

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Bluff City Board of Mayor & Aldermen
December 6, 2016

Mayor Wells called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

This is a business meeting. Not a court of law. No personal attacks. I welcome each of you here tonight. Anyone wanting to comment has three minutes in the first session and three minutes in the second session. The Board members do not have to comment unless they want to. Anyone wanting to comment must come to the podium and give their name, address and telephone number. No talking out in the meeting. If you would like to talk while the meeting is going on, you must go outside or in the hallway. Others want to be able to hear. You can be asked to leave if you are out of order. If you have a request for information, you must come to the office at City Hall during office hours 8 AM to 4:30 PM and fill out the proper request form.

Members present were Alderwoman Madison, Alderman Stratton, Vice Mayor Harrington, Alderman Harrison and Alderman Bowling.

Prayer was given by Vice Mayor Ray Harrington, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for Citizen Comments-First Section.

Wes Blevins, 182 Holston Dr., 423-366-7115: My main concern here tonight is a traffic concern that I have had ten years and its gotten worse. I have not really complained about it or anything. It's actually come to light a little bit more, my wife has to take my son to school in the mornings, on Holston Drive. She has to back out from our driveway which is in the curve on Holston Drive. It's the only curve on Holston Drive. She has to back out into traffic between 7:30 and 8:00 which is actually the time when the buses run through between 7:30 and 8:00. I had a video and I didn't bring it this time because I didn't have time to get a good video with people speeding, which usually they are. The buses weren't speeding when I took the video last Monday actually because I think maybe they might have slowed down because of the Chattanooga wreck or something. I had some time off at the first of November and buses were actually speeding up and down through there like other cars were too going to school. Its 25 I've got a picture there starting it goes from east where it starts. The sign says 25 there. As it goes east it gets to the curve at the mural. It says 15. Which has been marked out and graffiti and vandalized a few times. Nothing has been done with it. My concern is that my wife has to pull out and take my son to school and several times actually there is traffic coming down about the same time people going to work. When I had my time off I watched a few of the buses go up. I don't know if its where they are complacent with driving there and not seen us pull out there before. The sunlight is really bad there coming from the East when it first rises up. So it kind of gives them a little blind spot. Is one of my concerns. The speed. I have seen them on the phones. Cars speed both ways and she has to get my son there by 8:00. It's not only on school days though like I said the past ten years its gotten worse. People speed up and down through there all the time. There has been several wrecks in that curve. In my neighbor's yard, our yard people has hit the house, our porch. Wrecked into the neighbor's yard. I have replaced the mailboxes three or four times the past ten years. They have gone into the campground. There has been a long time since there has been a wreck it's been a year to two. But there has been a lot of wrecks there. But like I say my main concern was my wife pulling out to take my son to school but people speed there all the time. What I am here to ask is pictures have a little red line

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across down there at the sign. I am wondering if there is any way that you all will consider putting a speed bump down there? Where the sign is that says 15. Where my concern is where it would block the momentum of traffic. Because they start from 25 at the caboose and they just keep going faster and faster up through there. I mean I have done it before, it's not that hard to do. We actually have to stop there so I don't keep going. People do fly by all the time. I was thinking maybe a speed bump would slow the momentum down.

Mayor Wells states that we will look into it and you are over your three minutes now. We don't have any money right now. We have to wait and put it in the budget. We will get the list and we have had several people to request speed bumps. Mr. Blevins states he understands.

Dave Wilson, Mattern & Craig, Thank you Mayor and thank you members of the Board of Mayor and Alderman. I am here tonight to update you on several different facets of our ongoing project and also on the River Bluff Landing sewer connections project. I understand that one is now underway. Three of those five connections have been made. I anticipate that work will be completed later this month. On our pump station project, I understand that now approximately 1/3 of the force main has been completed. At the current rate we anticipate that they will finish by December 18th which was the final contract date. We will hit that and to be able to do a substantial completion inspection and to close that project out. Mayor, as I mentioned to you earlier I did receive payment application number four on behalf of Iron Mountain and I approve that and I have forwarded it for your review and approval. I should have brought it with me but we did put it in the mail you should receive it in a day or so. Also I know an ongoing concern there. Allen, I understand, we did receive 6/10 of an inch of rain last night and it did pass and you all have been augmenting with pumper activities and I know you are probably on call to watch that tonight also. Good news that did pass and hope that will go. For our remaining work the additional water and sewer improvements contracts two and three for that work. I do have a phone conference with our rural development representatives on Thursday morning. I hope to have their comments addressed and they had requested amendments to our engineering report and budget. I hope to get that done and receive approval to go ahead with those phases after that. Also for the upcoming field work and to comply with what we have been asked to do by the state, I was on a phone conference last week with Mr. Frye and we do anticipate that we will have a revised schedule. The state requests that we have field work completed and those CMOM activities and SOP and CAP updates underway. I understand that once we receive that it's roughly 90 day period I think we have got to do most of our administrative paperwork to get to them. That is all I have right now. Do you all have any questions?

Mayor Wells states thank you, I appreciate it.

Discussion/Action – Regular Meeting Minutes of November 1, 2016

Motion by Richard Bowling. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington
Motion Carried

Alderman Madison Yes
Alderman Stratton Yes
Vice Mayor Harrington Yes

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Alderman Harrison Yes
Alderman Bowling Yes

Special Called Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2016

Motion by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Richard Bowling
Motion Carried

Alderwoman Madison Yes
Alderman Stratton Yes
Vice Mayor Harrington Yes
Alderman Harrison Yes
Alderman Bowling Yes

Discussion/Action- Settlement Agreement and Order

Mr. Frye states this is a settlement agreement which came out of negotiations with TDEC and their attorney's. This would settle the appeal of the Director's order that we received in September. This will allow us to make \$3800.00 assessment payments in four installments. I recommend approval of this agreement.

Motion made by Alderman Bowling Second by Vice Mayor Harrington
Motion Carried

Alderwoman Madison Yes
Alderman Stratton Yes
Vice Mayor Harrington Yes
Alderman Harrison Yes
Alderman Bowling Yes

Discussion/Action: Approve the sale of 2 Honda Accords seized by Police Department

Chief Depew states on a couple of our seized vehicles that we have, we have gotten cleared by the State we were awarded the vehicle and we can sale them at this time. The Mayor should have given some paperwork on that. I have done some research this week we have a 99 Honda Accord and a 94 Honda Accord. The 99 Accord books on Kelly Blue Book for \$1803.00 and the 94 Accord books for \$908.00. I would like to ask the Board to put a reserve on that so that way somebody's not getting for \$50.00 or something. I would like to suggest from what I have looked at and stuff that we put \$1500.00 on the 99 Accord and put at least \$500.00 on the 94 Accord. Because if we don't do that then whoever bids can get it. We always say we put \$1500.00 and someone bids \$1200.00 we can go back and accept that but we do not have to.

Mayor Wells asks does anyone else have any suggestions or do you agree with Chief Depew.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Harrington Second by Alderman Harrison. Motion Carried

Alderwoman Madison Yes

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Alderman Stratton Yes
Vice Mayor Harrington Yes
Alderman Harrison Yes
Alderman Bowling Yes

Mayor Wells did not have anything to report.

City Attorney Paul Frye did not have anything to report, but wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Comments from Alderman:

Alderman Madison- I want to thank everyone for coming. Black lives matter. Thank ya'll for coming. Hope you have a Merry Christmas and please come back.

Alderman Stratton- I would just like to thank you also. Come out and take part in the City's work that they do. It's good to see a crowd and I appreciate everyone of you for coming out. I appreciate the Board also for taking their time. It's not a high paying bunch of people. There's not a bunch of money to get out of it. I know they are not doing it for the money. I appreciate you coming out.

Vice Mayor Harrington- I would like to say I appreciate everybody coming out. Like Jack said I enjoy seeing the crowd in here. Most of the time we just have four or five people so our crowd is a welcome sight. No matter what the circumstances are either way. Thank you all and I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and thank you for coming.

Alderman Harrison- I would like to say thanks for everybody coming out. I would like for everybody to show appreciation for Allen and his crew for being out at night trying to keep this sewer down and keep this water down. I was down there Sunday night with him. They did a good job. They were there until 7:00 or 8:00 that night. I wish everybody would tell him that they appreciate him. Because he is really working hard.

Alderman Bowling- I appreciate everybody coming out to. It is good to see a crowd and I hope everybody is using this time to get things done that is supposed to be done. I wish everybody a Merry Christmas and come back.

Chief Greg Depew reported the following:

(See Report)

Also this month I would like to get the Board a little bit updated on some things that's been going on. One of the things, I don't know if anybody had seen on the news or not. On 11-26-16, we had a couple officer's one a full time office and one a reserve officer come into work that day and was given some information. There was actually a robbery at the Big Orange Market located on Highway 126 in Sullivan County. It was at gun point. The male subject tried to kidnap the clerk. The suspect fled the scene in a white Chevrolet truck. Later that day at approximately 19:40 pm, Officer Greg Jones and Reserve Officer, Arnold Hopland of the Bluff City Police Department were on patrol on Highway 19E and noticed a vehicle matching the description of the robbery setting in the parking lot of the Dollar General Store. As the officer's pulled into the parking lot they noticed the suspect sitting in the truck and he turned his head so the officers could not see his face. Officer Jones then requested back up to dispatch

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before approaching the suspect. Prior to backup arriving the suspect pulled out of the Dollar General Store and headed North on 19E. Officer Jones then confirmed with dispatch that the tag on the truck belonged to the suspect vehicle. At this time Officer Jones and Officer Hopland initiated their emergency lights to stop the vehicle. The driver accelerated and attempted to get away from the officers. Several jurisdictions got involved in the pursuit which eventually led to the apprehension of Mr. Robert Howland on charges of armed robbery, attempted kidnapping, evading arrest along with other outstanding warrants by the United States Marshall's Office. I would like to thank Officer Greg Jones and Reserve Officer Arnold Hopland due to their actions a violent felon was taken off the streets and no one was hurt in the process. It is an honor and a privilege to have two outstanding officers representing this City. I appreciate their work. Several things in this they could have done different to make this situation really bad. When they pulled up on scene they could have approached the car without being patient and understanding the risks and the dangers involved to not only themselves but to other people and our citizens. They patiently waited and got help there and did all the right things as they are trained to do to make sure that this ended in a good way. I am very proud. Officer Jones is here Officer Hopland could not make it but his Wife and Daughter are here tonight. I would certainly like for everybody to give them a hand of appreciation. Greg asked Officer Jones will you come up here a second. It's not a whole lot but this is a plaque, we appreciate your hard work. That's all I have. One thing I will add, I do understand there are some problems on some city streets. I am getting a lot of calls with concerns about that. We will be doing everything we possibly can to step it up to try and watch that. I appreciate you coming here and letting us know and making us aware of it. That is a bad area and we will do more and pick it up a little bit. Try to help with your problem there and some of the city street speeders. Vice Mayor Harrington asked about the police cruisers. Chief Depew stated they are in process. We are hoping within several weeks maybe three or four weeks you know how that goes. We are patiently waiting and everything is in the works there.

Public Works Supervisor Allen Moultrie reported the following:
(See Report)

Water Department Dean Fields reported the following:
(See Report)

Mayor Wells opened the floor for the following:

Old Business: None

New Business: Light put in on Cedar St., John Harrison states there is a real dark area there and would like to have a light put in. He states there have been cars broken in to and things have been stolen. Halfway down the block on Cedar St.

Carolyn Payne asks is there money in the budget for this since there was none for the speed bumps. Vice Mayor Harrington states he will address this is just a moment. Mayor Wells states they have had several requests for speed bumps in other areas. We do not have the money in this budget, but we plan to put other speed bumps in other areas in our next budget.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Harrington Second by Alderman Bowling. Motion Carried

Alderwoman Madison Yes
Alderman Stratton Yes
Vice Mayor Harrington Yes

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Alderman Harrison Yes
Alderman Bowling Yes

Mayor Wells states she would like to mention to everyone that was here and others also that we had an incident where someone brought up that Moretz Construction Company their license had run out. I want to let everybody feel comfortable about the situation. It was not true.

Citizen Comments-Second Section:

Dennis Prater, I live in Johnson City, 37601, 617-721-8915, I have been asked to read a letter of demands. Listing demands including alleged incidents of racist harassment and intimidation, supposed negligence of Bluff City Police Department to protect citizens, alleged corruption and mismanagement in Bluff City, and a list of demands to be fulfilled by the BMA by January board meeting.

Carolyn Payne 4818 Bluff City Hwy., 538-9108: It was me who raised the question about Moretz. Their website still says invalid although they do have a valid. If they want to leave it that way that's fine. I did notify them to let them be aware that their website was incorrect. I was also, Mayor Wells had me escorted out of the building when she refused to give me the information for the name and phone number of the state inspector. But I found it! One of the most horrible things now is what we are saying in overflow reports. This one is ridiculous. This is lets see, Duty Drive. It is their opinion they noticed an un normally large amount of baby wipes all throughout the manhole. Leading us to think that this could have been done intentionally. Bluff City Police Department PD was called out on site to confirm our findings. All lines along Duty Drive area was flushed and cleaned out to avoid further issues. They used the jetter twice it occurred first on 12-1, then reported on 12-2. This is insane. If you are going to deal with things like this how much did that tiger cost Bluff City for 26,000 gallons of sewer? How do we know that the manhole that was replaced to on Lake View Drive doesn't have some holes in that waste line leading down to the waste water facility? 26,000 gallons of raw sewage caught in septic tank trucks. Ten trips? How much in total now have we put in to those two sewer pump stations? We got \$342,000.00. Was the 110,555.00 approved or has it gone above that? Bluff City we are not growing no new businesses, no new homes. We are dead. We are a dead, dying city. The only thing left undone is to determine the time of death!

Whitney Prater, Johnson City, TN- I am herewith my comrades and friends. I have been following what's going on here. Because I have a three year old toddler and you know what she likes to do outside? She likes to play at water and she likes to play at lakes. Do you know where your sewage goes? It goes into Boone Lake. Do you know what county that's in? That's in Washington county. So heres the thing, when your sewage flows into there and you don't alert our citizens in our town, that puts my kid in danger. That puts every child and that puts the fishermen in danger. And while that was flowing there were people that were posting blogs about how even though Boone Lake's drained they are fishing down there. There were people fishing down there and this is online. This is documented because there is blogs about it. They were fishing and your sewage was flowing. You owe all of Johnson City residents an apology. There were children playing down there throwing rocks. I was with my toddler while she was throwing rocks down there. You all owe Johnson City residents an apology and I will be taking this to Washington County courthouse to let them know that your corruption is affecting Johnson City, Tennessee. Here's another thing the incidents of racial intimidation and harassment a church was closed. There were white power signs and swastikas written. That is not acceptable

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in any place in the United States of America. That's not okay. And when that happens, you need to elevate the person that's suffering. I have talked to members of her congregation, they have told me that when she visits them at their home, white supremacists patrol back and forth on the sidewalks with sticks. That is not acceptable in 2016. So you all need to be thinking about what you are going to do to make this right. Thank you.

Carol Keith, 305 Lakeview Circle- First of all, I would like to clarify something. When I was going through all this Chief Depew he did come to see about me. Only to find out that he was told to stay out of it. But he did come. And I thank you for coming. And I thank you for caring but it needs to be investigated why he was told to stay out of it. Mayor Wells you know that's when I was standing up for you and I was going through all of that. How long is it going to take to stop the sewage from coming into people's yard? It's easy to say be cool about it. But when you have got mess coming in your yard. It's hard to be cool about it. How long is it going to take? What are the Moores' supposed to do they go home and its pouring down rain and they don't know what they are going to find in their yard. I wouldn't want to go out in my yard and see a pile in my yard. Citizens those pipes are busting it could happen to any of us. Also, I know I only have three minutes, I do want to ask that Board, I know election is coming up very soon but I hope that the Board will take control again as it gets close to Christmas. I cannot help but think about James when he was fired two weeks before Christmas. Okay, I am still fighting for him okay. And the thing about it is will the Board take control instead of the City Manager being able to fire somebody and then they appeal and go back before the City Manager why can't they appeal and go before the Board? That is the way it is supposed to be. Isn't that correct? So, I am asking the Board to take their power back. Would you think about that? Vice Mayor Harrington I sure hope you run for Mayor.

Michelle Horton, 117 Grandview Road, Johnson City, TN- One concern that I do have is that we were discussing in our meeting that it had already been set in motion to go ahead and be fixing these sewer issues that you all have been having here. And for some reason or another and I'm not sure what that reason was, that it was dismissed. That you just decided ok let's not fix this. As a result of that, now you have sewage leakage popping up in everybody's homes and people's homes are being destroyed and you're blaming it on the home owner's. These people need to be compensated because it doesn't seem right to me that this was supposed to be fixed already and now that it hasn't been fixed all of sudden it is the home owner's problem. You people need to get this in order. Because like she said there is children swimming in the Boone Lake. And it is on WJHL that they did see the water leaking the turd water going into the Boone Lake. That is a concern for Johnson city and if you all please would- we are giving you a reasonable amount of time to discuss this and we do plan to take action if nothing is done. Thank you.

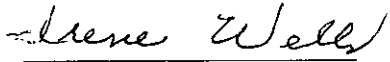
Natalie Nicolai- 422 West Pine St., Johnson City, TN: I just moved here recently but I have to say that I am really disgusted by the abuse of power that I have heard that is coming from this City by the racial intimidation and harassment is unacceptable. I live in Washington County but I cannot have this happening in my back yard. And I also want to say that I think I speak for other people when we don't blame the City workers for these sewage issues. We realize that they have their hands tied and that they are also being intimidated by the governing body. And um yeah I just wanted to say that I support the public workers who are having to put up with these issues themselves and really have no choice but to do what they are told.

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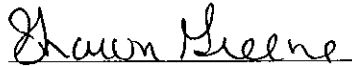
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Motion to adjourn was made by Alderman John Harrison. Second by Richard Bowling. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.



Irene Wells, Mayor

Attest: This 6th Day of December, 2016



Sharon Greene, City Recorder/Finance Officer