

Minutes  
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen  
Regular Meeting  
November 13, 2014

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

Members present were Melvin Carrier, David Harmon, Ray Harrington, Lon Gene Leonard and Richard Bowling.

Prayer was given by Reverend Ervin Green from the Robinson Memorial Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes from the October 9, 2014 meeting were approved with a motion by Alderman Carrier. Second by Alderman Harmon. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for Citizen Comments – First Section. There were none.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for the following:

Public Hearing on Ordinance 2014-005 was opened at 7:04 p.m. City Attorney Paul Frye read the ordinance which fixes the time and place of the regular meetings of the BMA. There were no comments. Hearing was closed at 7:05p.m. Motion to approve ordinance 2014-005 on second reading was made by Alderman Harmon. Second by Alderman Carrier. All in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion/Action on amendment to the existing Audit Contract with Eddy & Eddy. City Manager Dulaney stated that she was contacted by Mr. Eddy and notified that someone called the Comptroller and alleged missing money from the City so the Comptroller authorized a separate audit to be done on the money to assure that the money is accounted for. Ms. Dulaney stated that the reports are outlined in the document she provided to the BMA. Ms. Dulaney stated that the cost of the additional audit is \$3,375.00. Ms. Dulaney stated that Mr. Eddy had texted her and asked if the request would be on the agenda tonight for board approval as it is a mandatory audit that was required by the Comptroller. Alderman Harmon asked if this was right after the regular audit. Alderman Leonard asked if there were any discrepancies or misappropriated funds or anything missing. Ms. Dulaney stated not in the first audit. Alderman Bowling stated you haven't got the results back from this one yet. Ms. Dulaney stated that they would probably send that to the Mayor or may put it as an amendment to their regular audit. Alderman Leonard stated that he felt that they should have that before they act on it. Ms. Dulaney stated that the city had to pay this as it is a mandate by the Comptroller and had already been done. Alderman Bowling asked if anyone had any idea who did the calling. Ms. Dulaney stated no the Comptroller does not release the name. City Attorney Paul Frye stated that the work had been done and it is something that was required. Ms Dulaney stated that this is considered an amendment to his original contract. Motion to approve payment was made by Alderman Carrier. Second by Vice-Mayor Harrington. Vote was as follows: Alderman Carrier-Yes, Alderman Harmon-No, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Leonard –No, Alderman Bowling-No. Alderman Bowling stated that he felt that whoever did this should let the people know. Alderman Leonard stated that the thing about this is that we just spent many thousand dollars and just had an audit and now have to pay nearly \$3,400.00 again and he does not think that the citizens of Bluff City should have to bear these frivolous expenses over and over again.

Mr. Leonard stated that his statement was in no way a reflection to Sullivan County Officer Major Elton as he is sure he is a very fine officer, but the city has a competent police department in Bluff City and it is a shame to waste tax payer's money to have a Sullivan officer come here and sit for nothing.

Discussion/Action on quote to repair 2008 Dodge Police Cruiser. Mayor Wells asked if they did not have but the one quote. City Manager Dulaney stated that there was a reason for that as what she and the chief looked at the vehicle and it has high mileage and a lot of problems and it really needs to be removed from the fleet instead of spending \$6,088.00 to repair it. Ms Dulaney stated that she has informed the Chief that they could not purchase another cruiser right now. Alderman Leonard stated that he agreed with the Mayor that we should have more than one quote and he also agreed with her that he could not see putting that much into a car that has that many problems. Alderman Leonard asked that they get another quote.

Mayors report reflected meetings that she attended during the month

She had received a letter from Norfolk and Southern Railway requesting support of the closure of the crossing behind the First Baptist Church and if the city was interested they could come to a meeting.

Read letter from Comptroller's office stating, This letter acknowledges receipt of a copy of the 2015 fiscal year budget from the City of Bluff City. We have reviewed the city's budget and have determined that projected revenue and other available funds are sufficient to meet anticipated expenditures for fiscal year 2015. Our review of the budget is based solely on the information we included have received and is for the purpose of determining that the budget appears to be balanced. ( Complete letter available at City Hall.)

City Attorney Paul Frye had no report.

Mayor Wells stated that someone had called and asked her what they would have to do to have a peaceful march. Mr. Frye stated that they would have to get a permit. Mayor Wells asked what was the status of Ron Miller, Public Director. City Manager Dulaney stated that she could not discuss personnel issues. City Attorney Paul Frye stated that they can't discuss it in this forum.

Comments from Aldermen:

Alderman Carrier stated he was glad to see everyone out tonight.

Alderman Harmon stated he was glad to see the people here. Mr. Harmon stated that he was glad to see that the Mayor went with them and signed the grant for the money after refusing to sign it 3 or 4 times. Mayor Wells stated that she had to sign it because the Mayor had to sign it.

Vice-Mayor Harrington stated he appreciated everyone coming out and reminded everyone that the next meeting will be on the first Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

Alderman Leonard thanked everyone for coming out and thanked Mr. Elton for his time and thanked the police department for their time.

Alderman Bowling stated that he was glad to see everyone here but he wished that we had a full house and had more people interested in what's going on in the city.

City Manager Judy Dulaney reported the following:

She had given the BMA some information in their packet from Gov Deals where they sold the vehicles and they had received the money.

Waiting for representative from Mattern & Craig Engineers to discuss Sidewalk Grant which she has provided a sample Resolution.

Report from Charter in reference to adding new high definition channels.

Had a major water leak and had to buy water and the cost of that was \$4,875.49.

Gave the board a letter from TML on some of the costs on a couple of the law suits that were filed and dismissed. One was Lee McClintock for \$1,688.75 and the Milton Boyd suit was for \$6,771.79 for a total of \$8,460.54. This is what it cost through our insurance company but is not the total cost.

The water tank has been drained completely and they cannot put water back in it until the inside and outside is painted, so we are on 100% of the Bristol Bluff City Water System.

Allen Moultrie, a city employee has taken his test for Sewer Distribution so they will have to look at increasing his pay as soon as they find that he has passed the test.

Presented the financial records along with the account analysis showing each check written for each month. The next document is the summary financial statement which has the year to date. Ms. Dulaeny asked for board approval of the financial statements. Motion to approve was made by Alderman Leonard. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Dulaney presented the following account balances as of today: General Fund- \$56,447.00, Sanitation Fund- \$7813.49, Special Drug Fund- \$2,227.83, Sinking Fund-\$3,094.75, Debt Service-\$228,042.00, Water/Sewer Fund-\$297,364.36, FHA Reserve Acct.- \$690.75.

Working on Christmas Decorations so we can put them up next week.

Reported that we have a water line that runs through 3 properties on Bluff City Hwy. that belongs to the city. Last year this line froze because it was not deep enough. Ms Dulaney stated that her concern was when we are working on it, it looks like it is on private property which it is, but it is a main line and it goes to Alderman Bowling's house, and through where Ruth Poore lived. Ms. Dulaney stated that we are going to have to dig it up and move it and she does not know why it was put there, but she does not want to be accused again of working on anybody's property. Ms Dulaney stated that she wanted the board to know so if they get complaints on it. Ms. Dulaney stated that Alderman Bowling was without water for several days last year due to the line

freezing. Alderman Bowling stated that the A-Frame Apartments and the Brick Apartments plus Ruth Poore's house are on it as well.

Mayor Wells asked about the loan / grant papers that show a difference of \$19,700.00. City Manager Dulaney stated that she would need to contact Rural Development as the papers were addressed to the Mayor so she just copied them and gave them to her. Mayor Wells stated that the board needed to know about it and she would call them. Alderman Leonard asked if it could have something to do with the percentage they spoke about at the meeting. Ms. Dulaney stated that it is possible and she would see if Mr. Wilson knows anything about it. Dave Wilson of Mattern & Craig stated that he was unaware why the figure changed but he would take a look at the line items. Mr Wilson stated that they could begin work if they so choose and they would not bill or be paid for this and it would be contingent on Rural Development's approval. Motion to approve agreement contingent on R.D. approval was made by Alderman Leonard. Second by Alderman Carrier. All in favor. Motion carried.

City Engineer Dave Wilson stated that TDOT has a grant to help with sidewalks. Mr. Wilson stated that there was a 5% match and you can get up to \$950,000.00 if you qualify. Mr. Wilson stated that it does not include Parks Worley. Mr Wilson stated that they had looked into it before and there was limited space for one there. Mr. Wilson stated that they could look into a TDOT Safety Grant. Mr Wilson asked the board to consider this grant.

Chief of Police Greg Depew presented the monthly report.

Alderman Harmon asked if the speed trailer was fixed. Chief Depew stated that it appears that it is going to cost more to repair it than it is worth and he may need to look into a grant to replace it when one is available.

No Sullivan County Commissioner was present.

In Old Business:

City Manager Dulaney asked the board to reconsider the Mike Eddy Contract in reference to the cost of the extra audit as the comptroller had requested it. Alderman Leonard asked if they could wait until they get an answer from someone. City Attorney Paul Frye stated that he has to send the letter to them soon and he has already done the work and it is something that has to be paid. Alderman Leonard asked if there is anything that states it has to be paid right now. Ms. Dulaney stated no, it does not have to be paid right now but we have to commit to it so the letter can be sent to the Comptroller. Motion to approve the additional cost was made by Alderman Harmon. Second by Vice-Mayor Harrington. Alderman Harmon stated that this is a bitter pill to swallow because we can't give money to the Fire Department or anyone and we have to pay for a second audit and it is irresponsible for whoever called and did this. Vote is as follows: Alderman Leonard – No. All others in favor. Motion carried.

Chief Depew stated that Officer Antone has been in touch with the Governor's Highway Safety Office and they are going to be a part of the Police Challenge which they will provide their policies and they score points which makes them eligible to win police equipment.

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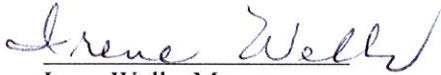
In New Business:

Alderman Carrier stated that years ago there used to be a street light at the park at the swinging bridge and now there wasn't one. City Manager Dulaney stated that they would not put one there as she and Amber Torbett have both asked them to put one there and she would try again.

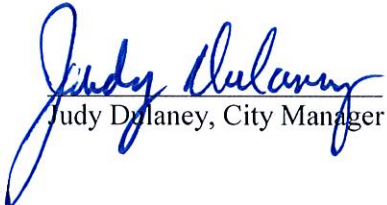
Mayor Wells asked if the Board was interested in closing the Railroad Crossing previously mentioned. Mrs. Wells stated that she did not have it in writing but \$25,000.00 did come up. Alderman Leonard stated that they won't clean up their property. City Manager Dulaney asked if they could give the board something showing how it would affect the flow of traffic in that area. Alderman Leonard asked the Mayor to have the railroad representative to come to the next meeting.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for Citizen Comments- Second Section. There was none.

With no other business, Motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Harmon. Second by Alderman Harrington. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:14 p.m.

  
Irene Wells, Mayor

Attest this 13<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2014

  
Judy Dulaney, City Manager