

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen
September 1, 2015

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

Members present were John Harrison, Sandra Madison, Tanya Cordle and Ray Harrington.

Richard Bowling was absent.

Prayer was given by Reverend Bill Duncan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for the following:

Minutes for the August 4, 2015 regular meeting were approved with a motion by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderwoman Cordle. All in favor.

Minutes for the August 17, 2015 Special Called meeting were approved with a motion by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderwoman Cordle. All in favor.

Minutes for the August 20, 2015 Special Called meeting were approved with a motion by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderwoman Cordle. All in favor.

Citizen Comments 1st Section- None

Mayor Wells reported the following;

She attended several meetings this month and thanked Alderman Harrison for attending the Animal Board Meeting.

We have made \$5,277.06 in water adjustments and \$14,674.69 in sewer adjustments for leaks.

Presented a letter she received from Alan Major with MTAS. The letter talks about the budget and the \$197,000.00 they were talking about writing off. Mayor Wells stated that if they write it off it will help our water and sewer and she found where 200 and some thousand dollars was spent and it was spent on putting a new water line under the bridge. Mayor Wells stated that they were still looking into it so they would know where the money went and asked the board to reconsider writing the \$197,000.00 off the books. Vice Mayor Harrington asked if that would zero out and help the budget. Vice Mayor Harrington asked if this is basically the Water and Sewer fund is owing the General Fund money and if they zero it out it won't be owing it. Mayor Wells stated right. Alderwoman Cordle stated that we don't exactly know that is where the money went. Mayor Wells stated that we know for sure that 200 and some thousand dollars went to putting that line under the bridge. Vice Mayor Harrington made a motion to zero it out. Failed for lack of a second. Mayor Wells reported that Joyce Wellborn with the state will be coming and she wants an explanation as to why we are in the red.

Presented a copy of Fund Balances but bills had been paid since the report.

The auditors Lewis & Associates want to come by on Thursday to go over some things to make sure of what we want on the audit report and if there is anything additional they want to add, let her know and she will pass it on to them.

Presented photos of signs for them to review. Mayor Wells stated that we had already refused 2 places for the scrolling signs and she thinks it would be bad for us to put a sign up that we have not allowed others to have. Vice Mayor Harrington has talked to someone and the brick company will donate the brick.

Steve Gardner of 4418 Bluff City Highway asked to speak and stated that he thought that the prices they were talking about for a sign is a lot of money and he knows people that do that and he would get them to give a quote.

City Attorney Paul Frye reported the following:

The case of Brewer vs. Bluff City has been dismissed but is being appealed.

He has collected over \$6,300.00 in delinquent property taxes in the last 2 weeks.

He will be sending the paperwork off tomorrow to the bond council to get the financing for the Water/ Sewer project started.

Aldermen Comments

Alderman Harrison thanked everyone for coming.

Alderwoman Madison stated that she thinks the officers a raise, thanks and come again.

Alderwoman Cordle thanked everyone for coming and thanked David Smith and Reverend Duncan for coming down when they were planting the trees.

Vice Mayor Harrington thanked everyone for coming and looks forward to them coming next time.

Public Works Director Hugh Thomason reported the following:

They did some repair work on the pump station at the bridge.

Mowing and brush collection is as normal and leaf collection will be starting shortly.

Water plant is running well and they have fixed 11 leaks.

Alderwoman Madison asked Mr. Thomason what he does and does he get out and help the mow and stuff like that. Mr. Thomason stated that he has done everything from picking up trash to digging a ditch, you name it I've done it all.

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Alderman Harrison asked Mr. Thomason when they were going to do some paving. Mr Thomason stated that he had spoken to a contractor and they have looked at the problem spots and he is getting prices.

Alderwoman Cordle asked if they could do speed bumps. Mr. Thomason stated that he did not see a problem if they did it in asphalt.

Mayor Wells stated that not only was Mr. Thomason the Public Works Director he does have 2 sewer licenses and people with these licenses are hard to find. Alderwoman Cordle stated that from the research she has done they do not need the number 4 license because Bristol treats our sewer. Mrs Cordle stated that the sewer collection license he has is for if you have more than 5000 taps. Ms. Cordle stated that the licenses are overkill and we have a public works employee that has the license for 5000 or less taps and as they are doing the budget they need to look at things like that and if they are paying for things they don't need there is an issue.

Mayor Wells stated that she was not the one that hired Hugh Thomason but he has been doing an excellent job.

No Sullivan County Commissioner was present as they were having budget meetings.

Chief Greg Depew reported the following:

Monthly report for August

Race weekend went well. School traffic going well

His department is going to see about doing a feed for Thanksgiving for select families in need, and they will be looking into donations for Christmas for needy families.

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Citizen Comments 2nd Section:

David Smith of 200 Highland Circle stated that he may be able to shed light on the \$200,000.00 saying that when Mr. Weaver was in office the bridge line busted and the total was \$140,000.00 and then they had to put a 3 inch line across the swinging bridge which was \$33,000.00 and also had to buy water from Bristol Bluff for months.

Becky Buchanan of 750 Drybranch Road thanked everyone that planted the trees and the war memorial that is planned. Mrs Buchanan thanked Sharon Greene for the good job she is doing and thanked Mayor Wells for being City Manager and that is saving the city \$10,000.00 a year. Mrs Buchanan stated that she called with a problem with her water meter and Hugh came out and he was down on his knees checking her meter and she has seen him picking up trash. Mrs Buchanan stated that we have a good guy here and we need to keep him. Mrs. Buchanan thanked the city workers and the board asking them to work together.

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Julie Carty of 209 Smith Street Extension asked how long we had been in the red with the water and sewer. Mayor Wells stated a few months, and what affected it was when we were refurbishing the tank and had to buy water for approximately 3 months. Mrs Carty stated that the public works workers are nice and work hard.

Carol Keith of 305 Lakeview Circle thanked Tanya. Mrs Keith stated in reference to the budget she agrees with Alderwoman Madison that the police officers do need a raise. Mrs Keith thanked the Chief for what they are considering for the feed at Thanksgiving. Mrs Keith stated that in reference to writing off the \$197,000.00, research it and don't write it off. Mrs Keith stated that she had paid money and didn't get credit for it so somewhere along the line there is something wrong and the people want to know where the money is going.

Jeananne Sanders of 251 Jonesboro Drive stated that they do need a speed bump especially on Jonesboro Drive and stated that a school bus nearly hit her the other day. Ms Sanders stated that there was loud music and speeding on that road. Ms Sanders asked if they were going to have junk pickup days. Mayor Wells stated she hoped so.

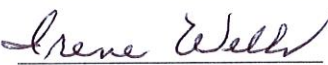
Mayor Wells stated that we have a public hearing and 2nd reading on Friday September 4, and they need to pass the budget as they are currently operating on last years budget, and they can always go back and make amendments if needed.

Alderwoman Cordle stated that as far as for herself if she does not understand everything in the budget the citizens don't know either and she will not pass it.

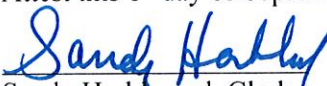
Carol Keith stated that since the Mayor was not getting paid the \$10,000.00 could the officers get a dollar or two extra. Mayor Wells stated that she feels that they need an adjustment.

Steve Gardner stated that he has friends on Jonesboro Drive and he agrees there needs to be something done there to slow traffic down. Mayor Wells stated that there is money in the budget for the roads. Mr Gardner asked that they check on sewer smell at the back of his house and see if they can cap the manhole. Public Works Director Hugh Thomason stated that he would look into it as he had no knowledge of it. Mr Gardner stated that it had been over a year ago that he talked to someone.

With no other business, Vice Mayor Harrington made a motion to adjourn. Second by Alderwoman Cordle. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.


Irene Wells, Mayor

Attest this 1st day of September, 2015


Sandy Harkleroad, Clerk