

Minutes
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Regular Meeting
November 5, 2019

Mayor Wells called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Wells stated this is a business meeting not a court of law. Mayor Wells welcomed everyone and stated that anyone wanting to comment has 3 minutes in the first session and 3 minutes in the second session. Come to the podium and give your name address and phone number. Board members do not have to comment during Citizen Comment's session, unless they want to. Board members raise your hands to be recognized as this will eliminate interruptions. No talking during the meeting. If you want to talk while the meeting is going on you must go outside or to the hallway. Others want to be able to hear. You can be asked to leave if you are out of order. Once the business session starts you will not be able to interrupt, you will need to wait until your second session. 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. Monday thru Friday and fill out the proper papers.

Members present were Carol Keith, Jeff Broyles, Ray Harrington, Eric Ward and Richard Bowling.

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

Mayor Wells opened the floor for the following:

Citizens Comments – First Session – None

Discussion / Action – Minutes for Regular Meeting – October 1, 2019

Motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderwoman Keith. Vote was as follows: Alderwoman Keith – Yes, Alderman Broyles- Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Ward – Yes, and Alderman Bowling – Yes. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action – Cox Disposal Contract – Extension thru June 30, 2020

Motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Broyles. Vote was as follows: Alderwoman Keith – Yes, Alderman Broyles- Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Ward – Yes, and Alderman Bowling – Yes. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action – Following Non-Profit Groups

City Attorney Paul Frye stated that this is for Non-Profits that they have already appropriated the money for in the budget. We have to do a Resolution when the money is released to them. Mr Frye stated that this would be Resolution No. 2019-007 thru Resolution No. 2019-018. The following are the names and the amounts. Bluff City Fire Department- \$10,000.00, Piney Flats Fire Department - \$2,000.00, Bluff City Senior Citizens - \$500.00, Second Harvest Food Bank - \$500.00, Friends of Thomas Memorial Library - \$1,000.00, Bluff City Community Aide - \$1,000.00, Children's Advocacy Center of Sullivan County - \$500.00, Bluff City Rescue Squad- \$2,000.00, Boone Lake Association - \$500.00, Keep Bristol Beautiful - \$500.00, Bluff City Boy's and Girl's Club - \$500.00, Over Mountain Trail- \$1,000.00. Motion to approve the afore- mentioned resolution's was made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. Vote was as follows: Alderwoman Keith – Yes, Alderman Broyles- Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Ward – Yes, and Alderman Bowling – Yes. Motion carried.

Report from Mayor / City Manager – Irene Wells

Mayor Wells reported that we have \$35,040.00 in the Home Consortium and in the homeowners rehab we have \$92,143.39. Mayor Wells stated that they have 3 people being considered and they have moved to one of them to get the information they need to start on the house. By only having \$35,040.00 we know that will not be enough money for rehab, therefore we can move the homeowners into rehab if we don't have enough money for the 3. There is a process that has to be gone through.

Report from City Attorney – Paul Frye

Mr Frye reported that we have collected about \$10,000.00 in delinquent taxes this last month. Mr Frye stated that he plans on giving them a report at the December meeting as there have been questions asked about liquor stores in the Town of Bluff City and liquor by the drink in Bluff City.

Report from City Recorder / CMFO – Sharon Greene

Ms Greene presented the following fund balances as of September 30, 2019: General Fund – \$1,593,562.00, Sanitation Fund - \$42,170.00, Special Police Fund - \$12,497.00, Debt Service Fund - \$121,500.00, Sinking Fund - \$ 3,095.00, Water / Sewer Fund- \$635,733.00. Motion to approve the Financial Report was made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. Vote was as follows: Alderwoman Keith – Yes, Alderman Broyles- Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Ward – Yes, and Alderman Bowling – Yes. Motion carried.

Comments from Board Members

Alderwoman Keith thanked everyone for coming and stated that if she could help anybody as long as it is right, she will stand up, speak up and speak out for what's right. Mrs Keith stated if you need me just call me and if you call and leave a message on my phone, do not call and leave a nasty message on my phone, but anytime I can help, if I don't have an answer I will try to find the answer. God bless you.

Alderman Broyles thanked everyone for attending. Mr Broyles stated I remain at your service and excited about the future and the welfare of our town. Some wonderful things are happening now, a little slower than I like sometimes.

Vice Mayor Harrington thanked everybody for coming out. Like Jeff said we are moving forward, but it does take time. I have been here 6 years now. But we are getting there and getting things done. I appreciate everybody.

Alderman Ward thanked everyone for coming and stated bundle up this weekend it's going to get cold.

Alderman Bowling thanked everyone for coming. We are moving along and things are looking up. Thanks for coming.

Report from City Officials and County Commissioners

Mayor Wells reported that Police Chief Depew is out of town at a class. Mayor Wells read the monthly report for October 2019. SEE ATTACHED

Report from Public Works Supervisor – Allen Moultrie

Mr Moultrie presented the monthly report for October. SEE ATTACHED

Mr Moultrie reported that during the last rain event they may have found the location where they may be taking on water. We are investigating it and hopefully this will be a solution to our issues regarding the pump stations.

Mr Moultrie reported that during their routine flushing of the sewer lines they are still finding wipes and grease build up.

The staff has been working diligently to keep up with the brush and leaf pickup.

Alderman Bowling asked Mr Moultrie if the line he was investigating was found during smoke testing. Mr Moultrie stated that he thinks this line is partially filled so we probably would not have seen the smoke. During the last rain event they popped open a couple of manholes and it looked like someone had a fire hydrant wide open. We will continue to investigate. Alderman Ward asked how the smoke testing turned out. Mr Moultrie stated we are still currently working on it. Alderman Ward asked if the engineer had said anything else about taking the line off the igloo and routing down the river road. Mr Moultrie stated he has not spoken to him in detail, but in his opinion that will not solve the issue. Alderman Ward asked about the dip in the road going toward the old 84 Lumber where someone had put concrete in the ditch. Mr Moultrie stated he knew what he was talking about but it was not us who put the concrete there. Mr Ward asked if there is a culvert under the road there. Mr Moultrie stated that he believes there is one or used to be one there, but it is not something the city did. Mr Ward stated so that would be something to talk to TDOT about. Mr Moultrie stated that is a state route. Alderman Broyles stated that he had questions about the curbing on Highland Circle, but he would get with the City Manager about it.

Report from Water Plant Operator – Tina Grindstaff

Mrs Grindstaff stated that the Water Plant is running good but there are improvements that need to be made. We are buying minimal water from Bristol – Bluff City Utility. The only time we have had to purchase is when we have had an extremely high rain event. We are looking for leaks in the distribution system and they are about to start another cycle of going thru to see if we can find more leaks. There are some leaks in the booster pumps that I am looking at trying to get some re-piping done. Alderman Ward stated weren't they supposed to map that or has it not happened yet. Mayor Wells stated I haven't heard back from the grant. I don't know who will receive the grant, they said we had a good chance. There were several people that applied. Alderman Broyles stated to Mrs Grindstaff that it was a pleasure to meet her and asked about how many gallons we are putting out on average per day. Mrs Grindstaff stated about .24 million gallons a day.

Report from Sullivan County Commissioners – None Present

Old Business

Alderwoman Keith stated that she had a lot of citizens complaining about fireworks. Is there anything that can be done about that, as they said the fireworks have been landing on their homes. Mayor Wells asked City Attorney Paul Frye to comment on it. Mr Frye stated are you talking about regulation of fireworks or destruction of property. Mrs Keith stated probably a little bit of both. Mr Frye stated that there is an ordinance about firing missiles. Mrs Keith stated maybe we need to check on enforcing it. Vice Mayor Harrington stated year round or just during the 4th of July. Mrs Keith stated this is like every night, sort of a form of harassment. City Attorney Paul Frye stated that in Bluff City we do not have any regulations on fireworks. Mayor Wells stated that they have been going by Sullivan County's. Mayor Wells stated that when the Chief comes back we will have him discuss it. Alderwoman Keith asked if we have a site set up for citizen's concerns such as for emails for people who can't come to the meetings. Mayor Wells stated that if the aldermen are in agreement they might get in touch with them about their concerns and the board members can bring it up at the meeting. Vice Mayor Harrington stated, present it on behalf of them. Mayor Wells stated yes. Alderman Broyles stated maybe we should look into posting an email address online for us. Mayor Wells stated we can do that, no problem. Alderman Broyles stated that the state and county officials all have e-mails. Vice Mayor Harrington stated it would be good to put faces to complaints because sometimes they tell us stuff and don't show up at the meeting. This way you have it in written form in a way. City Attorney Paul Frye stated that everything on that email address that you post on the city website is public record. Alderman Broyles stated including your response. Alderwoman Keith stated you have to be real careful about that because sometimes people may not mean to but they will continue out of being ugly. Mayor Wells stated that you have to have someone that is going to do it and Sharon and I are totally covered up. Mrs Keith stated someone left a message on my phone and my grandchild heard it and I didn't appreciate that. Mayor Wells stated that's what you open yourself up to, but if you all agree to this then you are going to have to be prepared for what it brings.

New Business

Vice Mayor Harrington stated you know where Allen brought up with the wipes and grease and stuff, can we put that on our water bills. Mayor Wells stated we might be able to squeeze it on but I may have some other things that need to go out to the citizens and I thought we could get it out next week. Mr Harrington stated that would be good because they will have it in hand and have to look at it.

Vice Mayor Harrington stated we had some concerns with locations for the storage building. Have we looked into possibly moving it. Mayor Wells stated we decided that would probably be a bad choice. We want to try to be able to get the Middle School. Mayor Wells asked if everyone on the board would agree that they would want us to go after seeing if we could get that building. Alderman Broyles stated I totally agree. I know there will be expenses involved but if that building could be utilized for that and other purposes, occupational and community purposes, it would be a wonderful thing for the town. Mayor Wells stated we need to come up with a real plan as to what we want to be in the building. With the new a cafeteria and the gym there are a lot of things we could do and charge for.

Vice Mayor Harrington stated we had discussed the war memorial and I will let Jeff speak on that. Alderman Broyles stated that he had secured an engineering firm from Roanoke Virginia that will draw our perspective plans for our sites. Mr Broyles stated I have not spoken publicly about the 3 sites that have been mentioned but I was able to secure the firm, pro-bono to do the drawings. I will be coming back and soliciting the town family's opinion on where they feel they would best be served by the memorial. That is a huge cost savings for the town. Normally drawings of that nature would be very expensive in nature. I think in the next 30 days I should have more information to offer on prospective sites.

Vice Mayor Harrington stated that one other thing they talked about was the McClelland Street no parking on the grass, but I was told that we were not allowed to do those signs, correct.

Alderwoman Keith asked about the memorial for Chief David Nelson and asked if they could have a picture on the wall as he worked for the city for many years and Judy Dulaney in memory. People may have disagreements but right is right and wrong is wrong. Do you all see a problem with that? Mayor Wells stated I think we should have a workshop to have some guidelines. Mrs Keith stated we did have a workshop because Vice Mayor Harrington conducted it. Mayor Wells stated we need to go into more depth. You have to have a plan. You can't just say these two people, you have to say what we are looking at, so we won't have citizens upset because we did something like that. Alderman Bowling stated that there was a lot of other citizens that have done a lot for the city too, if you want to put them all on there. Mrs Keith stated I understand what you are saying but I know you and Ms Dulaney used to be good friends. Mr Bowling stated yes we were. Mrs Keith stated the thing about it she had been here like 30 years. Mayor Wells stated you shouldn't let it enter into if you like this person. Mrs Keith stated that has nothing to do with it I am talking about in memory. Mayor Wells stated I know you are but you still need some guidelines. Alderman Bowling stated it shouldn't be anything personal. Mayor Wells stated right. Alderwoman Keith stated Alderman Bowling it's nothing personal about it. It's the right thing to do. Alderman Bowling stated some people might take it to that effect and it might be. Mrs Keith stated some people might think that you're saying this because you are afraid somebody's going to get mad. I just asked a question. Can we have a meeting where we can talk about it? Mayor Wells stated sure.

Citizen Comments – Second Session

Bob Slagle stated I have 30 rental apartment units on Ridgeview Circle not far from here. Mr Slagle stated you asked me to come tonight and I was not prepared. Mayor Wells stated no I said if you wanted to come tonight I wouldn't be upset about you coming. Mr Slagle stated I wasn't coming but I had a tenant call me just an hour ago on a bill that's been paid, never been late, they cut the water off and put a lock on it. I knew you were here tonight and I wanted to see if they can get the water back on, and I am right. Mr Slagle stated unit #20. Mayor Wells asked Public Works Supervisor Allen Moultrie if he wanted to make a comment on what the problem is that we have. Mr Moultrie stated if they are on the turn off list for non-payment and the payment was not received between 8:00 this morning and 4:00 this afternoon, they won't be turned back on until tomorrow morning. Mr Slagle stated I disagree I am in the right, I think there is an error, I did bring the check in. I think Wanda or Sandy picked it up. I am not here about the other unit that has overage, I wanted to get on the agenda for next month because I am not prepared to discuss it. I want to discuss getting this lady's water back on as it is not delinquent and it was pair

and it is cut off. Mayor Wells asked when it was paid. Mr Slagle stated today and it was not late it was on time. I paid for unit 20 and unit 10 on the same check and they did come through, has #20 been turned off because #10 was not caught up. Alderman Bowling asked if they were both on the same check. Mr Slagle stated yes but the stubs were with it and it was written on the check. Mayor Wells stated that's a total bill that you pay, it's not a single bill, it was together. Mr Slagle stated it was for 2 units. Mayor Wells stated I know but it's together. Mr Slagle stated yes and that is why I don't understand why #20's water got turned off. Mayor Wells stated you pay a full bill we don't single them out because they are not paid that way. Mr Slagle stated I had 2 receipt stubs in there mam. Mayor Wells stated did anybody contact you and let you know anything about it. Mr Moultrie stated (unclear) I don't mind cutting it back on. Mr Slagle stated if you would look at her records and see that would please me to no end to get her water back on. Alderwoman Keith stated you have your receipts right. Mr Slagle stated no I paid by check and put the stubs in the envelope and put it in the window to Sandy and I ask her what had been worked out on the #10 unit, the one I am going to appeal, and she said you need to talk to her (Mayor Wells) which I did. She told me what she thought, but that is another situation. I am down here now because I knew you were having a meeting tonight and I wanted to get this woman's water turned back on, because it was a mistake for hers to be turned off. Mayor Wells stated Mr Frye. Mr Frye stated we have to follow the ordinance and I don't know what you are talking about appealing. Mr Slagle stated #10. Mr Frye stated we just follow the ordinances. Mr Slagle stated I wanted to get on the agenda for next month. Mr Frye stated there is no appeal to this board. Mr Slagle stated I wanted to show my proof of what we discussed today. Mr Frye stated there's no appeal sir to this board. Mr Slagle stated I am here tonight because #20's water is off and it shouldn't have been. Mr Frye stated that is something that will have to be checked into. Mayor Wells stated I will have to check into it in the morning. Alderwoman Keith stated he said he paid the bill. Mayor Wells stated I don't know what time he paid it. Mr Slagle asked the mayor what time they had their discussion today wasn't around lunch time or after. Mayor Wells stated it was way past lunch. Mr Moultrie stated that no meters that were on the list were turned off before lunchtime. Mr Slagle stated #20 should not have been on the turn off list. Alderman Ward stated to get on a turn off list, are you already late. Mr Moultrie stated for non- payment yes. Mr Ward stated if my bill is due the 15th and I come in the 16th you are not going to turn my water off on the 16th, I guess you get another notice that your bill is late. Mayor Wells stated no you don't get another special notice because on the water bill it tells you when it is due. Alderwoman Keith stated I think what he is saying is turn off is on the 15th, correct. So it don't turn off until the 16th. Mr Moultrie stated that our turnoff is initially supposed to be on the first of the month. We read meters on the 15th of the month. Alderman Ward stated you get 15 days after the due date is that how it works. Vice Mayor Harrington stated so it was already 4 days past the turn off date even if it was paid today. Mr Slagle stated I don't think it was, I ask for somebody to look at the records and if I am wrong I will apologize. Mayor Wells stated that the turn off is actually the first of the month. Alderwoman Keith stated this should be easy to solve. Did you say you talked to Sandy? Mr Slagle stated when I come through the drive-through I had the payments in an envelope. Wanda came to the window and turned around and called for Sandy and Sandy walked to the window and took the envelope. Vice Mayor Harrington stated if it is on the turnoff list it was for last month's bill. Mr Slagle stated the turnoff for #10 I agree with that because I just paid the minimum on it. Mayor Wells stated we don't single people out we try to treat everybody the same. Alderman Ward said in Johnson City if it's coming up and they are going to turn your water off, they send you a red letter as another reminder. Mayor Wells stated they do send a red card. Mr Moultrie stated you said it's lot 20. Mr Slagle stated yes. Mr Moultrie (while viewing

the cut off list) stated I actually don't see lot 20 on this, so it is possible they may have been turned off by mistake. Vice Mayor Harrington stated I'd say it was conjuncted with unit 10, I'd say where it was on one check instead of 2 separate checks. Mr Slagle stated the numbers were clear on the top. Mr Harrington stated you need to write 2 separate checks. Mr Moultrie stated I can get you turned back on shortly. Alderwoman Keith stated I would like to apologize to you for what has happened. Mayor Wells stated Sandy actually does those so she doesn't usually make a mistake. I am surprised that whenever you came and talked with her that she did not look at the list. Mr Slagle stated she did tell me #4 was turned off and we know the reason for that.

With no other business a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Alderwoman Keith. Vote was as follows: Alderwoman Keith – Yes, Alderman Broyles- Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Ward – Yes, and Alderman Bowling – Yes. Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.



Irene Wells, Mayor / City Manager

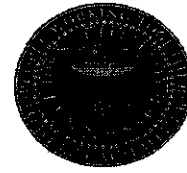
Attest this 5th day of November, 2019



Sharon Greene, Recorder/CMFO



Bluff City Police Department



MONTHLY REPORT
 2019 October
 Year Month

NUMBER OF:	CITY	PINEY	COUNTY	TOTAL
CALLS FOR ASSISTANT(S)	62	96		158
ISSUED CITATION(S)	35	97		132
WARNING CITATION(S)	15	28		43
PATROLED MILE(S)	1978	3413		5391
ARREST(S)	2	2		4
OFFENSE REPORT(S)	1	2		3
ALARM(S)	1	4		5
ACCIDENT(S)	2	5		7
ANIMAL CALL(S)	3	1		4
MSD REPORT(S)	5	3		8
FUNERAL ESCORT(S)	2			2
DOMESTIC ASSAULT(S)	1	3		4
VEHICLE SEIZURE(S)				
MISSING PERSON(S)				
D.U.I.(S)		1		1
DRUG VIOLATION(S)				
USE OF FORCE REPORT(S)				

approved by: Asst. Chief Date: 11-4-2019

CITY OF BLUFF CITY

Department Of Public Works Board of Mayor and Alderman Monthly Report for October 2019

Sewer Department:

The sewer pump stations are operating well, with there being 1 overflow on October 31, 2019. During this past rain event we have located an area of interest that may be the cause of these overflows. At this point we are currently investigating the issue and hope to find a resolve to the issue as soon as possible.

In the process of the crews flushing sewer lines, we are continuing to see lots of wipes that have been flushed throughout town, along with massive swaths of grease build up.

Street Department:

At the current moment the staff has been working diligently trying to keep up with the leaf and brush pick up throughout town. As a reminder work orders will be responded to first, before all others.

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

Allen Moultrie
Public Works Supervisor