

Minutes
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Special Called Meeting
March 30, 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 Harrington, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Wells opened the floor for the following:

Citizen Comments – No Comments

Discussion / Action – Information on Grants and Projects- Dave Wilson with Mattern & Craig

Mr Wilson stated we have been working to get projects restarted the past 30 to 45 days and kept having issues to get it scheduled and move forward. Mr Wilson stated on March 24th they got a letter from Thomas Construction stating that they can't get back to us until this Fall. Mr Wilson wanted to see what they might think about moving forward. The funding agency has been notified and we have requested an extension. Mr Wilson asked if they wanted to go through the process of selecting another contractor. Mayor Wells stated we need to let the Board members understand that we have not received an extension on the grant. Mr Wilson stated at this time we have not been notified. Alderman Bowling asked Mr Wilson what he recommended. Mr Wilson stated I would recommend that we do again a formal write up as to what has occurred to notify the funding agency with our plans to go ahead with a re-bid. Vice Mayor Harrington asked why we did not go forward on 10-21. Mr Wilson stated that at that time we did not have the railroad approvals until basically the end of January. Vice Mayor Harrington asked if we could get documentation from the railroad when they were actually sent in. Mr Harrington stated I want that. It's been too long. Alderwoman Keith asked what the delay is. Mr Wilson stated from the original project we had 3 separate contracts proposed. The delay started when we changed from the water plant and identified all those other projects. Mrs Keith stated that is not really our fault and if we go with the same company and wait, the amount is going to change, and with the grant we can't afford to wait. Mayor Wells stated we can't go on with it not knowing that we are going to be able to keep that money because we don't have enough money to take care of this. We have been too slow about everything. Alderwoman Keith stated let it be known that it is not our fault. Alderman Broyles stated so we are a year and a half out before we see any progress. We can't just sit here and wait on Thomas Construction, because we do risk losing our funding. Mr Broyles stated our only choice is to rebid the project. Alderwoman Keith asked for Mayor Wells input.

Mayor Wells stated that in February she met with Sam, and he told her they were going to start around the middle of March. The lady from USDA was upset because she felt that we were not moving fast enough. I don't know if she is going to approve the extension. Sam had said if we had some of Thomas Construction's people here and it showed that they were getting something done it would make a big difference. We can't show anything. Alderwoman Keith stated I thought everything was going good. What has caused all this? Mr Wilson stated we did changes in the project that set it back. We had to wait for Rail approvals. Mayor Wells stated as soon as we got the information, we paid the Railroad out of City money. Alderman Bowling asked if the new bid goes higher do we have enough grant money to pay more.


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Alderman Bowling asked if they could go with the next bid they had already received when they had it out on bid before, rather than putting it out on bid again. Mr Wilson stated no I don't believe we can do that.

Vice Mayor Harrington made a motion to send this out to re-bid contingent that it is in the paper on Thursday and that we have a 30 day time frame on it to get the bids. Second by Alderwoman Keith. Vote went as follows: Alderwoman Keith – Yes, Alderman Broyles – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington-Yes, Alderman Ward – Yes, and Alderman Bowling – Yes. Motion carried.

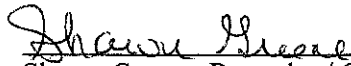
Thomas Construction was not present

With no other business a motion to adjourn was made by Vice Mayor Harrington. Second by Alderman Bowling. Vote went as follows: Alderwoman Keith – Yes, Alderman Broyles – Yes, Vice Mayor Harrington-Yes, Alderman Ward – Yes, and Alderman Bowling – Yes. Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.



Irene Wells, Mayor / City Manager

Attest this 30th day of March, 2021



Sharon Greene, Recorder / CMFO