

Minutes
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Regular Meeting
May 7, 2019

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

Members present were Eric Ward, Ray Harrington and Richard Bowling.

Sandra Madison and David Smith were absent.

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

Mayor Wells opened the floor for the following:

Discussion – Dave Wilson - City Engineer with Mattern & Craig

Mr Wilson gave an update on the ongoing water/wastewater project. Mr Wilson reported that the pay request received today covers approximately 75% complete on the project, reflecting about one point four million billed to date. We finally received the permit to work in the State right of way. Mr Wilson stated that they have talked about additions to the project. One item was looking at ways to attack the waste water problem during rain flow events and the inflow and infiltration into the system. Mr Wilson stated that they were looking into the pump station at the garage for redirection. Alderman Bowling asked if he knew what it would cost to do that. Mr Wilson stated that he did not, but when they had to install from the igloo, it was a little over 1000 feet and it cost \$110,000.00. Mr Wilson stated that this one would be approximately 300 to 400 feet. He estimates a cost of approximately \$50,000.00 or \$60,000.00. Alderman Bowling asked where it would be directed to. Mr Wilson gave different a few choices to bypass the igloo. Alderman Ward asked if they had ever had a flow meter on the lines to see where we are getting more infiltration. Mr Wilson stated that they had completed some flow monitoring in 2000 and some additional monitoring in 2007. Alderman Ward asked about the smoke testing in the sewer lines. Mr Wilson stated that they had found quite a few leaks and they had a productive meeting with TDEC and he informed them that we are going to follow up on smoke testing when our project is complete.

Citizen Comments – First Session

David Harmon of 200 Holston Drive asked if anyone had read the flyer he was holding. Mr Harmon stated that someone running for office had to do it. Mr Harmon stated that if anyone wanted to know where he was, just ask him. Mr Harmon stated, Ray you will tell them won't you. You know. Vice Mayor Harrington stated yes. Mr Harmon asked Alderman Ward if he wanted the copy. Mr Ward stated no. I don't believe in doing stuff like that.

Julie Venable Carty of 209 Smith Street Ext. stated that in a few days we will have some new board members and she is hoping that they can all get along with the present board members. If you are running you should be running because you care.

Kathy Leonard of 316 McClelland St. asked when they are going to take care of the problem on her street. Mrs Leonard stated that the people moved out but there are 3 piles of trash still there and you can see the rats going from the trailer to the other property. Alderman Bowling asked if

she knew where the people moved to. Mrs Leonard stated no but the owner is supposed to clean it up. Mrs Leonard stated that the Chief has her name and address. Mayor Wells stated that he is going to address it. Chief Depew stated that they did site them but it was dismissed because they have to site the owner who is in South Carolina. Mayor Wells stated we are working on it.

Discussion / Action – Minutes for the April 11, 2019 Special Called Meeting

Motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. Vote went as follows: Alderman Ward – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Bowling –Yes. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action – Eastman Credit Union Loan for 2 Police Cruisers

City Recorder/CMFO Sharon Greene presented a letter from the Office of State and Local Finance approving the Eastman Credit Union Capital Outlay Note. Ms Greene stated that on April 26, 2019 she received a call from the Comptroller's Office stating that they had overlooked that the financier was a Credit Union and asked Bluff City not to sign papers until we received further information. On May 6, 2019 we received a letter stating the reason Bluff City cannot borrow money from a credit union (Attorney General Opinion No. 17-51). (COPY AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST). Ms Greene stated that she and the Mayor have talked to Peoples Bank and they have already given a quote as follows: interest rate for 36 months will be 5.5% which is 1.3 points higher than the Credit Union. They have it ready and all we have to do is approve it and sign the Resolution. City Attorney Paul Frye stated that we would need to do a resolution. Ms Greene stated that we just got the information on the 6th, so we have not had time to do the resolution.

Report from Mayor / City Manager Irene Wells

Mayor Wells presented a letter from the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury Water and Wastewater Board releasing the Town of Bluff City from its oversight for water loss and financial distress. (COPY AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST) The letter stated that the City had complied with the board directives and shown progress. The letter was dated April 5, 2019.

Mayor Wells stated that she was going to read some information to answer questions about how much of an increase there was to be in the water rates. This was dated in March of 2016 and the correcting action was as follows: The city will increase its rates by 9% by July 1, 2016, 9% by July 1, 2017, and increase its rate by 5% by July 1, 2018. Mayor Wells stated that she hopes this will help people understand things better instead of putting incorrect information out to the citizens. Mayor Wells continued by stating that the order is a legally enforceable mandate by the WWFB (Waste Water Finance Board) that requires Bluff City to adopt and maintain the rate structures outlined in it.

Report from City Attorney Paul Frye – No Report

Discussion / Action – Financial Report – Sharon Greene, City Recorder / CMFO

Ms Greene reported the following fund balances as of March, 2019: General Fund \$1,461,571.00, Sanitation Fund - \$23,175.00, Special Police Acct- \$13,154.00, Debt Service - \$146,207.00, Sinking Fund - \$3,095.00, Water / Sewer Fund - \$599,653.00. Motion to approve the Financial Report was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. Vote went as follows: Alderman Ward – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Bowling –Yes. Motion carried.

Comments from Board Members

Alderman Ward thanked everyone for coming and said he hoped to see them here next month.

Vice Mayor Harrington stated I appreciate everyone for coming out. We are trying to do everything we can to get the sewer problem fixed. We are sending more sewer to Bristol so there is a larger inflow into it. Mr Harrington stated we are doing everything we can legally do by the State. You can say one thing and go tell everybody what you are going to do, but until you get up here on this board, you will find out you can't do it. Mr Harrington stated he looked forward to the outcome of the election.

Alderman Bowling thanked everyone for coming, we have a little more people here than last month and I wished the place was packed. Things that need to be done can't be done overnight. We appreciate you being with us and giving us time to do these things.

Report from Chief of Police Greg Depew

Chief Depew stated that people have concerns, complaints and issues of property. The complaints are legitimate as he has looked at the properties. The process is once they get the complaint and go to the site. They give the people at the house a warning and a copy of the ordinance. After 10 days they return to see if it is cleaned up. If it is not they issue a citation. They have 30 days and a court date is set, they appear in court and if it is not dismissed or they pay it they are given an extended 30 days. Chief Depew stated that this is about all they can do as they can't make an arrest if it is not cleaned up. Chief Depew asked if there is some way they can look into making it a little stiffer penalty to make it more enforceable. Alderman Ward asked if we could hire someone to clean this up and put a lien against the property. City Attorney Paul Frye stated that we do have ordinances that allow us to do that. Mr Frye stated that when we do that we need to budget some money for it. Chief Depew stated that he and the Mayor discuss this almost daily. Some people refuse to comply and at that point there is not really much they can do. Vice Mayor Harrington asked if City Attorney Paul Frye could look into what Bristol does in this situation. Chief Depew stated they condemn them. Mr Harrington stated I mean to see what time frame they give them. Mr Frye stated that we have adopted every ordinance we could adopt. Alderman Ward asked what the next step would be. Mr Frye stated that an ordinance has to be strictly followed on the charging and prosecution.

Chief Depew presented the monthly report for April, 2019 – SEE ATTACHED

Mayor Wells stated that the Police Department is doing an excellent job as we have had officers out sick but the department is still managing to control everything.

Report from Public Works Supervisor – Allen Moultrie

Mr Moultrie presented the monthly report for April – SEE ATTACHED

Mr Moultrie stated that he wanted to remind everyone about the brush collections. Each customer will get one free brush pickup per month without charge, no grass clippings will be picked up. The size of the brush will be no larger than 2 inches in diameter because that is as large as our chipper can take. All brush shall be deposited to the curbside. After each customer has been credited with one free brush pickup each additional load shall be picked up at the rate of \$7.50 per load. Mr Moultrie stated that the charge is basically for example a very large brush pile that will have the workers tied up for 3 plus hours. We have a staff of 7 and it is not possible to pick up brush every day. Mr Moultrie thanked everyone that participated in the tire and t.v. pick up as they were put out in a timely fashion.

Mr Moultrie reported 1 sewer overflow in April. This event was a wet weather event.

Alderman Bowling stated that he and his crew were doing a good job.

Mr Moultrie reported that the water plant is operating normally. We are currently able to build and overflow our tank at this point, which means that our distribution system has improved a lot.

Sullivan County Commissioners – None present

Old Business

Alderman Ward asked if we got the cash boxes for the girls. Mayor Wells stated yes. Vice Mayor Harrington asked how it was working. Mayor Wells stated it is working good.

New Business

Mayor Wells stated that there is more work that has to be done at the pavilion. We have to replace approximately 18 lights at the pavilion. There is also 15 lights to replace on the front side of the pavilion.

Citizen Comments – Second Session

Lady from audience (Kathy Leonard) stated I have lived over here about 9 months now and I know about 3 people in the city from the old days. Word has got out that I am a trouble maker and I am not but if they would just clean up their messes I would not say anything.

Becky Buchanan of 750 Drybranch Road, thanked Allen and the city workers for keeping the boardwalk clean. Mrs Buchanan stated this (referring to a flyer that was sent out) is all public knowledge and thanked whoever for sending out the truth. Vice Mayor Harrington stated I would like to know how they came up with the dollar amounts on the 2 lawsuits because he did not even know them. Mrs Buchanan stated that it is public knowledge and people need to know the truth.

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BMA
5-7-19


Brian Hunt 191 Lakeview Drive stated Sharon I have known you for a lot of years and I am going to ask you, strait up, is the city broke. City Recorder / CMFO Sharon Greene stated no way. Mr Hunt stated that we have little problems in the city but if we don't take care of them when they come up we will have a mountain of problems. Mr Hunt stated I am not happy about the mail out. Take the time to work together to fix the problems.

With no other comments a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Alderman Ward. Vote went as follows: Alderman Ward – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Bowling –Yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.



Irene Wells, Mayor/City Manager

Attest this 7th day of May, 2019



Sharon Greene, Recorder/CMFO



Bluff City Police Department



MONTHLY REPORT
2019 April

Year Month

NUMBER OF:	CITY	PINEY	COUNTY	TOTAL
CALLS FOR ASSISTANT(S)	64	82	49	195
ISSUED CITATION(S)	30	39	0	69
WARNING CITATION(S)	40	72	0	112
PATROLED MILE(S)	1688	2906	0	4594
ARREST(S)	6	10	0	16
OFFENSE REPORT(S)	8	2	0	10
ALARM(S)	2	1	0	3
ACCIDENT(S)	4	2	0	6
ANIMAL CALL(S)	1	0	0	1
MSD REPORT(S)	37	10	0	47
FUNERAL ESCORT(S)	2	0	0	2
DOMESTIC ASSAULT(S)	3	4	0	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)	3	5	0	8
USE OF FORCE REPORT(S)	0	0		0

approved by: Chief Greg Repas Date: 5-7-2019

CITY OF BLUFF CITY

Board of Mayor and Alderman Monthly Report for April 2018

Streets Department: In the streets department the staff has been trying to keep up the mowing and brush pickup throughout town. We have been replacing boards at the pavilion along with getting the roof of the pavilion repainted.

If you are a customer who takes advantage of our brush pick-up program, you need to know the following.

17-113. Collection of brush from residential customers.

- Each residential customer shall get one free brush pick up per month without charge.
- No grass clippings will be picked up.
- The size of brush shall be no larger than two inches (2") in diameter.
- All brush shall be deposited curb side by the residential customer for pick up by the town and shall not be placed in any part of the street.
- After the residential customer has been credited with the one free brush pick-up per month, each additional load shall be picked-up at a rate of seven dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50) per load

(Ord. #97-003, May 1997, as amended by Ord. #97-008, Aug.1997)

Sewer Department: In the month of April we had 1 overflows that occurred on April 19, 2019 that was reported to the State. This event was a wet weather event, which we dispatched Captain Septic and Steven's Septic to haul loads for us. Currently all pump stations are operating in a satisfactory manner. Also the staff has been out flushing sewer lines and also videoing lines for potential root intrusion.

If you have any questions please call City Hall at 538-7144. Thank you.

Allen Moultrie
Public Works Supervisor

CITY OF BLUFF CITY
Water Plant & Distribution System
Board of Mayor and Alderman Monthly
Report for April 2019

Water Plant:

The Water plant is operating normally pumping an average of 184 thousand gallons per day. Our water tank level was at an average of 46.1 feet with 60 feet being full. In the month of April the Water tank level was completely full twice.

Distribution System:

We are continuing to repair leaks in our distribution system. Most of our findings remain to be those coming from old galvanized service lines. As we find these lines we are trying to replace as much as we can in house. We have completely ran new 2" water in Fox Trailer Park and are in the process of tying those laterals onto the new line.

If you have any questions please call City Hall at 538-7144. Thank you.

Allen Moultrie
Public Work Supervisor