

Minutes
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Regular Meeting
March 2, 2021

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

Members present were Carol Keith, Jeff Broyles, Ray Harrington, Eric Ward and Richard Bowling.

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

Mayor Wells opened the floor for the following:

Citizen Comments – No Comments

Discussion / Action – City Engineer Dave Wilson

Mr Wilson reported that Sam Snyder with Thomas Construction could not be at the meeting, but he would get with him later this week. Mr Wilson stated that that he was going to put together a more concrete agenda and try to move forward. Alderman Broyles stated I just want to know where we are at. We were told there was a three or four month time line. Mr Wilson stated that was from the beginning to the end of construction and we need to get started. Mr Wilson stated that he thinks the issue with the railroad is now lined out to their satisfaction. We are working under the last waiver request for the funding which was through March 31st. Mr Wilson stated I want to get a detailed plan of action and move forward with a request for extension on that. Mr Broyles asked how loan of a delay. Mr Wilson stated I would like to have that out to you this week. Mr Wilson stated that the longest period of work would be on the pump station at the garage. Mr Wilson stated it would take approximately 2 weeks once the work starts, other than the restoration. Alderman Bowling asked if they were going to start at the garage pump station. Alderwoman Keith stated you don't think we will have the same problem at the new place where you are wanting to go now, as we are having down there. Mr Wilson stated I don't anticipate that Mrs Keith. Vice Mayor Harrington stated this will be taking some of the flow off the igloo, which amounts to approximately 25%.

Mr Wilson asked for an account of how much had been spent on septic tank trucks. Mayor Wells stated they are up to about \$600 a trip and they usually run in the thousands of dollars. Mayor Wells stated to Mr Wilson I know you have been talking to Lewis with USDA. Don't you think it would be a good idea to ask for an extension? Mr Wilson stated yes. I will get that put together for you this week to request and extension. Mr Wilson stated that Norfolk and Southern has a new group overseeing and enforcing the regulations on occupancy fees and inspection fees when they have not in the past.

Mr Wilson stated that the volume of flows that Bluff City sends to Bristol have decreased approximately 35% from 2018. Mr Wilson stated I think you would see savings in that. Mayor Wells stated that we had an increase and it goes into effect in July. Mr Wilson stated this board has tended to the problem and it is wonderfully successful. Alderwoman Keith stated I would like to see what we spent out on those trucks----- Mr Wilson stated I can tell you that Mattern & Craig has not billed any monies related to that beyond the project amounts.

Discussion / Action – Minutes – February 8, 2021 Special Called Meeting

Motion to approve was made by Alderman Broyles. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. Vote was as follows: Alderwoman Keith – Yes, Alderman Broyles – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington – Yes, Alderman Ward – Abstained, and Alderman Bowling – Yes. Motion Carried.

Report from Mayor / City Manager – Irene Wells

Mayor Wells stated we talked about the septic tank truck at the last meeting and at that time the price was \$37,000.00 and I was able to talk them down to \$35,000.00. The cost to have the truck inspected was \$489.60. I asked them to give me estimates on the price on how much everything would cost that is wrong with the truck. The total that they gave was \$4,942.59. I called him and told him that the sheet he gave us saying everything was okay. He decided that he would pay half of the repairs needed for the truck. Mayor Wells stated that we feel that the men here can do the work cheaper. City employee Elliot, who has a CDL License, wants to test drive the truck and go over it before a decision is made. Mayor Wells stated that some of the repairs can be done by our men and it will save money as the labor costs are very high. Alderman Broyles asked if it would be okay for Scott (Elliot) to drive it because it says you have to have a tanker endorsement to operate it. Mayor Wells stated from what Scott was saying the owner would be in the truck with him. Mayor Wells stated it's the board's decision to let Scott take a look at it. Board members were in favor of having him check the truck out.

Mayor Wells reported that she had a meeting last week on the Industrial Park red light. When it first started it was running around \$75,000.00 and now it is up to a half million dollars. Alderman Bowling stated to change that red light out. Mayor Wells stated they don't just do the light, they do everything else that is supposed to happen around there. It will be putting in the posts and change the layout. The business there is going to have to move. This is all federal money so we should not have to pay anything.

Mayor Wells reported on the sidewalk construction from the bridge to City Hall. They had more or less told me that we were not going to receive that grant. Now in one of my meetings I was told that the decision has not been made, they are taking some other things into consideration instead of just the larger cities. We should know within the next month if we will receive it.

Comments from Board Members

Alderwoman Keith stated it is good to see everybody, stay safe, keep praying and keep the faith. If you need me I am just a phone call away.

Alderman Broyles thanked everybody for coming out. Mr Broyles stated that the workshops they are having are very productive. We broke ground on the Veteran's Memorial.

Vice Mayor Harrington stated it was good to see everybody and it would be nice if they could open it up so everyone could come to the meeting. We are moving along. The workshops are very helpful.

Alderman Ward thanked everyone for coming. Maybe it will be back to normal one day.

Alderman Bowling thanked everyone for coming. I think we had a very productive meeting. I still want to see them start digging.

Mayor Wells stated I would like to say that I really appreciate all that you all did tonight by speaking up, and letting him know that this is something that has to be taken care of.

Report from City Officials and County Commissioners

Chief of Police Greg Depew apologized for not being at the workshop but he was about to be a grandfather and had to take his daughter to the emergency room that night.

Chief Depew presented the monthly report. (SEE ATTACHED)

Chief Depew announced that Detective Caldwell is now doing investigative work for us. You will be getting a paper on what he is doing.

Alderman Ward asked if they got all their cars back. Chief Depew stated we did. We now have 3 Ford Taurus's, the Explorer and the truck. Alderman Ward asked how many officers they have. Chief Depew stated we have 8. Alderman Ward stated I thought we had a car for every officer. Chief Depew stated the car we purchased from Chicago is in service now and they have been very happy with it. Chief Depew stated that they are trying to stay on top of things. The last car they purchased was \$14,995.00 and you can't beat that. Chief Depew stated they were paying 37,000 to 38,000 for a cruiser and the used ones are half that cost. Alderwoman Keith stated it would be nice to have a standby. Chief Depew stated I am very comfortable with the used cars. Alderman Bowling asked Mayor Wells if we have enough money to buy another used one for \$15,000.00. Mayor Wells stated we can check into it. Vice Mayor Harrington stated let's see if we can get the ball rolling on it.

Alderman Broyles asked where we are on the Reserve Officer Program. Chief Depew stated due to Covid some reserves quit. Chief Depew stated they are trying to get it started back up.

Report from Water Plant Operator – Terry Banner

Mr Banner presented the monthly report.

Mr Banner stated that everything is good at the Water Plant. We had a leak in the plant which destroyed the computer. Everything is back up and running.

Vice Mayor Harrington asked about leak detection. Mr Banner stated that now that the vegetation is down they are trying to do detection. Mr Harrington asked where we were holding the tank at. Mr Banner stated 37 to 42 feet, which is good. Mr Harrington asked if they could start holding the tank at about 50 so we can hold more pressure. Mr Banner stated yes. It gains pressure at night. Mayor Wells stated he wants to see if you can hold it at 50. Mr Banner stated yes.

Alderman Ward asked if we got the mini excavator yet. Mr Banner stated yes.

Mayor Wells stated they have used it several times.

Mayor Wells stated that a lot of the equipment that got messed up is being paid for by the insurance company.

Mayor Wells stated that Allen is not here because he can't seem to get any of his vacation in and we had to let him.

No County Commissioners were present.

Old Business

Mayor Wells reported that the men are still doing work at the pavilion. We have replaced some of the old posts. They are going to stain when the weather breaks.

Alderman Ward asked what is being done on the junk yard. Mayor Wells stated we are taking pictures and when City Attorney Paul Frye starts back to work he is going to get on it.

Chief of Police Depew stated that every code we can site him for, we have.

Member of audience complained about rats on McClelland Street, a junk yard and a basketball goal and carpet lying in front of a house. Alderman Ward asked if we still have a code enforcer. Mayor Wells stated we do. Vice Mayor Harrington asked Chief Depew if they could go down there and check those vehicles to see if they have active tags on them. Chief Depew stated yes. Mayor Wells stated we can remove the carpet and ball goal. Mayor Wells stated that the last time they checked the cars down there inside the fence they were all running and had tags. Mayor Wells told Chief Depew to check it out. Chief Depew stated he would get with the building inspector.

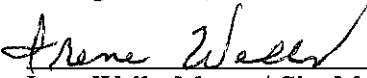
Mayor Wells stated that maybe the City should come up with some kind of fund where we could help people who can't afford to do everything we want them to do.

New Business

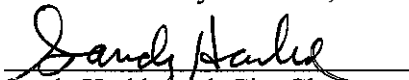
Alderman Keith stated that she wants to get swings for the park. Mayor Wells stated that she is getting prices.

Mayor Wells stated that she is working on a Health and Safety Policy that we are supposed to complete every 7 years.

With no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Bowling. Second by Vice Mayor Harrington. Vote was as follows: Alderman Keith – Yes, Alderman Broyles – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington- Yes, Alderman Ward – Yes, Alderman Bowling – Yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.


Irene Wells, Mayor / City Manager

Attest this 2nd day of March, 2021


Sandy Harkleoad, City Clerk



Bluff City Police Department
MONTHLY REPORT



2021	February
Year	Month

NUMBER OF:	CITY	PINEY	COUNTY	TOTAL
CALLS FOR ASSISTANT(S)	85	82	0	167
ISSUED CITATION(S)	65	62	0	127
WARNING CITATION(S)	35	30	0	65
PATROLED MILE(S)	1990	2351	0	4341
ARREST(S)	11	15	0	26
OFFENSE REPORT(S)	5	3	0	8
ALARM(S)	5	4	4	13
ACCIDENTS	2	1		3
ANIMAL CALL(S)	2	0	0	2
MSD REPORT(S)	12	19	0	31
FUNERAL ESCORT(S)	2	0	0	2
DOMESTIC ASSAULT(S)	3	0	0	3
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)	2	2	0	4
USE OF FORCE REPORT(S)	0	0	0	0

Approved by: Chief Greg Depew