

Minutes
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Special Called Meeting
February 8, 2021

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

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

Eric Ward was absent.

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

Mayor Wells opened the floor for the following:

Citizen Comments- None

Discussion / Action – Minutes for Regular Meeting – January 5, 2021, Special Called Meetings on January 12, 2021 and January 26, 2021.

Motion to approve all 3 meeting minutes 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 Bowling – Yes. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action – Approve Contract with First TN Development District

Mayor Wells presented the contract stating that they did raise it by \$776.00. This was due to the things they had to do because of the Covid Virus. Motion to approve 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 Bowling – Yes. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action – Alcohol Sales

City Attorney Paul Frye stated there are a couple of things they are going to have to make decision on before they start moving forward with amending our alcohol law. We are going to have to get our zoning in line because we don't have any place zoned for a liquor store. Mr Frye stated that the Planner, Alison Woodward, is going to have a presentation for the Planning Commission at the meeting in March. Mr Frye stated the things you all will need to decide is, number 1, how many stores you're going to have and number 2, what if we have more applications than you authorize stores. The two ways we talked about doing it in a workshop was, there is no guidance on this anywhere. This is just what other places do. You either have an accounting firm do a drawing and that would take all the politics out of it or first come, first served. Another thing you can do, but don't have to do, is put residency requirements in the ordinance. Mr Frye stated for instance, I looked up Mountain City and they have 2, Jonesboro has 2. I have inquired and most small towns have 2 or 3. Alderwoman Keith asked if someone wanting to put a business here came to an Alderman, do we need to direct them to City Hall to the Mayor. Mayor Wells stated you can. City Attorney Paul Frye stated is that about liquor stores. Mrs Keith stated anything, if somebody wanted to open up a little business and want information, we would need to direct it to City Hall to the City Manager. Vice Mayor Harrington asked if they needed to decide tonight. City Attorney Paul Frye stated you don't have to. You can think about

it, because I have to draw it up. Mayor Wells asked if they want to make a decision tonight about the number. Alderman Broyles stated I have thought about this for a while and I would recommend going with 3, because I would like that extra increase business opportunity. Mr Broyles stated I don't think residency is relevant. If they follow all state laws and our ordinances, I don't think we should constrain them to say you have to be from the 5 counties around Sullivan County. City Attorney Paul Frye stated to your point, let's say Frugal MacDoogals, one of the biggest liquor stores in the country, wanted to come to Bluff City. Mr Broyles stated he felt the residency thing would be a hindrance to business. Vice Mayor Harrington stated that was what I was setting on was 3. Alderman Broyles stated in regard to the selection if we have 20 applicants, I do not expect that to happen to us. I am not sure a lottery would be necessary. I lean toward first come first served. The distilleries and breweries could come in and we would have no control over that. A brewery could come in and the only control we would have over that is if they are going to serve beer. Mr Frye stated we don't have to have a vote Mayor, because I will have to draw this up and it will have to go through the ordinance process. Alderman Bowling stated I like the accounting firm drawing it. That way they can't say Jeff, me, Ray or whoever, picked it out of a hat because they know them. Mr Frye stated that no place that does it like that has been successfully sued over it. Alderman Bowling stated I would like for us to be here when they draw the names and tell us who it is before they go out. This would get the burden off us. Alderman Broyles stated you changed my mind. It is ethical and fair. City Attorney Paul Frye stated in drawing this up will not be quick because I am going to be out of work for a while for surgery I am having on the 23rd.

Report from City Recorder / CMFO – Sharon Greene

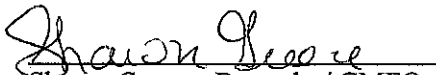
Ms Greene presented the fund balances for December 31, 2020: General Fund - \$1,782,169.00, Sanitation Fund - \$41,760.00, Special Police Fund - \$13,934.00, Debt Service - \$141,568.00, Sinking Fund - \$3,094.00, Water Fund - \$730,520.00. Motion to approve was made by Alderman Broyles. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. Vote was as follows: Alderwoman Keith – Yes, Alderman Broyles – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Bowling – Yes. Motion carried.

With no other business, motion to adjourn 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 Bowling – Yes. Meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.



Irene Wells, Mayor / City Manager

Attest this 8th day of February, 2021


Sharon Greene, Recorder/ CMFO