

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Bluff City Board of Mayor & Aldermen
July 14, 2011

Mayor Wells called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present were Melvin Carrier, Lon Gene Leonard, Robert Miller and Bryan Mullins

Prayer was by Mayor Wells followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Alderman Miller stated that due to budget cuts the local State Planners Office was closed and Bluff City lost a very valuable asset in Mr. Charles Alley. Alderman Miller presented Mr. Charles Alley with the State Planners Office a Certificate of Appreciation for his service to Bluff City as the cities state planner.

Mr. Alley said that Bluff City was his first planning commission and this would be his last meeting so Bluff City had been a part of his life since 1973 and he had never met anyone in Bluff City that was not kind and considerate to him and he has had some wonderful people to work with and he would always remember Bluff City.

Mayor Wells introduced Sullivan County Commissioner Joe Herron who is chairman of the recently formed Kingsport, Bluff City and Sullivan County Animal Control Clinic. Mr. Herron said that Bluff City is a full member of the committee along with Kingsport and Sullivan County and these three entities make up the Board of Directors and there are nine people on the Board of Directors and Bluff City has one seat held by Mayor Wells. Mr. Herron said that they officially took over on July 1, 2011. Mr. Herron introduced the new Director Mr. Rick Crino, Supervisor Donna Davidson, Judy Smith, budget director for Kingsport and Greg Hensley, who is a member of the Board of Directors who all stated that were excited about the program. Mr. Herron stated that the goals are to close the Blountville Animal Shelter and the Kingsport Shelter and build a modern Animal Control Center which will have veterinarians on staff.

Vice-Mayor Leonard made a motion to nominate Sheena Cornwell to fill the vacant seat of alderman. Second by Alderman Miller. Alderman Miller stated that Ms. Cornwell was the only person to express any interest in the position and came to him personally. Vice-Mayor Leonard stated that he had also met with Ms. Cornwell and she expressed interest.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Leonard	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Mullins	yes

City Recorder gave the oath of office to Sheena Cornwell.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for discussion on the appointment to the Network Partnership. Alderman Miller stated that Mayor Wells is already appointed to the board by virtue of being the Mayor. Mayor Wells informed the board that they lost one seat on the Networks Board so the city can only have one person on the board. Recorder Dulaney asked when that happened. Mayor Wells said that the charter was changed whenever the city did not have a Mayor that was attending. Recorder Dulaney said that she had received an email from Networks asking who the appointee would be. Mayor Wells said that they called her and told her that the city could only have one. The aldermen instructed the city recorder or city attorney to look into this and this would be on the next agenda.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for discussion on the appointment to the Planning/Zoning Board. Alderman Miller made a motion to appoint Alderman Bryan Miller to the Planning/Zoning Board with a second by Vice-Mayor Leonard.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Leonard	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Mullins	yes
	Alderwoman Cornwell	yes

Mayor Wells opened the floor for discussion on the appointment to the Animal Coalition Board. Alderman Miller made a motion to appoint Alderman Carrier to the Animal Coalition Board with a second by Vice-Mayor Leonard.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Leonard	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Mullins	yes
	Alderwoman Cornwell	yes

Mayor Wells presented the minutes of the Regular Meeting on May 12, 2011. Alderman Miller made a motion to approve the minutes with a second by Alderwoman Cornwell. Vice-Mayor Leonard stated that it is ridiculous to have 10 or 12 pages of minutes and the minutes should summarize the business of the board. Alderman Miller withdrew his motion to approve the minutes and made a motion to take minutes in accordance with the state guidelines with a second by Vice-Mayor Leonard.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Leonard	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Mullins	yes
	Alderwoman Cornwell	yes

Alderman Miller made a motion to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of May 12, 2011 with a second by Alderwoman Cornwell.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Leonard	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Mullins	yes
	Alderwoman Cornwell	yes

Alderman Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of the special called meeting of June 28, 2011 with a second by Alderman Mullins.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Leonard	yes

Alderman Miller	yes
Alderman Mullins	yes
Alderwoman Cornwell	yes

Mayor Wells opened the floor for the first section of citizen comments:

1. David Smith of 200 Highland Circle asked if the former city manager gave an update to the new city manager about the water line on the swinging bridge. City Manager Dulaney said that she was looking into it. Vice-Mayor Leonard asked the BMA if they could meet at the bridge and discuss the water line to get a better feel of what they are looking at. City Manager Dulaney stated that she would advertise the meeting as an open public meeting.
2. Jerry Malone of 272 Smith Street congratulated Mayor Wells and the board on their appointments and he was looking forward to working with them with regard to the Bluff City United Fund.

Mayor Wells presented the contract between the City of Bluff City and Eddy & Eddy CPAs for the annual audit. City Attorney Paul Frye stated that this is a contract for the annual audit and on the second page it lists the fiscal years and the proposed audit fees for the next five (5) years. Vice-Mayor Leonard made a motion to approve the contract with a second by Alderman Miller.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Leonard	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Mullins	yes
	Alderwoman Cornwell	yes

Mayor Wells presented Ordinance No. 2011-013 to the BMA for consideration on first reading. Attorney Frye read Ordinance No. 2011-013, an ordinance to amend Chapter 4, Section 4-1-410 dealing with take home cars.

Alderman Miller made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2011-013 with a second by Alderman Carrier.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Leonard	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Mullins	yes
	Alderwoman Cornwell	yes

Mayor Wells presented Ordinance No. 2011-014 to the BMA for consideration on first reading. Attorney Frye read Ordinance No. 2011-014, an ordinance to create a four way stop at the intersection of Cedar Street and Summit Drive. Alderman Miller made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2011-014 with a second by Alderwoman Cornwell.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Leonard	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Mullins	yes
	Alderwoman Cornwell	yes

Mayor Wells presented Ordinance No. 2011-015 to the BMA for consideration on first reading. Attorney Frye read Ordinance No. 2011-015, an ordinance amending and clarifying Section 1-102 of the Bluff City Municipal Code and Ordinances 93-007 and 96-003 dealing with citizen comments at board meetings. Alderman Miller made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2011-015 with a second by Vice-Mayor Leonard.

Roll Call vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Leonard	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Mullins	yes
	Alderwoman Cornwell	yes

Mayor Wells opened the floor for discussion on the contract between the First Tennessee Development District and the City of Bluff City which would provide for Local Planning Advisory Services. Attorney Frye stated that the First Tennessee Development District were offering to do the city planning services at the same rate that the State Planning Office did at a cost of \$6,750.00 per year. Alderman Miller made a motion to approve the contract with a second by Alderman Mullins.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Leonard	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Mullins	yes
	Alderwoman Cornwell	yes

Mayor Wells opened the floor for discussion on the storage of records. Vice-Mayor Leonard stated that there was a vacant office in city hall and he made a motion to use this room for records storage and the room would have a dedicated key to be given to Ms. Dulaney as she is the keeper of the records. Second by Alderman Miller. Alderman Miller stated that this issue comes up every year and the board has failed to take action on it. Alderman Miller stated that hopefully this will be enough room and if not they would not hesitate to find a more permanent solution. Vice-Mayor Leonard stated that they had to do something with records as they are piled up in chairs, sitting in boxes on the floor and scattered all around.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Leonard	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Mullins	yes
	Alderwoman Cornwell	yes

Mayor Wells opened the floor for discussion on appropriating funds in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the Second Harvest Food Bank. City Manager Dulaney said that the former city manager asked Mayor Wells to put this on the agenda. Mayor Wells stated that Mr. Weaver told her this money would help to pay for breakfast for some of the children. Attorney Frye said that this would need to follow the city's ordinance dealing with non-profit organizations. Alderman Miller suggested that they discuss this in the upcoming budget workshops.

Mayor Wells welcomed everyone. Mayor Wells said that she hoped the city would help the United Fund of Bluff City as they are planning a lot of events to raise money so that they can continue to support the organizations that they support.

City Attorney Paul Frye stated that he had picked up all of the city's legal files and filed an order with Judge Moody for substitution of counsel on the back tax lawsuits. Attorney Frye said he would be sending out letters to the delinquent tax property owners.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for comments from the Aldermen:

1. Alderman Carrier commented that he was glad to see all of the citizen come to the meeting.
2. Alderman Mullins congratulated Ms. Cornwell on her appointment to the board and thanked everybody for coming to the meeting.
3. Alderman Miller said that he appreciated everyone for coming to the meeting as he liked seeing them and liked the participation and appreciated their involvement as it is always important to him that everybody comes and takes an interest in how the city is run and expresses their feeling either publicly or privately. Alderman Miller welcomed Ms. Cornwell to the board.
4. Vice-Mayor Leonard stated that he was glad to see everybody at the meeting and it was a joy to have them there. Vice-Mayor Leonard welcomed Ms. Cornwell to the board. Vice-Mayor Leonard commended the city manager and the employees for a good job.
5. Alderwoman Cornwell thanked everyone for giving her this opportunity as she is new and will have a lot of questions but she looked forward to working with everyone in the community and she will give it her best.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for reports from the city officials and county commissioners:

1. City Manager Judy Dulaney stated that they have been very aggressive on the leak detection and presented copies to the board of the leak detection. Ms. Dulaney said that due to repairing the leaks the pressure had went from 76 to 80. Ms. Dulaney reported that the park had been cleaned up, the arm on the tractor had been repaired, the blades on the chipper had been sharpened and Mr. Galloway has allowed the city to use a slab of concrete located at the coal yard to put mulch so that the public could have it free of charge. Ms. Dulaney stated that the pump had been replaced on Timber Ridge and been rewired by MG Electric. Ms. Dulaney stated that she contacted the railroad with regard to the hole sinking on Fleming Drive and this has been repaired. Ms. Dulaney stated that she had contacted TDEC about mowing Highway 19E and 11E and was told that they should get this mowed shortly. Ms. Dulaney stated that she had the application ready to send to the railroad with regard to leasing the property down at the Over Mountain Victory Trail and there is a \$500.00 application fee and this application would be submitted tomorrow. Ms. Dulaney stated that the unmarked Dodge Charger will be marked like the other cruisers on July 26th and then Two Way Radio will install the cage and radio. Ms. Dulaney stated that information with regard to debit and credit cards were placed in the board's packet for their review along with the financial reports and cash balances. Ms. Dulaney stated that she is working on the budget and there are several roads that need to be paved and hopefully the board can include this in the budget. Ms. Dulaney stated that when the BMA set a workshop she would like to include discussion about a Storm Drain Coordinator and also have the city engineer present to discuss what the city needs to do to get the water/sewer system updated. Ms. Dulaney stated that it might be possible for the city to borrow funds from the General Fund to replace the water line across the bridge and she would prepare an amortization schedule to repay the General Fund in (5) five years or the city might have to borrow the funds from the Tennessee Municipal League Bond Pool. Ms. Dulaney stated that she would also like to start meetings with Sullivan County, Bristol and Kingsport with regard to the City/County Sewer Agreement to discuss sewer trunk lines on Highway 11E.

2. The BMA set a budget workshop on July 28, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Dulaney stated that the budget is not completely ready but she would like to get ideas from the BMA as to what they would like to see happen. The BMA said that the meeting will start at 6:00 p.m. down at the park where the waterline in question is located and then the meeting will be moved to city hall.
3. Ms. Dulaney said that she had put the senior officer, which was Sgt. Greg Depew, into the position of second in command and when Chief Nelson is off Sgt. Depew will fill in for him.
4. Sullivan County Commissioner Dwight King congratulated Mayor Wells and the Aldermen and Alderwoman and hoped they could work together with the county and get great things done. Mr. King stated that the county is working on their budget and they hope to get it passed on August 22nd if everything goes the way it is supposed to.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for old business:

1. Alderman Miller said that the city has to have a building inspector and asked the board if they wanted to advertise the position or did they want to appoint someone to it on interim basis until a permanent selection can be made. City Manager Dulaney asked the BMA if they would like for her invite Mr. Dennis Vaughn to the workshop and talk to him about the building inspector position. The BMA said yes to invite Mr. Vaughn to the workshop.
2. Alderman Carrier made a motion to change a piece of property owned by Jerry Buchanan from residential to business. City Manager Dulaney said that this would have to go before the Planning/Zoning Board. Attorney Frye said that an application would have to be made requesting the property to be rezoned. Alderman Miller said that he thought that they had everything done.
3. Alderman Carrier said he would like for the board to send Mitch McCall a letter telling him that he can re-open his business. Attorney Frye said that if it is properly zoned the property owner would not need a letter.

Mayor Wells opened the floor up for new business;

1. Alderman Miller told the city manager to contact the city engineer and request him to meet the board at the bridge to discuss the water line on July 28th.
2. Alderman Carrier said that the police scanner should be sent back. Alderman Miller asked the City Manager to look into this. Alderman Carrier made a motion to send the police scanner back. Second Alderman Miller.

Roll Call Vote:	Alderman Carrier	yes
	Vice-Mayor Leonard	yes
	Alderman Miller	yes
	Alderman Mullins	yes
	Alderwoman Cornwell	yes

3. Vice-Mayor Leonard said that school is going to start in about a month and he and the Chief were going to meet with the principals and see what can be done to alleviate the traffic problem at the schools and they might have to go to a School Board meeting to get something done but it is a terrible problem and something has to be done. Alderman Miller invited Sullivan County Commissioner Dwight King to be a part of these discussions. Mr. King said that they needed to get everyone involved in this.
4. Alderman Carrier asked Mr. King to assist the city in getting sewer to Piney Flats. Mr. King said he would as he had told the board a long time ago he would help, but right now money is a problem.
5. Alderman Carrier said that he thought the city manager should collect all of the cell phones and distribute them to the employees that need them. Mayor Wells asked if he did not want the City Mayor to have a cell phone. Mayor Wells stated that she would like to have a vote from the board on this.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for the second session of citizen comments:

1. Ron Odum stated that it did him good to see a board that will work for Bluff City and he congratulated the ones who were elected or appointed and those who were in office already. He said that a few months ago he worked so hard to get Paul Frye back as city attorney but the previous board ignored 221 names but he could say tonight that he was glad that Mr. Frye was back.

Mayor Wells adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Irene Wells, Mayor

ATTEST:

This 14th Day of July, 2011

Judy Dulaney, City Recorder