

Minutes
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Regular Meeting
October 1, 2024

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

Members present were Jerry Malone, Lori Staton, Carol Keith, Ben Adams and Lisa Arnold

Prayer was given by Carol Keith, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Deputy Chief Dunbar

Mayor Broyles opened the floor for the following:

Austin Smith with Mattern & Craig Engineers briefed the Board on the statuses of the ongoing projects in town.

First Session - Public Comments

Carolyn Payne of 4818 Bluff City Highway asked what the status of the video and audio equipment is, and asked where City Attorney Paul Frye was.

Town Managers Report

Mayor Broyles read the minutes for October 25, 2022, stating this body voted and approved to hire a Town Manager. Mayor Broyles stated that we have a motion and second on the floor to hire. Mayor Broyles asked Alderwoman Keith if she wished to withdraw her motion and make a motion to postpone. Alderwoman Keith stated I want to hire someone. Vote went as follows: Alderwoman Keith - Yes, Alderwoman Madison - Yes, Vice Mayor Adams- No, not at this time, Alderwoman Moritz - No, not at this time, Alderwoman Venable - Yes. Motion carried. Mayor Broyles stated as Mayor it is my recommendation that the BMA move forward immediately. This process should include the following steps: Meet with Pete Auger with MTAS and develop a job description. The primary duties of the Town Manager are clearly in the Charter and should be included in the description. Step 2 - Under the advisement of the CMFO and MTAS the Board should determine a suitable salary. Mayor Broyles continued to discuss the steps.

Second Session - Citizen Comments

Julie Venable of 209 Smith Street Extension stated we voted to get a City Manager and you said nobody applied.

Report from Town Attorney - Paul Frye

Mayor Broyles explained Mr Frye's absence. He should be back on duty October 8th.

Discussion / Action- Financial Report---Sharon Greene, CMFO

Ms Greene reported the following fund balances as of August 31, 2024:
General Fund - \$ 2,501,319.00, Sanitation Fund -\$ 45,200.00, Special Police Fund - \$ 2,428.00, Debt Service Fund - \$ 112,629.00, Sinking Fund - \$ 3,094.00, Water / Sewer- \$ 764,880.00. Motion to approve was made by Alderman Adams.

Second by Alderman Malone. All in favor. Motion carried.

Police and Public Safety Report---Deputy Chief Dunbar

Deputy Chief Dunbar reported that they had a really busy month. The officers stepped up and did everything they should be doing.

Deputy Chief Dunbar presented the monthly report for September, 2024. (SEE ATTACHED) Deputy Chief Dunbar voiced his concern about the photo of the cruiser in the water.

Report from Public Works Director -- Allen Moultrie

Mr Moultrie presented the Monthly Report for September, 2024 (SEE ATTACHED)

Mr Moultrie reported that due to the Hurricane Helena, we did loose power at the water plant on Friday around 9:15 a m and we were down until about 5 a.m. Saturday morning.

Alderman Adams asked how the sewer was doing at City Hall. Mr Moultrie stated they had to replace about 60 yards of sewer line. We had a collapse of a section of terracotta line.

Finance and Administration -- Sharon Greene

Ms Greene reported preparation for the Audit. Vice Mayor Keith asked when. Ms Greene stated probably December.

Report from Sullivan County Commissioners

Dwight King stated I am just listening. Mayor Broyles stated we are glad to have you.

Board of Mayor and Aldermen Comments

Alderwoman Staton stated that Chief Depew lost 4 family members in 1998 due to a flood in Elizabethton. One rescue member died. This hurt all the officers.

Mrs Staton stated regarding the incident that happened to Lt. Smith, has there been a resolution to that. Mayor Broyles stated there is a grievance procedure in our code. Our council and myself are reviewing the grievance. I responded to Chief Depew and Lt. Smith stating the grievance was being reviewed and an answer will be provided in a reasonable time frame. Mrs Staton read the grievance procedure in our code. She voiced concern about the person involved in the complaint be the one that makes the final step. Mayor Broyles suggested they offer a resolution to amend the ordinance that supports that. Alderwoman Staton and Vice-Mayor Keith stated that will be done and we will be working on that. Alderwoman Staton made a motion to set up a workshop to discuss the Charter. Mayor Broyles asked that she carry that on to New Business. Mrs Staton stated yes.

Vice Mayor Keith stated when the incident happened, Lt Smith contacted me and I came down here and listened to everything he said. I tried to reach Mr Frye several times and could not get him to answer so I contacted MTAS. Alderman Malone stated he was in the hospital. Mrs Keith stated we need to have someone else we can reach out to. Mrs Keith stated it had been a blessing to set on this Board and try to help people.

Mayor Broyles stated on September 18th at 9:20 a.m. my text says to the group of the board the situation is being carefully reviewed in accordance with the Bluff City Municipal Code. Mr Frye is undergoing emergency hip replacement surgery this morning. I will gladly schedule a meeting once he can be present. Any board member is more than welcome to meet with me individually concerning any issue or concern any time.

Alderman Adams thanked everybody for coming out.

Alderwoman Arnold thanked everyone for coming. This is my last month, I did not run for re-election because with my work in the summer, I have to miss meetings. Ms Arnold stated at this coming election, look at your candidates very carefully. Talk to them. Mayor Broyles stated Alderwoman Arnold the town appreciates your service.

Alderman Malone stated this comment got out of hand about the cruiser. Mr Malone apologized. Mr Malone stated if you want to know stuff, call Jeff. Mr Malone stated that he had been told to talk to Pete Auger about a part time Town Manager.

Vice Mayor Keith stated the auditor told them they had enough money to pay a City Manager for 17 years.

Alderwoman Staton said she had put a call into City Attorney Paul Frye. When he returned her call she told him that she would rather do this in house. Could the Board members get together and speak to the Town Manager. Mr Frye stated no you can not. If you do anything like that it has to be in public.

Old Business

Alderwoman Staton reported that Wells Park needed some work done on the Boardwalk. Mrs Staton asked about park grants from the county. Mayor Broyles stated, this last year we were solicited and I felt other non-profits could benefit from the \$15,000.00, that we really don't need. I was given a report that those funds were distributed among several non-profit organizations. Mrs Staton reported that a citizen asked her to follow up with him about manhole repairs. Mayor Broyles stated that he and Director Moultrie are tracking that. Mrs Staton stated before he said that, he was very complimentary to Mr Moultrie and his team. He said those guys are the best.

New Business

Vice Mayor Keith mentioned that she had requested that Pete Auger be on the Agenda and Mayor Broyles said it was an oversight. Mr Auger was called to speak. He said MTAS is here to assist in any way we can. If you would like to have a workshop, maybe not just on the Charter, but actually how to run efficient meetings,

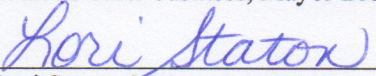
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set goals and do strategic planning, it is all prepaid through the state. Mr Auger stated if I don't know the answer, I know a consultant that I can bring in.

Alderman Adams stated I think the primary focus would be for us to hire a Town Manager. Vice Mayor Keith stated we need to go ahead and do this. Mr Auger stated the most important thing is everybody needs to lower the temperature and talk to each other.

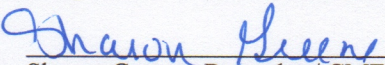
Mayor Broyles stated the Town Recorder will co-ordinate a workshop with Mr Auger. We will go with his schedule and you will be offered dates that he is available.

With no other business, Mayor Broyles adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:25 pm



Lori Staton, Mayor

Attest this 1st day of October, 2024



Sharon Greene, Recorder / CMFO