternoons there is traffic where parents are picking up their kids. On both sides of the road. It is all the way from Goods Trailer Park all the way down to the Methodist Church. I went down through there the other day and I thought what if the rescue squad had to come up through here or fire department or if there was an emergency. They could not get those vehicles up through there. Is there something you all can do about that? They are parking on both sides of the road all the way down to the Church. Is there anything the City can do? Vice Mayor Harrington states they will talk to Chief about it and see what we can do. There has to be a safer way for them to pick up their kids.

Motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Harrison. Second by Richard Bowling. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm.

  
Irene Wells, Mayor

Attest: This 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017

  
Sharon Greene, City Recorder/Finance Officer



# Bluff City Police Department



MONTHLY REPORT  
Feb-17

Year                      Month

NUMBER OF:	CITY	PINEY	COUNTY	TOTAL
CALLS FOR ASSISTANT(S)	75	50	6	131
ISSUED CITATION(S)	51	35	0	86
WARNING CITATION(S)	21	15	0	36
PATROLED MILE(S)	2852	2389	0	5241
ARREST(S)	3	4	0	7
OFFENSE REPORT(S)	6	10	0	16
ALARM(S)	6	11	0	17
ACCIDENT(S)	3	5	0	8
ANIMAL CALL(S)	4	0	0	4
MSD REPORT(S)	4	1	0	5
FUNERAL ESCORT(S)	2	2	0	4
DOMESTIC ASSAULT(S)	1	0	0	1
VEHICLE SEIZURE(S)	1	0	0	1
MISSING PERSON(S)	1	0	0	1
D.U.I.(S)	1	0	0	1
DRUG VIOLATION(S)	3	1	0	4
USE OF FORCE REPORT(S)	0	0	0	0

approved by: *Chief Greg Popen* Date: 3-6-2017

# **CITY OF BLUFF CITY**

## **Department Of Public Works Board of Mayor and Alderman Monthly Report for February 2017**

### **Sewer Department:**

The pump stations at all locations are operating in a normal manner. I am sad to report that on March 1 we did have a sewer overflow at the manhole at the location of 4434 Bluff City Highway. We received over 1.77 inches of rainfall in an hour time. Resulting in a overflow that occurred from the time of 2:50pm and 5:30pm. All pump stations during this event were operating. The volume of storm water we received into the system could not be conveyed from the 44 "igloo" pump station. Resulting in a backup in the interceptor to the station, which surcharge at the upstream manhole at 4434 Bluff City Highway. The City and Mattern and Craig are still conducting field investigations to identify the sources of our wet-weather inflow and infiltration. We are working towards a solution to these problems with the planned sewer improvements with the funding assistance of USDA-Rural Development, which is now underway.

### **Street Department:**

The staff has been working hard keeping up with the brush and leaf pickup, we would like to thank the public for keeping brush and leaves placed in area's easy to access this helps keep workers safe. We have started painting doors and inside of bathroom at boardwalk, work there will continue as weather permits.

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 February 2017

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Water Treatment Plant: During the month of February we treated an average of 257,000 GPD. Our water tank level averaged out at 45.7 feet for the month of February. We received our sample monitoring plan from TDEC and the samples we are required to take as follows

- Sodium
- Synthetic organics
- Volatile organics
- Nitrate

Although we have until 2019 to collect these samples we are planning to collect The majority in 2017.

Water Distribution System:

In the distribution system we are focusing on our leak detection program, in which have found a few small leaks and repaired them. We still could have more leaks so I would ask the citizens to report any running water or anything unusual. Bluff City is not required to sample for lead until 2018 which means our lead and copper results are well below the limits set by the EPA.

If you have any questions, please contact City Hall at 423-538-7144

Dean Fields  
Water Plant Operator  
Distribution Operator