

Minutes
Special Called Meeting
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen
September 4, 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 Ron Whitaker, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for the following:

Citizen Comments- 1st Section

Joan Williams of 225 Woodland Dr asked for funding for the Library. Vice Mayor Harrington stated that they had put \$2,000 in the budget for them.

Public Hearing on Ordinance no. 2015-004 opened at 7:03 p.m.

City Attorney Paul Frye read the ordinance which is an Appropriations Ordinance for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016. Alderwoman Cordle stated that she contacted MTAS and they sent her salaries for cities under 4000 people and when compared to ours there are some people drastically overpaid. In our Charter it says the City Manager has the right to hire or terminate, but the board has the right to set salaries. Mr. Frye stated that salaries are thru the budgetary process. Ms Cordle stated that they needed to look at this before passing the budget. Vice Mayor Harrington asked if they passed the budget can they go back and adjust salaries. City Attorney Paul Frye stated that they could go back and amend the budget after it's passed. Ms Cordle stated that in accounting and auditing she thought they approved \$25,000.00 and this shows \$37,000.00. Vice Mayor Harrington stated there is an additional amount put in there if we want to do a more in depth audit. Mayor Wells stated yes. Ms Cordle stated that we have an officer that has been underpaid and we need to back pay him. Mayor Wells stated that she did not hire him and she does not know why he was brought in at that. Mayor Wells stated that she had it corrected from \$12.51 to 12.61. Vice Mayor Harrington asked if we could back pay him the amount if it was incorrect. City attorney Paul Frye stated yes if he was put on at an incorrect rate. Public Hearing closed at 7:20 p.m. Sharon Greene was asked a question about the budget and she went to get her paperwork.

Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2015-005 opened at 7:20 p.m.

City Attorney Paul Frye read the ordinance which is the Tax Levy Ordinance for Fiscal Year Ending June, 2016. Vice Mayor Harrington stated that the rate was unchanged. Public Hearing closed at 7:23 p.m. Motion to approve Ordinance 2015-005 on Second Reading was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderwoman Cordle.

Ms Greene returned and answered Alderwoman Cordle's question by stating that the amount she was looking at on page 6 was the totals listed on page 2.

With a motion and a second on the floor for Ordinance 2015-005. All in favor. Motion carried.

Board returned to Ordinance 2015-004 the Appropriations Ordinance for Year Ending June 2016 for consideration.

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 2015-004 on Second Reading was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Harrison. Vote was as follows: Alderman Harrison – Yes, Alderwoman Madison – No, Alderwoman Cordle – No, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes. With a tie vote Mayor Wells voted – Yes. Motion carried.

Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2015-006 opened at 7:26 p.m.

City Attorney Paul Frye read the ordinance which Sets Water User Rates reflecting an 8% increase. With no comments, public hearing closed at 7:28 p.m. Motion to approve Ordinance 2015-006 on Second Reading was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderwoman Cordle. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2015-007 opened at 7:28 p.m.

City Attorney Paul Frye read the ordinance which Sets Sewer User Rates reflecting an 8% increase. With no comments, public hearing closed at 7:29 p.m. Motion to approve Ordinance 2015-007 was made by Alderwoman Cordle. Second by Alderman Harrison. All in favor. Motion carried.

Citizen Comments – Second Section

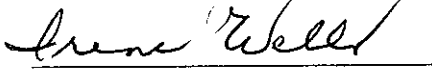
Becky Buchanan stated that this was going back to what Alderwoman Cordle was talking about earlier. Mrs Buchanan asked how many people was she talking about cutting their pay. Ms. Cordle stated that she thinks they need to look at it over all. Ms Cordle stated that she felt that there are a couple they need to look at. Mrs Buchanan asked Alderwoman Madison if she just wanted the police to get pay raises. Ms Madison stated all the workers not just the police. Mrs Buchanan stated that all the employees are doing a good job and the people appreciate it.

City Engineer Dave Wilson stated that Public Works Director Hugh Thomason has been the most productive one that we have had. Mr. Wilson stated that he did not want to disparage who has been here previously, but he thinks that folks were put into the position simply because they were here and Hugh does have the most credentials and he has been able to work with them and help immensely with many of their questions.

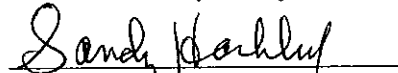
Julie Venable of 209 Smith Street Extension stated that the problem about Hugh (Thomason) is that when he was a worker and he wasn't here that long and when Ms Dulaney asked for his raise she thought it was a dollar to make it up to \$10.00 and she did not know it was a \$10.00 raise. Ms Venable stated that she had never heard of anyone here getting a \$10.00 raise. Ms Venable stated that just a few years ago when they wanted to give Wanda, Sandy and all the girls \$1.00 raise everybody had a fit. Ms Venable stated that we should not have to pay him for a license he is not using. Mayor Wells stated that when she says \$10.00 per hour he was cut back \$10.00 when he went to full time as he was temporary and made \$30.00 per hour and no benefits.

Don Weaver of 4336 Bluff City Highway stated that in reference to the Public Works Director he made \$24,960.00 at the water plant and he was hired in down here by the past City Manager. Mr Weaver stated that he got a raise of one year of \$27,040.00. Mr Weaver stated that it has never been run for this board to vote on and he feels that it is illegal because the board does the compensation. Mr. Weaver asked if it is legal for the city to be paying that and it has never been voted on by the legislative branch. City Attorney Paul Frye stated that he was not going to comment not knowing the facts. Mr Weaver asked if it is true what do you do about it. Mayor Wells stated that he (Hugh Thomason Public Works Director) went from part time to full time and that is what the difference is. Mayor Wells stated that they would have Mr. Frye look into it and she would report back to them.

With no other business a motion to adjourn was made by Alderwoman Cordle. Second by Alderwoman Madison. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.


Irene Wells, Mayor/City Manager

Attest this 4th day of September, 2015


Sandy Harkerbad, City Clerk