

Minutes
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Special Called Meeting
March 2, 2020

Mayor Wells called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

Mayor Wells opened the floor for the following:

Citizen Comments – First Session

Carolyn Payne of 4818 Bluff City Hwy asked, before the board voted tonight, that they vote their conscious and heart in reference to the amount of time the citizens can speak at the meeting.

Discussion / Action – Public Hearing on Ordinance 2020-001

City Attorney Paul Frye read the ordinance which amends the Municipal Code Section 1-102 Dealing with the Order of Business of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen Meeting. This changes the Citizen Comment portion from one 5 minute section at the beginning of the meeting and strikes the City Recorder being the time keeper. Public Hearing opened at 6:02 p.m. Mrs Payne stated I think you need to vote no on this ordinance. Alderman Broyles stated that he had checked and no other agency has 2 sections of Citizens Comments. Mr Broyles stated that the citizens can reach out to the board members and they can ask the Mayor to add things to the Agenda which would actually give them more time in my opinion to voice your views. Alderman Ward stated that he is in agreement with Jeff (Broyles) because when you come to a meeting you get the 5 minutes before we vote on anything to influence us. The 3 minutes afterwards, the decisions are made. Alderwoman Keith stated I agree with Mrs Payne as citizens do reach out to board members. Mrs Payne stated and nobody returned my call. Alderwoman Keith stated I have and nobody would call me. I do not agree with Alderman Broyles about that because this is the citizen's time to speak. Public Hearing closed at 6:07 p.m.

Motion to approve Ordinance 2020-001 on Second Reading was made by Alderman Broyles. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. Vote was as follows: Alderwoman Keith – No, Alderman Broyles – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Ward – Yes, Alderman Bowling – No. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action- Public Hearing – Ordinance 2020-002

City Attorney Paul Frye read the ordinance which amends Title 8 of the Municipal Code Dealing with Alcoholic Beverages. This ordinance will allow for On Premises Beer Permits. Public Hearing opened at 6:09 p.m. Alderman Broyles stated I am in full support of this ordinance. Public Hearing closed at 6:10 p.m. Motion to approve Ordinance 2020-002 on Second Reading was made by Alderman Broyles. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. Vote was as follows: Alderwoman Keith – Abstained, Alderman Broyles – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Ward – Yes, Alderman Bowling – Yes. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action – Bluff City Middle School Property

Betsy Carrier of 380 Cedar Street stated anytime a school is taken from a community we lose part of ourselves. Mrs Carrier stated that she had looked at other school closings it has not been savory to look at. Mrs Carrier stated that she started one and one half years ago to see that Bluff City did not fall into the hands of negligence. Mrs Carrier stated that they have a project that Hershel Glover will present for the projected use of the facilities. This project will help children and give Bluff City a shot in the arm.

Sullivan County Commissioner Hershel Glover presented a proposal from a business owner in Piney Flats. Mr Glover stated that the County and Schoolboard Attorneys are negotiating and we will get with the Mayor here in a week or so and see what we can get ironed out as far as the progress on moving forward. The proposal includes making the rock building behind the school a nonprofit organization which could help show things about Bluff City's history. He is wanting to help with the War Memorial Park as well. Mayor Wells stated that one thing she is disappointed about. I was hoping that we would be able to have some space in the school because we have run out of space here at the city. Mr Glover asked what she was looking for to put in this space. Mayor Wells stated we don't have hardly any space in the Police Department and we are out of space for storage. Mr Glover stated that she might be able to talk to him about this and see if something could be worked out with him. Vice Mayor Harrington stated now the School Board ultimately has the final say. Mr Glover stated that is what they are discussing now. Mr Glover reported that hopefully by November 3rd liquor by the drink will be passed. That will give tax payers a break on taxes. Mayor Wells stated I think it's an excellent plan. Alderwoman Keith thanked Mr Glover and Mrs Carrier for the opportunity that you are presenting to us. Mayor Wells stated I think all of us up here are excited about it.

Citizens Comments – Second Session

Carolyn Payne of 4818 Bluff City Hwy asked since December 23rd how many days had the water plant been down. How much water has Bluff City bought from Bristol. Mayor Wells stated if you want that information I can get that information and it will be correct. I don't want to say something and it not be correct. Mrs Payne asked if we have a new Water Plant Operator. Mayor Wells stated that we have someone that is working with us and we also have Allen (Moultrie) who is taking his test in May.

With no other business a motion to adjourn 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, Alderman Bowling – Yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.


Irene Wells, Mayor/ City Manager

Attest this 2nd day of March, 2020


Sharon Greene, Recorder/CMFO