

Minutes
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Special Called Meeting
February 25, 2025

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

Members present were Carolyn Payne, Jerry Malone, Carol Keith, Ben Adams and Eric Johnson

Prayer was given by Carol Keith, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Greg Depew

Mayor Staton opened the floor for the following:

First Session Citizen Comments:

Wade Hicks of 118 Hillcrest Street asked what the City is going to do about the sewer smell coming from 124 Hillcrest. Mr Hicks stated you can't even go outside to use the grill. Mayor Staton stated this meeting is going to be about that exactly.

Gary Sharpe asked for help to get their neighborhood back in order. Alderwoman Keith stated yes we will help, I did not know this was going on. Alderwoman Payne stated I want to help you.

Anita Hicks voiced concern about the same problem. Mrs Hicks stated they reported it but nothing has been done in two years. Mayor Staton stated this is the next step. That is what we are going to discuss tonight.

Richard Shuttle voiced concern about the same area including the dog issue. Vice Mayor Adams asked who all they had reported it to. Mr Shuttle stated Sullivan County and Bluff City. Mrs Shuttle voiced her concerns as well. Chief Depew stated these are calls of all types that go back a year. Chief Depew stated he would be happy to sit down with the board and discuss the records he has on the calls to that location.

Discussion / Action: Public Officer Designation for Property Maintenance Regulations

Mayor Staton read sections of the Regulations. Mrs Staton stated when a fine is assessed and it is not paid, is it accurate to say that every day after that it continues to be a new fine. City Attorney Paul Frye stated no, you have to go to chancery court and get a money judgment and a lien on the property. Alderwoman Payne asked Mr Frye about the codes involved. Vice Mayor Adams stated we adopted the code and we actually had someone that was going to get the training and get certified by the State. It has never happened.

Mayor Staton stated Michelle (Roberts) I think you have spoken to someone. City Manager Roberts stated that she had communicated with the City of Bristol and the State of Tennessee and they provided me the name of Jim Sullivan. I have reached

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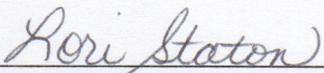
out to him to ask if he is able to do contract work for us. There was another man's name given to me but he was not licensed to do third party contracting.

City Attorney Paul Frye stated this is something that is sorely needed in this city if we are going to enforce the Property Maintenance Code. Vice Mayor Adams stated the guy we were going to use, I can have him get in touch with you. Mrs Roberts asked if he got his license. Mr Adams stated, Jeff was supposed to be working on getting that done but it never came through. Mayor Staton stated I think it would be great to approve the person who did it before who is familiar with the area, but in the meantime working with someone who can do contracts to get things done sooner than later. City Manager Roberts stated if we can get somebody who can start addressing some immediate things.

Mayor Staton asked if hiring a short-term person was something the Board has to do. City Attorney Paul Frye stated if it is in the budget Michelle could hire somebody. Vice Mayor Adams stated we have our work cut out for us. We have heard you and we are going to do what we can to address this. Mr Adams stated there is a big difference between criminal and civil. Alderwoman Keith stated we will get something done. Vice Mayor Adams explained some of the possible time lines each step could take. We are going to work on this. Mayor Staton stated that Michelle was already on this before this meeting.

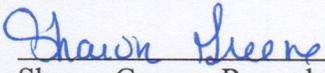
Second Session- Public Comments–No Comments

With no other business on the Agenda, Mayor Staton adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm



Lori Staton, Mayor

Attest this 25th day of February, 2025



Sharon Greene, Recorder / CMFO