

Minutes
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Special Called Meeting
December 23, 2019

Mayor Wells called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

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

Alderman Bowling was absent.

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

Mayor Wells opened the floor for the following:

Citizen Comments – First Session – None

Discussion / action – Sewer / Water Project Information – Dave Wilson

City Engineer Dave Wilson with Mattern & Craig stated that he was going to go over our USDA Project and some other projects. Mr Wilson stated we are in the middle of our USDA project and have completed contract 1. The project consisted of 3 different projects and contract 1 was pump station replacement. We ended up also having to replace the force main from the igloo to Lakeview Drive. It was substantially complete in December of 2017 and finalized in 2018 with a total bill of \$452,555. Iron Mountain Construction Company from Mountain City had worked on that job.

We then went into contract 2 which is the water and sewer system improvements project. The agreement was entered into on May 21, 2018 and was substantially completed on July 23, 2019. With this contract approximately \$1,914,821.00 funds were set aside in Rural Development monies for a loan for the town and as of date of substantial completion with the approval of all the project activities to date we had a funding balance of \$134,695.74 on that project.

The third project will be the Water Treatment Plant improvements. I feel we have arrived at a scope for the work that will be the most beneficial to the town. The day to day operations of the plant are not as streamlined as it should be. There are numerous issues and they all come back to the actual control and running of the plant. We are restating in a PER 910 revision for Rural Development that we want to fix controls and commands of the water plant so it will operate automatically.

Mr. Wilson explained the city sewer flows to the lift stations at the bridge, the igloo and the garage pump. Currently approximately 90% of the flow goes to the igloo pump. Alderman Ward stated his concerns of over loading the igloo station. Mr. Wilson stated that the proposal he had presented to them was to redirect the flow from the garage pump's force main away from the igloo and send it into the Lakeview line. Alderman Ward asked if the garage pump station is all gravity or is it pumped. Mr. Wilson stated it is pumped to the top of the hill and then gravity flows to the igloo station. Alderwoman Keith stated we have spent a lot of money and she did not know we were still having overflows. Mr. Wilson stated he thought there had been one. Alderwoman Keith asks if the repairs would stop the overflows. Mr. Wilson stated he could not say there would never be another overflow. Allen Moultrie stated he believes some of the issues he and the workers have recently found shows that large amounts of storm water (in a short time) is contributing to overflow not the sewer. Alderwoman Keith stated she wants the citizens to know the Mayor and the Board of Alderman are trying to get these problem solved.


Mr. Wilson stated that on December 3rd they met with TDEC and I feel that they were in agreement with the program we had proposed including what we have done to date and the replacements that we are proposing but don't have funding for it. Mr. Wilson stated that he has sent these items to RD (Rural Dev) and if they have funding available there won't be a hang up, it will go forward. Mayor Wells stated Senator Lumberg helped us the last time we had to have some approvals that when you get to that point, I think he will help us again. Mayor Wells stated when we were talking about a holding tank, do we have the space. Mr. Wilson stated they would have to do a survey but he did not think that we had the space on that side of the road. Alderman Ward asked how big the tank was at the igloo. Mr. Wilson stated I think it is a 12 foot wet well. Alderwoman Keith stated we need to find funds to stop sewer overflows. Mayor Wells stated purchasing a pump truck also was discussed at the TDEC meeting. Vice Mayor Harrington asked if we have the funding to do either of these projects. Mr. Wilson stated no we do not. The funding is not available for the three projects that I put in front of you tonight. Mr. Wilson stated that the garage pump station construction and the force main redirect total construction estimate is \$164,000. Mr. Wilson stated we were hoping that TDEC would come back and have some package available. I think they will get back to us. Vice Mayor Harrington asked have we submitted these to TDEC for possible funding. Mayor Wells stated we have to wait for an answer back from them. Mr. Wilson stated they do have copies of the information. Mr. Wilson stated I would consider this an aggressive approach to your problem.

Vice Mayor Harrington stated as far as working on the Water Treatment Plant, how is it going. Mr. Wilson stated as far as the actual work it will not be Mattern & Craig it will be a firm called Lord & Company. They are experts in the controls and operations. Vice-Mayor Harrington asked if they had a start date. Mr. Wilson stated he indicated to me that once our PER is approved he thinks he can have the document in 30 days. Mr. Wilson stated what is set aside in the USDA monies is about \$450,000.00. Vice Mayor Harrington asked if that included the extra \$134,000.00. Mr. Wilson stated no that is in addition to it, so over all everything to date is probably \$700,000.00 left.


Vice Mayor Harrington asked what the potential cost for man holes. Mr. Wilson stated it is all based on depth and we generally figure a 5 foot man hole to be a standard and we will usually use \$5,000.00 for that. Mr. Harrington asks is that something we could do. Public Works Supervisor Allen Moultrie stated I firmly believe that every little bit is going to count. Anything we can get done beyond what is going on with the USDA project will be the most responsible steps going forward. Vice Mayor Harrington asks if the men could set them Mr. Moultrie stated some of the shallow ones.

Mr. Harrington stated I did not know if we had money that we could afford ourselves to buy one or two here and there and set them ourselves. Alderman Ward asked about sealing up the manhole lids, stating he has seen water running across it when we have a big rain. Mr. Wilson stated that is water and air tight covers and you could do that. They are probably \$800 ea. Alderwoman Keith stated maybe we need to do an evaluation on some of the things we can do ourselves. Allen is very knowledgeable. Mr. Wilson stated that's part of your CMOM that you have committed to do. We need to continue the smoke testing and camera work, as we are about halfway done. Camera testing is the most accurate. Alderman Ward asked if that is something that we can hire out. Mr. Wilson addressed Allen Moultrie stating you all can actually do the camera now. Mr. Moultrie stated they could. Alderman Ward asked do we have a camera. Mr. Moultrie stated yes. Mr. Wilson stated it would be good to dedicate about 16 hours a week doing that, but finding that time is just about impossible. Vice Mayor Harrington stated this is a good time of year while we are not having to mow and everything. Alderman Ward asked Mr. Wilson what the game plan is and what is his recommendation? Mr. Wilson stated we need to continue with the way Allen has been doing and he will find more issues as we go. Vice Mayor Harrington asked which he felt should be the first project when funding is available. Mr. Wilson stated the pump station. Mayor Wells stated on Main Street, we have got to get that work done too so how come we can't have two things going at one time. Mr. Wilson stated you can. Mayor Wells stated it may be cheaper to have both projects going at the same time. Alderwoman Keith asked if they could have a workshop and discuss some things that maybe the guys could do or if you have to hire somebody part time. Mayor Wells stated we can have a workshop. Public Works Supervisor Allen Moultrie stated there is a lot that we can get done in house. It is all a matter of acquiring the materials and getting to it. Mayor Wells asked City Recorder/CMFO Sharon Greene if she had any comments on anything. Mrs. Greene stated that on the schedule she gave Mr. Wilson, the sewer going to Bristol is down below what we have had in the past. Mr. Wilson stated that tells you that the work that we did has really made a difference. Alderman Ward asked if they could look at getting a pump truck. Mayor Wells stated we can look at it but TDEC is looking at it for us and we should know something from them by the first of the year. Mr. Moultrie stated having a truck would be a big help as it takes at least 30 sometimes 40 minutes for a pump truck to arrive.

With no other business a motion to adjourn was made by Alderwoman Keith. Second by Alderman Ward. Vote was as follows: Alderwoman Keith – Yes, Alderman Broyles – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Ward – Yes. Meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.


Irene Wells, Mayor / City Manager

Attest this 23rd day of December 2019


Sharon Greene, Recorder / CMFO