

Minutes
Special Called Meeting
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen
November 10, 2015
4:00 P.M.

Mayor Wells called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

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

Prayer was given by Alderman Bowling, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizen Comments – First Section

David Smith 200 Highland Circle apologized to Alderman Bowling for his action at the last meeting and knows that he is worried about the tax revenue for the city. Mr Smith stated that he wished that the board would work real hard to get tax revenue in besides annexing people. Mr Smith stated that he was concerned about the cameras going out and not having that revenue. Mr Smith stated that we have senior citizens and people on fixed incomes that can't handle much more.

Discussion / Action- Employee salaries.

City Recorder Sharon Greene presented a proposal in reference to salaries as follows:

Police Officers - .50 per hour increase. Wanda Phillips - \$1.00 per hour increase. Chief Depew - \$4,270.00 per year increase. The total cost for this increase would be \$15,729.00 per year. Alderwoman Cordle asked if the .50 per hour increase include the Deputy Chief and the Sergeant. Ms Greene stated yes – All the policemen. Ms Cordle asked what about public works. Ms Greene stated that they did not propose anything this was just the adjustment to equalize some salaries. Alderwoman Cordle stated that the amount she was told they could use was \$14,000.00. Ms Cordle stated that she had come up with was \$1.62 raise for Wanda Phillips because she has been here 16 years, and for the police officers she had .40 and the Deputy Chief and Sergeant .45 and the Chief \$1,537.88 which would bring him up to \$45,000.00. Ms Cordle stated that she proposed .25 for public works except for the Water Plant Operator and the Director. Mayor Wells asked if anyone had a motion on the first proposal for adjustments. Alderman Bowling made a motion to accept the first proposal. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. Alderman Harrison asked if this was the first part they were talking about. Mayor Wells stated that was for the adjustments. Alderwoman Cordle stated where nobody in the public works gets raises. Mayor Wells stated that's adjustment increases. Alderman Harrison asked if it was possible to go the second route and get them raises or not. Vice Mayor Harrington stated that some of the public works makes more than the police. Alderman Harrison asked if the new ones making \$10.00 per hour get an increase when they go to full time Mayor Wells stated no. Vice Mayor Harrington asked if it is based on the number of years they have been here. Mayor Wells stated not until they vote on another increase. Alderman Harrison asked if they could look at going the second route and give everybody a raise and it be less money. Mayor Wells stated that we have adjustments that they need to make really bad and the public works is right where they should be. Mayor Wells stated that maybe they could give merit increases next year but they don't have the money this year. After discussion on how Ms Green factored in the raise and medicare and social security Alderman Harrison asked if they could go that route and everybody would get a little bit. Man

from audience asked how they could give raises to some and not others because do you not think that the morale of your employees is going to go all to pieces. Alderwoman Cordle stated that she thinks it might. Man from audience stated that he feels that we have to do what we can afford, not other cities. Alderman Harrison stated that he is trying to be fair about it. Alderman Harrison stated that he understood about Wanda's because she has been here and has not got a raise in how many years. Man from audience asked about the 1 to 2% they had discussed and that way everybody would get something. Alderman Harrison asked how much they could give the two that are making \$10 and whatever is left give the city employees. Mayor Wells stated that we would have to cut somewhere to do that. Mayor Wells stated that they just come up with the adjustment increases and they knew they would not be able to make the adjustments and give everybody a raise. Alderman Harrison stated that we could maybe not give one as much and give someone else a little bit. Alderman Harrison stated that he felt that everybody should get a little bit. Mayor Wells stated that the board needs to discuss this and come up with what they want to do but they need to stay no higher than what they have gone so far. Mayor Wells asked that if they want to go lower then make the suggestion and each board member speak. Alderwoman Cordle stated that they could adjust stuff down in this meeting. Alderwoman Cordle made a motion to adjust Hugh Thomason's salary to \$44,000.00. Second by Alderwoman Madison. Vote went as follows: Alderman Harrison – Abstained, Alderwoman Madison- Yes, Alderwoman Cordle – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – No, Alderman Bowling – No. There is a tied vote and the Mayor broke the tie with a No. Motion failed. Alderwoman Cordle made a motion to lower the Water Plant Operator to \$36,000.00 per year because he does not have the licenses. Second by Alderman Harrison. Alderman Bowling asked what they were going to do when he gets them. Alderwoman Cordle stated that they could take a look at it. Alderman Bowling stated that he was going to take his test this month. Vice Mayor Harrington stated he take his test this week. Alderman Bowling asked why don't they wait on it until they find out if he passes his test or not. Vice Mayor Harrington stated yes if he don't pass his test he is gone anyway. With a motion and a second on the floor to lower the salary the vote was as follows: Alderman Harrison- Yes, Alderwoman Madison – Yes, Alderwoman Cordle – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Bowling – No. Motion carried. Vice Mayor Harrington stated that if he passes his test they can revisit it.

Vice Mayor Harrington stated that they just freed up \$5,600.00 could they not go with the original proposal and give the public works .25 cents. Mayor Wells stated that she thought it came up to more. Alderwoman Cordle stated that she wanted to give Ms Phillips a \$1.62 per hours raise because she has been here 16 years. Second by Alderman Harrison. All in favor. Motion carried.

Vice Mayor Harrington made a motion to increase police officers by 50 cents per hour and Chief Depew's by \$4,270 per year. Second by Alderwoman Cordle. Alderman Harrison asked if they could afford the 17,000 figure. He was informed they could. With a motion and a second on the floor the vote went as follows: All in favor. Motion carried. Mayor Wells stated that they would figure the public works and have it for the next meeting. Alderwoman Madison stated that she wanted to make a motion to pay Mayor Wells. Mayor Wells stated that they could not discuss that because it is not on the Agenda. Alderman Harrison asked if he (Dean Fields- Water Plant Operator) does pass his test we have to put him back up that is going to hurt us giving everybody a raise. Vice Mayor Harrington stated that we don't have to go back that high.

Pg. 3

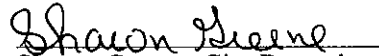
BMA SPEC.

11-10-2015

With no other business, motion to adjourn was made by Alderwoman Cordle. Second by Alderwoman Madison. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.


Irene Wells, City Manager

Attest this 10th day of November, 2015


Sharon Greene, City Recorder