

Minutes  
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen  
Regular Meeting  
December 5, 2017

Mayor Wells called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

Mayor Wells opened the floor for the following:

Discussion- Engineer Dave Wilson from Mattern and Craig

Mr Wilson gave updates on the ongoing projects. Mr Wilson stated that we have received comments back from USDA on the contract for the water and sewer project and he is working to complete those.

Mr Wilson stated that on the McClelland Street project he had forwarded pay requests number 1 and 2 to Sharon. Mr Wilson stated that they have completed the utility work and the paving and they will be scheduling a walk thru to see if the work is acceptable. Mr Wilson stated that he would like to have Allen there. Alderman Bowling asked when he thought they would have the walk thru. Mr Wilson stated that he thought the contractor would request it before the end of the week.

Discussion / Action – Consider reducing the reconnect fee from \$50.00 to \$25.00

Mayor Wells stated that she and Sharon got together and looked at how it would affect us and decided it would not affect us that much. Mayor Wells asked if anyone had a motion. City Attorney Paul Frye stated that it would have to be done by ordinance and if they were in favor of it he would draw an ordinance up for next time.

Discussion / Action – Hearing for possible removal of Alderman John Harrison – Pursuant to Article III, Section 10 of the Charter of the Town of Bluff City, Tn.

Mayor Wells opened the hearing at approximately 6:04 p.m. City Attorney Paul Frye read a notice sent from the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to Alderman John Robert Harrison, along with the Order from General Sessions Court for the record. (SEE ATTACHMENT)

Alderman John Harrison stated “But you didn’t say that I’ve never been charged, which I have not”. City Attorney Paul Frye stated Mr Harrison I am not here to argue with you or prosecute this case. Mr Harrison stated “I am telling you the truth cause that’s what I know. This is what he done to me; it’s called beating on me, not me beating on him.

I don't care what the court says". Mr Frye stated "Mr Harrison you need to address the Board of Mayor and Aldermen (sentence interrupted) Mr Harrison stated I am pointing at everybody. Mr Frye stated I am not a decision maker. Mr Harrison stated "I'll show it to the rest of them too. This is what he done to me". Alderman Bowling asked what is in this picture. Mr Harrison stated "my neck, ribs and my throat. He come to me, all I did was protect myself. I don't care what the court says, they lied in court, the Judge knowed they lied in court, he caught him in lies and they still went ahead and done it". Mr Harrison stated "It's pretty bad I think when you can't protect your own self without having consequences like this". Vice Mayor Harrington asked what led up to him having to protect himself. Mr Harrison showed them an example of where he was and explained that he was choking him describing that I stuck my fingers in his eyes to protect- because he would not let up and then he threwed me on the bed still strangling me. Yes I did hit him a couple of times but he would not let me up". Mr Harrison stated "Every time I would try to get up he would kick my shins and all I had was flip flops and shorts on, that's it and if you can't protect yourself in this world, what can you do". Mr Harrison stated "This shouldn't even have nothing to do with anything, and the county don't even go by it". Member of the audience asked what residence location- Mr Harrison stated "You ain't got, this ain't your time, no, no, no this is mine". Mayor Wells stated no you don't, no one else can make a comment. Chief Depew stated that in this hearing it is his time to plead. Mr Harrison stated "I am there to take care of my mom; I'm not there for the rest of the people that is there. I am not there for the two kids that are trashing my mom's house". I have pictures of that I'll show you and all I did was ask that girl to clean up after herself and do her dishes and that is when she had her little hissy fit and went to call her daddy and he come in after me and told me to get out front but I never made it out there because he choked me. Mr Harrison stated when he got me on the bed he said I'm going to break your neck and that is when I pushed harder on his eyes because I was fixing to go out. I did not know what was going after that. Mr Harrison stated "yeah I might have a temper, but I won't let people run over me and a lot's tried". Mr Harrison stated I was protecting myself, I never expected something like that to happen because we had never had problems like that and it was all over the daughter". Mr Harrison asked if they had any questions. Alderman Bowling stated that it looks like the court believed him more than you. Mr Harrison presented a list of lies he caught him in. Mr Harrison stated this is all over his mother, they want the house, they want my mother and this is how they are getting me back. Some other people are trying to get me back, they shouldn't be in it but they are. I think it is shameful that I am up here doing this myself. Mr Harrison stated that if this went on at the county they would not look into it because it's to do with family problems, and county and family are two different things. Mr Harrison stated all I did was protect myself. Vice Mayor Harrington asked Alderman Bowling what his thoughts were on this and Mr Bowling stated that he feels they have to go by what the court says. Vice Mayor Harrington stated they have to go by the Town Charter too. Mr Harrison stated it says you may put him out it does not say you have to. Mr Harrison stated what's to say it won't happen to one of them.

Alderwoman Madison made a motion to vote on it. Mr Harrison stated what's to say it won't happen to one of you, they going to kick you out too. Mayor Wells stated wait a minute. Mr Harrison said okay, I'm just thinking. Second to remove John Harrison from the board was made by Alderman Bowling. Vote was as follows: Mr Harrison did not vote- All others in favor. Motion carried. City Attorney Paul Frye stated that Mr Harrison's term has expired and the board should instruct the City Recorder to publish a notice of a vacancy on the board and place it on January's Regular Meeting Agenda to fill that vacancy. Mr Harrison stated I can take this to the state can't I. Mayor Wells asked Mr Frye to answer that. He said yes. Mr Harrison stated I am giving you a warning that it is going to court right now, I am giving you the warning. Mr Harrison stated what all this is about is the GPS's because they don't want it and we did it and I backed the Mayor and that is where all this crap is coming from. Mayor Wells asked Mr Harrison to go out this way and he said I ain't going out that way and the Mayor asked him again and he said okay and called for his wife Bobbie to come with him. Mr Harrison stated I think it's pretty sad. See you in court. Hearing ended at approximately 6:15.p.m.

#### Discussion / Action – TVA Lease Agreement

Mayor Wells stated that they thought they could get the lease agreement for \$5,000.00 but after review it is going to be \$7,000.00 but they are willing to let us put the other \$2,000.00 in next year's budget. Alderman Bowling asked what it is on. Mayor Wells stated that it is the leases that TVA has. Vice Mayor Harrington asked if they gave a reason. Mayor Wells stated that it is all the things they have to go through. Alderman Bowling asked if we ever got an approval on the Veteran's Memorial for us to use the property down there. Mayor Wells stated yes and she had some people that were going to give some money to help us fix it and they backed out because it took so long. Alderman Bowling asked if the money we sold the old City Hall building for wasn't supposed to go for that. Mayor Wells asked Sharon to go back and check on that. Vice Mayor Harrington made a motion to accept the lease agreement. Second by Alderman Bowling. Vote was as follows: Alderwoman Madison – No, Alderman Stratton – No, Vice Mayor Harrington- Yes, Alderman Bowling – Yes. With a tie vote Mayor Wells voted - Yes. Motion carried.

#### Discussion / Action – Minutes for November 7, 2017 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve was made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### Citizen Comments – First Session

David Vance of 1204 Timber Ridge Road, stated he had 2 questions for the Aldermen. Mr Vance asked about 12 checks that was written to a Smith in North Carolina and why they did not push it as it was over \$1,000.00 and was voted to wipe it clean.

Mr Vance asked who bought the disposal plant up here and why there is no record of who bought it and how much and what for. Mayor Wells asked if he was talking about the sewer plant. Mr Vance stated that all that stuff was sold or give away and he thinks there should be a record of what happened to it. Mayor Wells stated she was not the City Manager at that time. Mr Vance asked if they cared about the Veterans because they could not get to the memorial where they were considering putting it. Mr Vance stated that the city had money and why don't they spend a little and show the Veteran's they care. Mayor Wells stated that there are some parking spaces on the proposed site drawing.

Carolyn Payne 4818 Bluff City Hwy stated that since she could not talk earlier, John (Harrison) was charged in court that day for 2 different reasons, one was vandalism and the reason she asked where this occurred, he stated his mother's house at 553 Cedar Street. Mrs Payne stated he proved in court he owns that property, waived the deed and everything. It is still listed in Sullivan County's Property tax as belonging to Marion and Lester, Sr. and the same in Bluff City. Mrs Payne stated she gets tax relief. Mrs Payne stated that the Home Consortium approved the renovations to that home. Mrs Payne asked if they were aware that John owns the deed to that home. Alderman Bowling stated that he had heard it but has not seen it. Mrs Payne stated Mayor Wells you set on that board. Mayor Wells stated "Yes I do set on that board and we have people that go out and check into all the information and the only thing I do is vote on that board". Mrs Payne stated "you wanted to make a disclosure to where you would not have a conflict of interest. Mrs Payne asked "Did John tell you that he owns that property. Mayor Wells stated I did not know John owned the property, I know it was put in for his mother". Mrs Payne stated it was for his mother but the Sullivan County Property Taxes will also reflect Bluff City Taxes. Mrs Payne stated I get so few monies that I qualify for Tax Relief and that is probably a very good reason why it is still listed in Marion's name so she will get tax relief. Mayor Wells stated if you want to know information about the Home Consortium Board you can come to a board meeting and they will be happy to talk to you. Mrs Payne stated I have contacted them, thank you very much- Mayor Wells said you are welcome- Mrs Payne stated I am looking forward to see what they have to say about it. Mrs Payne stated but I want you all to be aware of it. Mrs Payne stated that on the Veterans Memorial they had promised the people for 4 or 5 years and there has been money put aside for it, move forward, put it up and show them that you care.

Laura Higgins 304 Lakeview Circle thanked the board for putting John off the board. Mrs Higgins stated I am the aunt that he threatened to kill before his brother and nobody believed her. He called her a liar. I told his wife he was a liar and she said he's my husband and I've got to believe him and there was a nurse there when he did this, it is not just me or his brother saying it. He actually threatened me, had his finger up my nose and he is twice the size of me. I am so glad that you finally voted him off and I will do anything to stop him from going to court on this board.

Carol Keith of 305 Lakeview Circle thanked the Board and City Attorney Paul Frye for a great job and stepping up to the plate and trying to do what is right. Mrs Keith stated that she does not wish any ill feelings on anybody and we need to pray one for another and pray for John. Mrs Keith stated that something they did not know was that she was threatened also for standing up for a little boy and was told that her time was coming and it will be soon. Mrs Keith stated that anything that she can do to help as long as it is right she is with them.

Discussion / Action for the following Non Profit Groups

City Attorney Paul Frye stated that when the money is paid out they have to a resolution. Mr Frye reported that this has already been approved in our budget. Mr Frye stated that he was not going to read each resolution (2017-004 thru 2017-015) he is going to read the agency and the amount as follows: Bluff City Fire Department - \$8,000.00, Piney Flats Fire Department - \$2,500.00, Bluff City Senior Citizens - \$500.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest Food Bank - \$500.00, Thomas Memorial Library - \$1,000.00, Bluff City Community Aid - \$500.00, Children's Advocacy Center - \$500.00, Bluff City Rescue Squad - \$2,000.00, Boone Lake Association - \$500.00, Holston River Clean Up - \$500.00, Bluff City Boys and Girls Club - \$500.00, Over Mountain Trail - \$3,000.00. Motion to approve was made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. All in favor. Motion carried.

Report from Mayor / City Manager

Mayor Wells reported that things are going pretty fast on the McClelland Street project and there was additional involvement with our Storm Water Coordinator Todd Wood. They have worked hard to keep the storm water from going into the sewer.

The auditors are finishing up the audit report and they will be back to the board to present the audit.

Report from City Attorney Paul Frye

Mr Frye reported that last month he collected a little over \$3,300.00 in delinquent property tax.

Mr Frye wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Comments from Board Members

Alderman Madison wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked everyone for coming.

Alderman Stratton thanked everyone for being there and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Mr Stratton stated I am proud of, not only what we have done but what you all have done and asked that they pray for one another.

Vice Mayor Harrington wished everyone a Merry Christmas and he hoped that they all get to spend time with their loved ones. Mr Harrington stated we will continue to do what is right for Bluff City no matter what they have to do as long it's what is supposed to be done for the Town of Bluff City.

Alderman Bowling thanked everyone for coming out and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Mr Bowling stated that he feels that they did the right thing tonight.

#### Financial Report – Finance Officer – Sharon Greene

Ms Greene reported the following balances as of October 31, 2017:

General Fund- \$1,096,480.00, Sanitation Fund - \$18,327.00, Special Police Fund- \$15,932.00, Debt. Service Fund- \$116,649.00, Sinking Fund - \$3,095.00, Water/Sewer Fund- \$776,415.00.

Motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### Report from Chief of Police Greg Depew

Presented the Monthly Report for November 2017 (SEE ATTACHED)

They got the 2008 Dodge Charger back from being wrapped and it turned out very good.

They are getting ready for the Christmas Parade. Chief Depew wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Board members told the Chief that he and his department are doing a good job.

Chief Depew asked if anyone had any questions and anyone in the audience as well. Lady from audience thanked the police department for the great job they are doing and asked everyone to stand with them and encourage them. Another lady stated so would I - I asked the question last time—Mayor Wells stated why don't you wait until he finishes and then you can make your comment, that's the order it is supposed to go in.

#### Report from Public Works Supervisor Allen Moultrie

Monthly report for November 2017 (SEE ATTACHED)

Mr Moultrie reported that the pump stations have been operating normally with no major issues or overflows.

Mr Moultrie reminded customers that have received notices about defects need to get them resolved. They are getting ready to send out a second round of notices. Mr Moultrie stated that the repairs on McClelland Street will be a big plus for us but everything helps, so please fix any issues that you can.

Mr Moultrie wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr Moultrie stated that the sewer cameras are working good for them as they can see exactly what is going on. He thanked the board members for purchasing it.

Vice Mayor Harrington asked Mr Moultrie if the work on McClelland Street was to his satisfaction. Mr Moultrie stated yes but the rain has not been hard enough to check the flow. He said he did not see the paving being put down but the lines were installed good and this is just one problem that is solved. Mr Harrington asked if all lines are live and Mr Moultrie stated yes.

Vice Mayor Harrington asked that he keep track of the sewer pumped and Mr Moultrie stated that the amount of flow that they are sending today is a whole lot less than before.

Mayor Wells reported that she and Allen (Moultrie) met with Bristol in reference to the sewer contract. Mayor Wells stated that they anticipate an increase this year. Johnson City is a whole lot bigger than we are but they give us the same rate as they do Johnson City. She will have Mr McNabb here at the next meeting in reference to the lease agreement along with a representative from Johnson City about the Veterans Memorial.

No Sullivan County Commissioners were present

Old Business – None

New Business

Vice Mayor Harrington asked what the next project coming up. Mayor Wells stated that's the water and sewer lines and we will have to send it out for bids. After sending it out for bid they will have a workshop. Alderman Bowling asked when the bids go out does it cover all the lines over town. Mayor Wells stated no we can't do all of that, we have to do the worse ones and there has been extra things that had to be done so we are going to have to cut somewhere. Mrs Wells stated that also in that project is the water tank out at the water plant, so they will have to make a decision about which ones you want to fix and he will tell you which ones are the worst.

Citizen Comments – Second Session

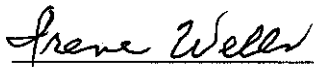
Julie Venable Carty of 209 Smith Street Extension stated that a few months ago we allotted \$10,000.00 to go to help for a new shelter and now Sullivan County is backing out and Kingsport has backed out, where does that leave us, with a shelter and the money. Mrs Carty asked if we still had a shelter. Mayor Wells stated yes we are back to what we had with Sullivan County. Mrs Carty asked if they are going to do any updates at the old one. Mrs Wells stated that they talked about it but with the new school project it is going to be a while before they can do what they want. Mrs Carty stated that they need to separate new dogs because they may be sick.

David Vance suggested that the City purchase the property beside City Hall for the Veterans Memorial. Mayor Well's stated that there is another piece of property that the owner stated he would be willing to sale the piece of property to the city as long as we can be sure it would not be an extension of a trailer court. Mr Vance stated that they will have people come that are crippled. Alderman Bowling stated that they did talk a couple of years ago about putting it beside this building. Mayor Wells stated that the property she is talking about is flatter and would probably be better than the property next door. Mayor Wells stated that she could get an exact price by the next meeting.

Joan Williams of 225 Woodland Drive, a member of the Friends of the Library, thanked them for the help they have given the Library. Mrs Williams thanked Becky Murray for all the work she has done at the library as well.

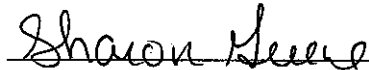
Carolyn Payne of 4818 Bluff City Hwy, stated to City Attorney Paul Frye that last month she asked the Chief of Police if it was required that John (Harrison) turn over every gun that he owned but he had to do it through a third party. Mrs Payne asked if he could find out who the third party was. Mr Frye stated no I can't. Mrs Payne asked if he could find the paperwork of how many guns he listed. Mr Frye stated "you would have to go to the Attorney General's Office". Mrs Payne asked who that would be and Mr Frye stated Barry Staubus Office. Mrs Payne stated that the next thing was where the assault occurred and the two charges and one was vandalism- Mr Frye stated "I'm not going to comment on" Mrs Payne stated he was found not guilty of vandalism because you cannot vandalize your own home. Mrs Payne stated I want to keep that out there to all of you because that is 553 Cedar Street. Mrs Payne asked how the next thing works, are they going to put names out for a new board member. Mr Frye stated that will be up to the board. Mrs Payne stated that they said they were going to put it on the board. Mr Frye stated that they will say there is a vacancy when we publish for our next meeting and that can be an agenda item for the next meeting. Mrs Payne stated thank you and Merry Christmas to all.

With no other business a motion to adjourn was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second By Alderman Bowling. All in favor. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.



Irene Wells, Mayor / City Manager

Attest this 5<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2017



Sharon Greene, Recorder/ Finance Officer





**Bluff City Police Department**  
MONTHLY REPORT



2017      December  
Year      Month

NUMBER OF:	CITY	PINEY	COUNTY	TOTAL
CALLS FOR ASSISTANT(S)	100	89	20	209
ISSUED CITATION(S)	30	40	0	70
WARNING CITATION(S)	29	21	0	50
PATROLED MILE(S)	2572	1985	20	4577
ARREST(S)	4	5	0	9
OFFENSE REPORT(S)	5	6	0	11
ALARM(S)	3	5	2	10
ACCIDENTS	3	5	0	8
ANIMAL CALL(S)	3	0	0	3
MSD REPORT(S)	8	6	0	14
FUNERAL ESCORT(S)	2	1	0	3
DOMESTIC ASSAULT(S)	1	1	5	7
VEHICLE SEIZURE(S)	0	0	0	0
MISSING PERSON(S)	0	0	0	0
D.U.I.(S)	0	0	0	0
DRUG VIOLATION(S)	1	0	0	1
USE OF FORCE REPORT(S)	0	0	0	0

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approved by: Chief Greg Depew      12/30/17

*Chief Greg Depew*

# **CITY OF BLUFF CITY**

## **Department Of Public Works Board of Mayor and Alderman Monthly Report for December 2017**

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### **Sewer Department:**

The pump stations are operating normally with there being no overflows in the month of December. The Staff has been continuing the flushing of sewer lines in our known problem areas along with other areas in need of flushing. After receiving our first rain since the completion of our McClelland project; the storm water that flows in the area has been diverted and is flowing the way we designed. While this fixture doesn't solve all of our storm water issues, it has helped it tremendously.

### **Street Department:**

The staff has been working hard keeping up with the brush and leaf pickup around town. We ask if you are planning on using these services that you place your leaves or brush at least 3-5 feet off of the roadway, for employee safety. We also would ask that you rake or place these items in a pile, because we are not responsible for leaves or brush inside or on customer's property. Now that the winter season is upon us, I would advise customer's that park near or on the roadway, to make sure your vehicle is off the roadway to allow safe passage of our plow. Also I would like if all possible, when we have days of prolong cold temperature, if customers would allow their water to drip at night, this would possibly help keep some water meters and lines from freezing.

If you have any questions, please give me a call 612-4145. Thank you.

Allen Moultrie  
Public Works Supervisor

Water Treated Data will not be available until January 10 when  
Monthly report is complete.

Water Purchased Data

EPA / State Samples Collected

3 Bacteriological Samples

1 Set Backwash Samples

3 Raw Water Required LT2 Samples