

Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen  
May 10, 2012

Mayor Wells called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

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

Prayer was given by Carol Keith, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes for the March 8, 2012 Regular Meeting were approved with a motion by Alderman Carrier. Second by Vice-Mayor Leonard. All in favor. Motion carried

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

1. Tim Cross owner of the Piney Bluff Day Care was present to request the City to sponsor a scholarship for his day care center for after school. Mr. Cross stated that the Boys and Girls Club will affect his business a great deal and people have a problem affording childcare.
2. David Smith of 200 Highland Circle thanked all the board members and the City Manager for the progress that has been made in the last 6 to 7 months. Mr. Smith asked that the board pray about the war memorial and get something done for the citizens of the town.

Mayor Wells presented Ordinance 2012-006 to the BMA for consideration on first reading. City Attorney Paul Frye read Ordinance No. 2012-006 which changes the name of a portion of Jarrell Drive to Mulberry Drive. Motion to approve Ordinance No. 2012-006 was made by Alderman Carrier. Second by Alderman Miller. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Wells presented Ordinance 2012-007 on first reading to the BMA for consideration. City Attorney Paul Frye read Ordinance No. 2012-007, an ordinance which amends Chapter 8 of the Bluff City Municipal Code Dealing with Curfew for Minors. Motion to approve Ordinance No. 2012-007 on first reading was made by Vice-Mayor Leonard. Second by Alderman Mullins. Vote is as follows: Alderman Carrier abstained. All others in favor. Motion carried.

City Engineer Dave Wilson was not present.

Mayor Wells reported the following:

1. She attended the Planning and Zoning Board on May 8<sup>th</sup> and the board approved the 2009 International Code and the 2007 Property Maintenance Code and these will be presented to the board at the next meeting in June for their approval.
2. First Tennessee Development District Board Meeting was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April. (SEE ATTACHMENT I)
3. Represented the City at the Children's Advocacy Center on April 13<sup>th</sup> for the Proclamation Signing of Support from all Mayors in Sullivan County in the Dedication in the Fight of Child Abuse.

4. Talked to John Barrett, Project Manager with TDOT and Mr. Lucas head of the department in Elizabethton who is also one of the main individuals involved in the Highway 19E and 11E project and Mr. Barrett wants to know the Board's traffic control fence color as it comes in vinyl black or green and he said that most use black because it does not show up as much. Alderman Miller stated he does not have a preference. The consensus of the board was to use black.

5. Attended the North East Tennessee- Virginia Home Consortium Board meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup> and the board thanked Bluff City for supporting them with \$10,000.00.

6. It is State policy to turn the pond at the 11E & 19E Interchange over to the municipality and asked the board if they had any problem with taking over the upkeep. Alderman Carrier stated to let the state keep it up we don't have the money. Mayor Wells stated that we only have to cut the weeds 2 or 3 times a year. Alderwoman Cornwell stated if our men could mow around it she does not see why that should be a problem. Alderman Miller stated he did not see an issue.

7. Checked with the Bristol Metropolitan Planning Organization to see if they would pay for street lights in Bluff City and at the cross roads and was told by Rex Montgomery, Transportation Manager, that they do not pay under the MPO for electric bills for traffic lights, that the organization helps pay for projects like installing new lights where a hazard exists. Mayor Godsey was called by the Electric Company and informed that if the bill was not paid the lights would be cut off. He stated that many accidents would occur.

8. Commended Alderwoman Sheena Cornwell, Alderman Robert Miller, and Sabrina Arnold Vice-Principal of the Bluff City Middle School and all the other individuals that helped with the Miss Historic Bluff Pageant on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Wells thanked everyone for coming.

City Attorney Paul Frye reported that the Charter Change Resolution has passed both houses of the legislature, been signed by the Lt. Governor and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and as of today is on the Governor's Desk for action. As soon as the Governor signs it, it will be sent back to this board for action and can be enacted with a 2/3 (two thirds) vote of the board.

Comments for the Aldermen:

1. Alderman Carrier thanked everyone for coming out.
2. Alderman Mullins thanked everyone for coming out and thanked David Smith for mentioning our veterans and he would like to get a memorial going for them. Alderman Mullins thanked Chief Depew and his Police Department for doing a good job.
3. Alderman Miller thanked everyone for coming. Budget workshops are coming up.
4. Vice Mayor Leonard thanked everyone for coming and invited them to come back.

5. Alderwoman Cornwell reported the following:

- She had been speaking with Judy Dulaney and Luther Cain with GRC an architect out of Kingsport, is willing to meet with them to discuss the memorial Mr. Smith had requested.
- The pageant that Mayor Wells was referring to had 61 entrants and they raised \$5,000.00 that day.
- . This Saturday they will be having a Flea Market / Auction at the Tri Cities Flea Market in building 11 from 7 to 5. Anyone wanting to donate items should meet with her after the meeting.
- School Board approved for them to use the Bluff City Elementary School to house the boys and Girls Club. Currently down to needing \$15,300.00 from the original \$100,000.00 to start the club. Any support would be appreciated.

City Manager Judy Dulaney reported the following:

1. Presented the BMA with a copy of the financial reports.
2. Engineer was supposed to be at the meeting to talk about the lift station and present their PER to the board to see if they wanted to go for those funds, but it would be the next meeting before he had it ready. She had met with Lewis Trivette with Rural Development and he recommended borrowing enough money to do all of the stations instead of just 2 due to the low interest rates.
3. Received only 1 application for Water Distribution and collection operator and he lives on the other side of Knoxville but is looking to move up here. He has a lot of experience.
4. Apologized for not getting packets to the board and explained that she had a test that day and was out of town.
5. She has talked to Mayor Godsey and Commissioner King in reference to the red light, and they wanted her ask the board Bluff City would pay the bill and buy the lights and parts to repair it, Sullivan County would maintain it. They would need Mr. Frye to draw up a contract.
6. She doesn't get the information from the State in reference to the interchange. If the board wants the Mayor to be the overseer this project just let her know and she has no problem with that, but as City Manager she knows nothing because nothing has been sent to her. TDOT told her that the Mayor had told them to send everything to her and gave them her personal cell phone. She feels that the board needs to clarify this.

7. Ms. Hunnigan who came to the meeting in reference to creating a Ruritan Club in Bluff City, called to reserve the pavilion in August to have something called Bluff City Day's and this could confuse people that the city is sponsoring it. When you open the park to let people sale things you open it for people to have yard sales or anything else. She called Ms. Hunnigan and told her that she would have to come before the board for permission and Ms. Hunnigan told her that Mayor Wells was taking care of it but since the Mayor had not mentioned it she became concerned that the Mayor may not have known about it. Mayor Wells stated that she was out of town and was going to come to a meeting at a later time and this would give the board time to consider it and they would have to authorize overtime for the Police and Public Works Departments.

Mayor Wells told to City Attorney Paul Frye that she (Ms. Hunnigan) had said that she had spoken to him and she thought that there might be a little confusion. Mr. Frye stated that he had not spoken with her about this event. Mayor Wells stated that she believes her feeling was that it was a nonprofit thing and that she is raising money for the city like trying to help the Rescue Squad and the Fire Department and the food pantry.

Mayor Wells asked City Attorney Paul Frye for a copy of all the lawsuits or legal actions that are against the City of Bluff City. Mr. Frye stated that the city had two (2) and she could have copies of the. Mayor Wells asked what about the legal actions. Mr. Frye stated they are confidential. Mayor Wells asked if they were confidential from the Mayor. Mr. Frye stated that they were confidential period. Mayor Wells stated that she would have to go somewhere else to get the answer to that. Mr. Frye stated that he just gave it to her. Mayor Wells stated that as the Chief Executive Officer you would not think that she could not know about it. Mr. Frye asked if she wanted a copy of the lawsuits. Mayor Wells stated yes. Mr. Frye told Mayor Wells that one of the lawsuits had been served on her and asked if she did not keep a copy of it. Mayor Wells stated that she did that one. Mr. Frye stated that they have one other lawsuit and he would see that she got a copy.

Mayor Wells reported that Alderwoman Cornwell had talked to Commissioner Dwight King and he was sorry he could not be here tonight but he has a budget meeting and can't attend. Mayor Wells reported that Mr. King reported that he had received numerous calls wanting Bluff City to mow the median from the Flea Market to Piney Flats as Bristol and Johnson City mow theirs. Mr. King also suggested that Bluff City annex to the Johnson City line and that would eliminate all the confusion about accidents and who is supposed to be dispatched. City Manager Dulaney reported that the state mows twice a year and we do not have the type of equipment to do it. Alderman Mullins stated that the state cut back on mowing due to fuel costs.

Public Works Director Ron Miller reported the following:

1. Highland Subdivision project is going well and should be completed by the middle of next week.
3. Working on Lakeview Drive project as they can fit it in.

3. Mowing is a little behind as he is 2 men short and they are trying to complete the Highland project due to having high dollar equipment rented.

4. Doing brush and leaves on Mondays and Tuesdays.

5. Put up no parking from here to corner signs at the old City Hall and at the Rescue Squad, and will be painting curbing yellow as extra visibility.

6. Speed Limit signs were re- installed on Carter Street.

Mayor Wells thanked Public Works Director Ron Miller for posting the new Highway Project Map so people can see it.

Alderman Cornwell stated that Junk Day's was next week.

Chief of Police Greg Depew reported the following:

1. The Durango is fully equipped for police activity.

2. No major problems to report. Calls were up. Trying to reduce mileage.

3. Presented Monthly Report for April, 2012 (SEE ATTACHMENT II)

4. Thanked the board for all they have done for the Police Department.

Mayor Wells opened for floor for Old Business:

Manager Dulaney asked what the BMA wanted to do about the red light at the crossroads. Alderman Miller stated that he thought the partnership was a good idea and they should have Mr. Frye draw up a proposal to present to Sullivan County. Vice-Mayor Leonard stated that from his experience, the parts can be very expensive, and that should be taken into consideration. Alderman Carrier stated that he thought that she said that we would pay the electric bill and they would pay for the parts. Ms. Dulaney stated no we would have to buy the parts and they would provide the labor. Alderman Cornwell asked if we could get an idea of parts prices. Ms. Dulaney asked if they wanted her to get a list of prices. Consensus was yes.

City Manager Dulaney asked the BMA if they wanted the Mayor to take care of the intersection project. Alderman Miller said that the best way is to send notice to the State to c.c. (carbon copy) the City Manager and the Mayor on all mailing then there would never be a question about everybody getting informed and to follow the charter.

Mayor Wells asked if anyone had heard anything from the Railroad. City Manager Dulaney stated no that they had assigned someone else to it.

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Alderman Carrier asked if anyone said how many members of the Ruritan you have to have to hold a charter. Mayor Wells stated that she already has 15 people to sign up.

City Manager Dulaney asked the BMA if they wanted to schedule a Budget Workshop for the first week in June. Workshop was set for June 5<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. Alderwoman Cornwell asked if she needed to invite Luther (reference to war memorial) to that. City Manager Dulaney stated yes they could get both of those in. Ms. Dulaney reported that David Smith's son is helping with the memorial by looking into getting an old piece of military equipment to place beside the memorial.

Alderman Carrier stated that he would like to have a workshop to discuss increasing water rates by 1 to 1 ½% and put some in escrow to put toward purchasing Hillcrest water lines. Alderman Miller stated that they could make that part of the budget workshop.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for New Business:

Vice-Mayor Leonard reported that Mrs. Baldrige approached the BMA to allow her to raise hens to produce eggs. Mrs. Baldrige stated that due to the economy we need to be able to sustain ourselves. City Attorney Paul Frye stated that he would look into it.

Mayor Wells asked the board if she could attend a Government and Non Profit CPE at the Meadowview Center on June 14<sup>th</sup> at a cost of \$75.00. Alderman Miller made a motion to approve the cost of the conference was made by Alderman Miller. Second by Vice-Mayor Leonard. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Alderwoman Cornwell asked if this class that the Mayor wants to attend is just for Mayors. Mayor Wells stated no. Alderwoman Cornwell asked City Manager Dulaney if she wanted to go as well. City Manager Dulaney stated that everything the Mayor mentioned is what she is going to classes for Mayor Wells asked Ms. Dulaney if she got a copy of the notice and Ms. Dulaney stated yes.

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

1. Tim Cross asked about his request for a scholarship for an after school program. Vice Mayor Leonard asked if the city was allowed to appropriate money to a business for profit. City Attorney Paul Frye stated that you can't appropriate money to a business for profit but he did not know about scholarships, but he would look into it.

Mayor Wells adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

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Irene Wells, Mayor

Attest this 10<sup>th</sup> Day of May, 2012

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Judy Dulaney, City Manager



