

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen
April 12, 2012

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

Members present were Brian Mullins, Robert Miller and Sheena Cornwell.

Melvin Carrier and Lon Gene Leonard were absent.

Prayer was given by Tom Jarrell, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes for the February 9, 2012 regular meeting were approved with a motion by Alderman Miller. Second by Alderman Mullins. All voted in favor.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for Citizen Comments – First Section.

1. Julie Venable of 209 Smith Street Extension asked the board to consider helping the Rescue Squad. Ms. Venable stated to Mr. Miller that she was told that he no longer lived in the city and if that is true he needs to step down and if it is not true she apologized. Alderman Miller stated apology accepted.

Vice Mayor Lon Gene Leonard arrived at 7:07 p.m.

2. Armetta Hunnington, Governor of the Tennessee District Ruritan Club introduced Gary Olinger with the Holston Ruritan Club in Blountville. Mr. Olinger stated that he currently serves on the Board of Directors in Dublin Virginia and it is an elected office. Mr. Olinger reported that Ruritan is one of the largest non- profit organizations in the United States. Mr. Olinger stated that he would like to see a Charter Ruritan Club in Bluff City. Mr. Olinger stated that the Holston Ruritan will pay all fees for one year to get the club started for Bluff City. Vice Mayor Leonard asked if it would be here local. Mr. Olinger stated that he believes that the Rescue Squad is going to let them meet in that building. Alderman Miller stated that he thought it was a wonderful idea and the more community involved groups in our area the better.

City Engineer Dave Wilson, with Mattern & Craig reported the following:

1. Mr. Wilson said that there had been a meeting in reference to the new State Route 11E and 19E interchange that he was not aware of. Mr. Wilson stated that Mayor Wells was informed at that meeting that the Rainbow Plan had not been submitted for the cities utilities in that area. Mr. Wilson stated that he had been given the plans in January by Mr. Miller and he thought that they were required to respond in April instead of March. Mr. Wilson said that since that time he had contacted Gus Wally in Nashville the State Utilities Engineer and also Tom Folly of Knoxville and found that this happens frequently and as long as the plans are submitted within 45 days which will be the end of next week everything will be okay.
2. Mr. Wilson said that the Boardwalk gabion baskets have been installed from the Railroad Bridge to the boat launch. The remaining gabion baskets from the boat ramp to the ball fields will have to be completed after the water goes back down in the fall.

3. Mr. Wilson presented a draft paving plan for review and changes to the BMA for their consideration.
4. Mayor Wells asked where the fence was going to be. Mr. Wilson stated that they had discussed a possible railing on top of the retaining wall but that has not been addressed at this time but he was at the discretion of the BMA on how to proceed. Mayor Wells stated that she thought that was something they had discussed. Alderwoman Cornwell stated that if there was going to be 6 feet between the retaining wall to the pavement then there has to be some kind of hand rail. City Manager Dulaney stated that there would be plants in that 6 feet. Mr. Wilson asked the board to consider what type of railing they were interested in.
5. Mr. Wilson stated that he is still waiting on board decision about sewer pumps for pump stations.
7. Alderman Miller stated to City Engineer Dave Wilson that he was concerned that the 5 year cost on paving is going to be way more than they will be able to spend so they may have to consider reworking the plan to bring down the costs per year. Mr. Wilson stated that they could rework it.

Mayor Wells opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance 2012-005 at 8:20 p.m. City Attorney Paul Frye read the ordinance which is an ordinance to close City Hall on any Election Day that City Hall is used as a Voting Precinct. There were no public comments. Public Hearing was closed at 8:23 p.m. Motion to approve Ordinance 2012-005 on Second Reading was made by Vice-Mayor Leonard. Second by Alderman Miller. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Wells presented an Agreement for the Execution of a Home Investment Partnership Program to the BMA for consideration. City Attorney Paul Frye stated that this is an agreement that the city has to execute to be members of the Home Consortium. Motion to approve the agreement was made by Alderman Miller. Second by Vice-Mayor Leonard. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Wells reported the following:

1. Mayor Wells gave report from the meeting of the First Tennessee Development District (SEE ATTACHMENT I)
2. At the meeting of the First Tennessee Human Resource Agency they discussed overall responses of employees within the agency, discussed the financial statement for February 2012, discussed the executive audit committee report, toured the new facility, nominating committee for new officers and the executive director gave their reports.

Report from City Attorney Paul Frye. Mr. Frye reported the following:

1. The Curfew Ordinance is in need of being amended and he will have it ready for review next week as it is enforceable in Juvenile Court but not in City Court and the amendment will make it enforceable in City Court.

2. In the lawsuit Babel vs. Bluff City, TML denied the coverage on this lawsuit and Mr. Frye recommended that the BMA hire Attorney's Eric Herron and Tom Garland as these are the two attorneys working on the other traffic camera lawsuit. Mr. Frye stated that they charge \$190.00 per hour. Motion to hire Herron and Garland was made by Alderwoman Cornwell. Second by Alderman Miller. All voted in favor. Motion carried.
3. Mr. Frye reported that The Private Act to amend the city's charter had been introduced in both houses.

Aldermen's Comments are as follows:

1. Vice-Mayor Leonard thanked everyone for coming and invited them back.
2. Alderwoman Cornwell thanked everyone for coming and reported the following:

The Car Show Fundraiser raised \$2600.00 for the Boy's and Girl's Club.

There will be a beauty pageant Saturday at North East State with 57 participants.

\$76,000.00 of the \$100,000.00 needed by June 30th to get the club open, has been raised

Has a plaque of appreciation to present to James (Bristol Herald Courier News Reporter), as the Newspaper had advertised every week in color for the car show and the pageant and if it had not been for them helping, we would not have gotten the response we did.

Boy's and Girl's Club Committee meeting will be next Tuesday at La Campina at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Wells commended Alderwoman Cornwell on doing such a fine job.
3. Alderman Miller thanked everyone for coming out.
4. Alderman Mullins thanked everyone for coming and thanked Sheena (Alderwoman Cornwell) for her work on the Boy's and Girl's Club. Mr. Mullins apologized for his absences stating that his shift had changed and he was not able to make some of the meetings and hopes it will not happen anymore.

City Manager Judy Dulaney reported the following:

1. Ms. Dulaney stated that Tom Jarrell owner of Jarrell Mobile Home Estates along with some residents presented a request for a name change from Jarrell Drive to Mulberry Drive.

2. Ms. Dulaney reported that the city had been receiving complaints about people walking their dogs in other people's yards and they are requesting that the board make an ordinance that requires people to clean up after their animal.
3. Ms. Dulaney stated that the Elementary School is having a celebration and they requested that J. Forrest Thomas Road be closed during the celebration.
3. Ms. Dulaney report that Junk Pickup Day's will be May 16th and 17th, and postcards have been printed and will be mailed to notify residents.
4. Ms. Dulaney stated that she had met with Ken Ray and Gray Stothard with the First Tennessee Development District and discussed funding for the sewer lift stations.
5. Ms. Dulaney reported that the plans for the water line replacement on Cedar Street had been sent to the state.
6. Ms. Dulaney report that the delay on the drain project in Highland subdivision has been in getting the materials.
7. Ms. Dulaney reported that the city crew is moving taps on Lakeview Drive to the larger line.
8. Ms. Dulaney reported that the she is working on the sign for city and problem is getting something in our price range.

9. Ms. Dulaney stated that the reason that the minutes are behind is due to the software and new software has been ordered that will be compatible with this system.
10. Ms. Dulaney reported that the Johnson City Power Board sends the bill for the red lights at the crossroads to Sullivan County and Sullivan County forwards the bill to the city and it is currently 2 months behind. Ms. Dulaney asked Mayor Wells if she could talk to the MPO Board, since she sat on that board, to check on funding for the light, as Mayor Godsey stated that they give Bristol and Kingsport money to keep up their red lights. Mayor Wells asked the board if it was their pleasure that she look into that. Vice Mayor Leonard stated yes and told Ms. Dulaney not to pay the bill.
11. Ms. Dulaney presented the BMA with the financial reports and cash balances. Motion to approve the financial report was made by Vice-Mayor Leonard. Second by Alderman Mullins. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Wells asked if they needed a motion to approve the request of Tom Jarrell. City Manager Dulaney stated that they could get a consensus and City Attorney Paul Frye could draft an ordinance and present it at the next meeting. The BMA instructed City Attorney J. Paul Frye to prepare an ordinance to make the name change for this street.

Chief Depew reported the following:

1. On May 5th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Elementary school has requested that J. Forrest Thomas Street be closed during that time.
2. Thanked the board for passing the ordinance on synthetic drugs and they have issued 1 citation and ceased 18 containers of K2.

3. Monthly report for March 2012. (SEE ATTACHMENT II)
4. This month the department will be doing their in-service for the year.

Vice-Mayor Leonard thanked the Police Department for the job they are doing and said that he had received a lot of good feedback from the citizens.

Alderwoman Cornwell thanked the Police Department for the job they did at the car show and thanked Ron (Miller) for the job their department did on setting up the stage.

Chief Depew stated that when the Reserve Officers are out there working it saves the City money and he is very proud of them.

Vice-Mayor Leonard made a motion to allow the school to close J. Forrest Thomas Drive from 10 to 2 on May 5th. Second by Alderwoman Cornwell. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Public Works Director Ron Miller reported the following:

1. Fixed a couple of small leaks. Replaced some faulty meters. Worked on sewer blockages.
2. They are trying to keep up with the brush and mowing.
3. Problem at the Igloo Pump Station and had to order parts.
4. Repaired damage to fence at the small park and placed steel posts in the middle so no one could drive down through the gravel.
5. Problems at the water plant which generated low pressure
6. Waiting on delivery of parts for the Highland Subdivision drainage project, and expect delivery in about 2 weeks and hopefully will be complete a week after they start project.
7. Replaced signs and put up additional signs where needed.

Sullivan County Commissioner Dwight King reported the following:

1. Sullivan County is getting all the budget items in from each department and should be able to start looking at budget in May and June as the school budget is usually the delay and it is in on time this year.
2. Things are not real rosy in the county right now due to the increased cost of doing business has gone up and the taxes are not keeping up with it. They are going to have to do something to reduce costs or cut services.

3. Resolution to add \$27,000.00 to planning and zoning to monitor streams which is an unfunded mandate.
4. Extending lease with TVA for Observation Knob to 30 years with paperwork costs at \$5,000.00 which should be funded by the camp ground and no cost to the county.
5. Brush pick-up in Sullivan County is costing \$200,000.00 and it will be looked at and voted on, Monday, as to whether they will continue brush pick up.
6. Wellness program is going and they are doing a Diabetes Program now then Cardio Vascular and High Blood Pressure Programs next. Hopefully this will reduce health care costs.

Mayor Wells asked Commissioner King if he thought that Bluff City will still get their money from the county for the park. Mr. King stated hopefully but they were going to have to cut, and hopefully not have to raise the tax rate.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for Old Business.

City Manager Dulaney reported that, in reference to the lease from Norfolk and Southern for the property at the Over Mountain Trail Head, they originally wanted \$5,000.00 and the current price is \$2,400.00 per year and she thinks that is out of line for that area but it is a mess and she needs to send them a letter to clean that area up.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for New Business. There were none.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for Citizen Comments- Second Section.

1. David Smith 200 Highland Circle stated that he would like the board to make a war memorial and see if the Job Corp could do the work.
2. Tom Jarrell asked if there were any questions about the request for the name change on Jarrell Drive. Mr. Jarrell stated that he had gotten with the 911 office and found that there was no Mulberry Drives in Sullivan County. City Attorney Paul Frye asked if they were totally eliminating Jarrell Drive and Mr. Jarrell stated no, just the leg of the development. Mr. Frye stated that he would need a map of that. Mr. Jarrell presented the map.
3. Richard Boling 4534 Bluff City Highway stated that he is on the Community Relations Committee plus the Executive Board Committee at the Job Corp and if we can get something drawn up on the memorial he would present it to them and see if they can get it done.

Mayor Wells adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

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Irene Wells, Mayor

Attest this 12th Day of April, 2012

Judy Dulaney, City Manager