

Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen  
Special Called Meeting  
June 23, 2023

Mayor Broyles called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Members present were Julie Venable, Sandra Madison, Carol Keith and Ben Adams

Prayer was given by Carol Keith followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Greg Depew

Recognitions, Proclamations, Awards – None

Mayor Broyles opened the floor for the following:

Public Comments – First Session

Carolyn Payne of 4818 Bluff City Hwy. voiced concern about our property tax increase stating that Sullivan County has not increased theirs. Ms Payne voiced concern about the price increase on garbage pick up and water and sewer rates.

Shirley Clark of 932 Lona Lane stated I agree with Ms Payne. We did have those increases in August and I don't know why you are thinking about raising that again. Ms Clark asked that they explain the totals for the increases so citizens will know what the bills are going to be.

David Harmon of 200 Holston Drive voiced concern about the proposed increases. Mr Harmon made reference to money being put into the budget to hire a City Manager and Inspector.

Discussion /Action- Public Hearing – Ordinance 2023-003

City Attorney Paul Frye read the ordinance which is a Social Media Policy for the Town of Bluff City. Public Hearing opened at 4:15. Question was asked about what it means. Mayor Broyles stated it says how we lawfully use or accept social media internally or externally. Man from audience asked if this stuff is on line. Mayor Broyles stated absolutely. Carolyn Payne of 4818 Bluff City Hwy stated you can't find this on website until it is approved. Shirley Clark asked if there is a way people that don't go on the website can know what is going on. Mayor Broyles stated they can attend. Public hearing closed at 4:18. Motion to approve on Second Reading was made by Alderman Adams. Second by Vice Mayor Keith. Vote went as follows: Alderwoman Venable - Yes stating I do believe there is a lot of people in this town that do not have computers or a way to get information. I do think we should send out notices when things are changing. Alderwoman Madison – Yes, Vice Mayor Keith – Yes and Alderman Adams – Yes. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action – Rate of Contribution into the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System for Town Employees for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year

Mayor Broyles stated we currently contribute 3% to our employee's retirement. We are in a very good financial position in the Retirement Fund for our employee's. We as a Board usually decide to go ahead and keep contributing to that funds. This was discussed in a work session. I would entertain a motion to continue to contribute 3%. If you have another percentage in mind, present it in your motion. Motion to continue to contribute 3% was made by Alderwoman Venable. Second by Alderman Adams. Vote went as follows: Alderwoman Venable – Yes, Alderwoman Madison – Yes, Vice Mayor Keith – Yes and Alderman Adams – Yes. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action - First Reading – Ordinance 2023-004

Mayor Broyles explained the ordinance which is Payment of Outstanding Balance (Town's Responsibility) of \$106,889.41 for the USDA Rural Development Project, Phase III from the Water / Sewer Fund. Motion to approve on First Reading was made by Alderman Adams. Second by Vice Mayor Keith. Vote went as follows: Alderwoman Venable – Yes, Alderwoman Madison – Yes, Vice Mayor Keith – Yes and Alderman Adams – Yes. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action – First Reading – Ordinance 2023-005

City Attorney Paul Frye read the ordinance which is Appropriation Ordinance and Real and Personal Property Tax Levy for the Fiscal year ending June 2024. The tax rate would be \$1.30 per \$100 assessed value. Motion to approve was made by Alderman Adams. Failed for lack of a Second.

Discussion / Action – First Reading – Ordinance 2023-006

City Attorney Paul Frye read the ordinance which sets Sewer Rates for Customers Inside and Outside the Corporate Limits of the Town of Bluff City. Mr Frye stated that customers inside the corporate limits shall be charged \$26.88 for the first 2000 gallons and \$14.33 for each 1000 gallons used in excess of 2000 gallons. Customers outside the corporate limits shall be charged \$40.67 for the first 2000 gallons and shall be charged \$21.62 for each 1000 gallons used in excess of 2000 gallons. Motion to approve was made by Alderman Adams. Failed for lack of Second.

Discussion / Action – First Reading- Ordinance 2023-007

City Attorney Paul Frye stated that customers inside the corporate limits shall be charged \$21.18 for the first 2000 gallons and \$8.25 for each additional 1000 gallons used. Customers outside the corporate limits shall be charged \$38.47 for the first 2000 gallons of water used and shall be charged \$12.33 for each 1000 gallons in excess of 2000 gallons. Motion to approve was made by Alderman Adams. Second by Alderwoman Venable. Vote went as follows: Alderwoman Venable – Yes, Alderwoman Madison – No, Vice Mayor Keith – No and Alderman Adams – Yes. Due to a tie vote, Mayor Broyles voted -Yes. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action – First Reading – Ordinance 2023-08

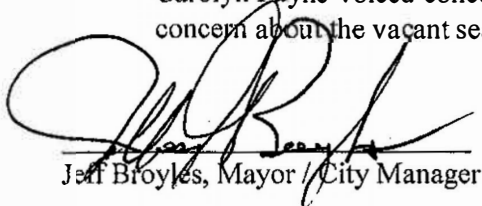
City Attorney Paul Frye read the ordinance which Amends Section 17-111 (1) of the Bluff City Municipal Code regarding Garbage Collection Fees within the Town of Bluff City. Mr Frye stated that the Garbage Collection Fee will be \$17.50 per month and charged to each residential customer. People whose parcel is not 100% within the town limits shall have the option to take the service or not. Motion to approve was made by Alderman Adams. Alderwoman Venable asked a question about the \$14.50 fee on a letter from Cox Disposal. Mayor Broyles stated according to the contract the real rate is \$15.50 per month. We have been absorbing the additional cost. The town has absorbed as much as they can absorb. We have been working on a new agreement with Cox but most likely the cost will not go down. Mayor Broyles stated the rate will be \$17.50 a month. Motion to approve was made by Alderwoman Venable. Second by Alderman Adams. Vote went as follows: Alderwoman Venable – Yes, Alderwoman Madison – No, Vice Mayor Keith – No and Alderman Adams – Yes. Due to a tie vote, Mayor Broyles voted -Yes. Motion carried.

Public Comments - Second Session

David Harmon of 200 Holston Dr asked Vice Mayor Keith about the increase amount being \$5 instead of \$2. Mayor Broyles stated the \$2 covers the surcharge and the increase is \$5.

Shirley Clark of 932 Lona Lane stated so they have had so much more trash since August so we are going up \$5 more since August. Mayor Broyles stated I met with Cox Disposal and the disposal rates last year were \$5 his cost. After October they increased to \$8.50 per ton. Mr Cox ate those increases for a while and can not continue to do that.

Carolyn Payne voiced concern over a \$5.00 increase to pick up garbage. Mrs Payne voiced concern about the vacant seat on the Board.



Jeff Broyles, Mayor / City Manager

Attest this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2023



Sharon Greene, Recorder / CMFO