Minutes Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen Special Called Meeting March 21, 2023

Mayor Broyles called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Members present were Julie Venable, Sandra Madison and Carol Keith

Heather Moritz and Ben Adams were absent

Prayer was given by Carol Keith, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Jeff Broyles

Mayor Broyles opened the floor for the following:

Citizen Comments

Carolyn Payne of 4818 Bluff City Highway stated Heather Moritz was caught at Food City on March 11th and was arrested. That is what the Johnson City Police told me so she was arrested for shoplifting. Ms Payne voiced concern about removing Alderwoman Moritz.

Shirley Clark of 932 Lona Lane stated I agree with Ms Payne. I think you need to step forward and do the right thing.

Wesley Blevins of 182 Holston Drive asked if they were working on having an Historical District. Mr Blevins voiced concern about homes being in that district and the control and upkeep of homes in that district. Mayor Broyles stated I will grant you the liberty of answering that. That has been presented to me and I am seeking more information. Mr Blevins asked if you could opt out of it. Mayor Broyles stated it is a voluntary program. We are making no effort toward that at this time.

Discussion / Action: Reconsideration of the request for Resignation by Alderwoman Moritz

Mayor Broyles asked City Attorney Paul Frye for his opinion. Mr Frye stated it is my opinion and advice that it would be in the best interest of the Town of Bluff City to accept this resignation and get this behind us. Vice Mayor Keith stated unlike previous Boards we took immediate action. I want the citizens to know this is not something we are pushing under the rug. Mrs Keith asked what is the next step. Mr Frye stated to wait for a conviction and then go from there. We need proof and the conviction would be proof. Ms Keith asked about having an internal investigation about conduct. Mr Frye stated I would advise wait until there is a conviction and move forward if we don't accept this resignation. It is my advice to accept it. Ms Keith stated I want things done right. Mayor Broyles stated I would rely on council. I don't think we would want to cross ourselves up with a police investigation. Vice Mayor Keith asked him to read that part of the Charter about removal. Mr Frye stated it says a misdemeanor or conduct and in this case, it would be a conviction. Motion to accept the resignation was made by Alderwoman Venable. Vice Mayor Keith wanted to hear that part of the Charter. City Attorney Paul Frye read that section of the Charter. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

With no other business, Mayor Broyles adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Jeff Broyles, Mayor / City Manager

Attest this 21st day of March, 2023

Shaw Secone Sharon Greene, Recorder / CMFO