

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen
August 4, 2015

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

Members present were John Harrison, Sandra Madison, Ray Harrington and Richard Bowling.

Members absent: Tanya Cordle.

Prayer was given by Reverend Irving Green, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes for the July 7, 2015 regular meeting were approved with a motion by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for the following:

City Engineer Dave Wilson reported the progress on the water / sewer project. Mr Wilson reported that the plans were 75 to 80% complete to be able to put out on bid. Mr. Wilson asked for a workshop with the BMA to work with the project in reference to the current budget.

Discussion / Action on Initial Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds not to Exceed \$1,686,000. Motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action Resolution Authorizing the Issuance, Sale and Payment of \$1,686,000 of Bonds. Motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor. Motion carried.

City Engineer Dave Wilson stated that he did want to have a workshop after scrutinizing the cost estimate and discuss where they stand with the project. Workshop was set for Thursday August, 6th after 3:00.

Citizen Comments – First Section

David Smith of 200 Highland Circle thanked Mayor Wells for the time she is putting in and thanked the board members for working together. Mr. Smith stated that he would like to get \$100 a piece for each alderman and \$175 for the Mayor for each meeting. Alderman Bowling stated that he would like to wait until after the budget before they do anything like that. City Attorney Paul Frye stated that it would take an act of the State Legislature. With no other comments – citizen comments closed.

Resolution authorizing a 50% Matching Safety Grant for 3 Bullet Proof Vests for Patrol Officers.

Chief Depew stated that it was a grant that would pay half of the cost for the vests which the current ones are outdated. Alderman Bowling asked how much they would cost. Chief Depew stated right at \$3,000 for all three. Motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor.

Discussion / action to correct the fees for John Harrison approved at the last meeting from \$370 to \$337.

Motion to approve was made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Alderwoman Madison. All in favor. Motion carried

✓ Discussion / action approval of Fence for Confiscated Vehicles to be kept at the Impound Lot at a cost of \$2,800. Mayor Wells stated that our insurance carrier had recommended this.

Vice Mayor Harrington asked if we got 2 quotes and sked if AAA Fence put a quote in. Public Works Director Hugh Thomason stated yes and Piney Flats Fence was the other quote and they were both the same. Motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Harrison. All in favor. Motion carried. Vice Mayor Harrington asked who got the bid. Mr Thomason stated Piney Flats Fence.

Discussion / action approve Partnership Agreement with Animal Shelter for \$5,500 (Increase of \$500)

Mayor Wells stated that the Animal Shelter will be having a fund raiser on September 12th at Cliffs Farms in Kingsport. Motion to approve was made by Alderman Harrison. Second by Alderwoman Madison. All in favor. Motion carried.

Set time for workshop on War Memorial.

Workshop was set for Monday August 10th at 6 p.m.

Discussion / action for sign for City Hall Building.

Mayor Wells stated that one like the one in front of the First Baptist Church is \$4,500 and it has a glass with a lock and the other one was \$17,000 and it is computer controlled and moves from page to page. Board stated they would like to get more quotes.

Report from Mayor:

Mayor Wells reported that they had been busy and the employees are working together good and she hopes to be able to proceed with the budget after meeting with the engineer.

Fund Balances are as follows: General - \$227,343.51, Sanitation - \$13,341.49, Special Police Fund- \$2,535.00, Debt Service - \$201,321.80, Sinking Fund - \$3,094.75, FHA Reserve fund - \$690.73, Water / sewer - \$214,108.26.

Report from City Attorney Paul Frye:

Mr Frye reported that in looking into having a referendum to close a street or railroad crossing he found that those are not something that the State Legislature authorizes us to have a referendum on.

Comments from Aldermen:

Alderman Harrison thanked everyone for coming and standing by them and he hopes to go forward.

Alderwoman Madison thanked everyone for coming and invited them to come back.

Vice Mayor Harrington stated that he appreciated everyone coming and he would like for the full house to continue, and he looks forward to the future of Bluff City.

Alderman Bowling stated that it is good to see a good crowd and asked that they come back, and thanked everyone for their support.

Report from Public Works Director Hugh Thomason: (Monthly report available)

Mr Thomason reported that business is going as usual in the Water / Sewer Department. They are working on the site for the War Memorial. Mr Thomason reported that Summers Taylor used 63,000 gallons of water during their construction on the 19-E / 11-E Bridge which they will be billed for.

Report from Chief of Police Greg Depew: (Monthly report available)

Mr. Depew stated that they had a busy month and school has started back. Mr. Depew stated that he had provided a different Driving School form to the Mayor and she will address the board about it.

No Sullivan County Commissioner was present.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Alderman Harrison asked if we could do something with the camera ticket money and put some back for the Library, Fire Department, and Rescue Squad. City Attorney Paul Frye stated that the ordinance would have to be changed and that could be discussed in the budget workshops.

Mayor Wells reported that she attended a meeting at the library and they are trying to see how many people would be interested in making Main Street a Historical street.

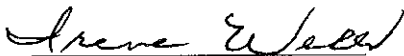
Citizen Comments – Second Section:

Cathy Nester of 201 Yokley Road, Blountville is the principal of Bluff City Elementary School. Ms. Nester thanked the police department for their support. Ms Nester stated that when she first came here approximately 6 years ago the Vice Mayor at the time was Lon Gene Leonard, and he came to her and said we have a traffic problem and we need your help. Ms Nester stated that they sat down and worked together with the police department. Ms Nester stated that they (Police) have always been helpful and they go way beyond what they have to do.

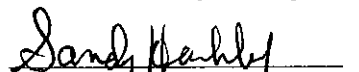
Julie Venable Carty of 209 Smith Street Extension asked if there is a lawsuit against the city and Lon Gene and people have been wondering if the city is going to pay his lawyer or does he have to pay his own. City Attorney Paul Frye stated that they were not commenting on pending litigation. Mrs Venable stated that she had requested that the flower bed at the swinging bridge be cleaned out and it had not been and also asked if we could mow near the entrance to Riverbluff Landing. Mrs. Venable stated that she knows that the Public Works Director makes \$25 per hour and she thinks that is high for this city as our police officers are not making that and their life is on the line. Public Works Director Thomason stated he had a work order on the trimming of the daylilies and he will do it closer to Fall. Mr. Thomason stated that we mow 5 feet from the pavement and the rest is private property or TDOT.

Carol Keith of 305 Lakeview Circle thanked the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the Chief of Police for the job they are doing. Mrs. Keith asked if they got a price on the audit. Mayor Wells stated that they were going to discuss it in the budget. Mrs. Keith stated it is something that needs to be taken care of and she speaks for the people and as citizens we want to know what is going on because we all have a right to know. Mayor Wells stated that as of now we only have one quote and they were going to discuss it in the budget. City Attorney Paul Frye stated he would wait until the budget workshop. Mrs. Keith asked why can't they know now. Mayor Wells stated that they might be able to get another one. Mayor Wells stated the quote was for \$25,500. Mrs Keith stated in order to move forward they have to be truthful about everything. Mayor Wells stated that she was not trying not to be truthful she was trying to get another quote before the budget was brought forward. Mrs Keith stated that they were going to go on with the audit. Mayor Wells stated yes. Mayor Wells stated that she did talk with Mike Eddy and he did say that he would step off and let someone else do it but with that statement it came with that the only way he would is if we would go with an auditor that he would recommend.

With no other business motion to adjourn was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.


Irene Wells, Mayor

Attest this 4th day of August, 2015


Sandy Harkleroad, City Clerk