

**MINUTES**

The Pine Bluff City Council met for a regular meeting at 5:30 p.m.

January 20, 2009 in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Mayor Redus called the meeting to order.

**The Invocation** was given by Rev. Charles Boyd.

**The Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Mayor Redus.

**Roll Call** – Answering present were Alderwoman Holcomb, Alderman Easterly, Alderwoman Roberts, Alderman Stepps, Alderwoman Walker, Aldermen Boyd and Brown. Alderman Brumett was absent.

**Approval of Minutes** – Alderman Stepps moved for approval of the minutes from the January 4, 2010 meeting, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and the motion carried 7-0.

Alderwoman Holcomb, Chairperson of the Ordinances and Resolutions Committee reported: the committee met prior to the Pine Bluff City Council meeting and recommended taking the following actions on the agenda:

Items No. 1 thru 4 will be heard and completed

Alderman Brumett, Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee was absent and Alderwoman Roberts reported: the committee met prior to the

meeting tonight with two members present\* and we have **four** budget adjustments to consider. The first budget adjustment is from District Court I for \$4,074.33 and it will be forwarded to the Public Safety Committee, seconded by Alderman Brown and the motion carried 7-0.

The **second** budget adjustment is from the Finance Department in the amount of \$44,752.00 to adjust the 2009 yearend budget. Alderwoman Roberts moved for approval of the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 7-0.

The **third** budget adjustment is from the Transit Department to adjust the 2009 yearend budget in the amount of \$31,024.00. Alderwoman Roberts moved for approval of the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderman Brown and the motion carried 7-0.

The **fourth** budget adjustment is from the Street Department for 2009 yearend budget adjustment in the amount of \$1,118.00. Alderwoman Roberts moved for approval of the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderman Brown and the motion carried 7-0.

Alderwoman Roberts moved to **pay the bills** owed by the city, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 7-0.

Alderwoman Roberts, Chairperson of Community Development Committee reported: the Community Development Committee will meet

on Wednesday, January 27, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. at 716 Georgia Street in the Economic & Community Development conference room.

Alderwoman Roberts then read the Downtown Entertainment District Update. The city met with the members of the Old Towne and Design committee of Pine Bluff Downtown Development, Inc. to review and further develop a plan of action to recommend to the Community Development Committee. There is an attachment to this report from the Pine Bluff Commercial that was written in reference to the proposed plan. A copy of the report will be on file with the City Clerk's office and will be available to the public upon request.

Alderwoman Roberts stated that at the next meeting of the committee they will discuss a letter that she received regarding concerns and actions of committee members. Alderwoman Roberts will see that copies of the letter will be provided to members prior to the meeting.

Donald Sampson, Director of the Economic & Community Development Department was asked to give a report on the status of the Revolving Loan fund for small businesses. He stated that the city had signed an agreement with the University to establish a revolving loan fund and have moved forward with setting up the committees that need to be in place; getting the documents that are required. We now need to name

individuals to a loan review committee. In the meantime applications have been received and appointments are being scheduled for those applicants. The target date for implementation is by the end of January. Mayor Redus asked that Mr. Sampson provide a report on Neighborhood Stabilization at the next council meeting.

Alderman Boyd, Chairman of Public Health & Welfare Committee reported: no report.

Alderwoman Walker, Chairperson for Public Works Committee reported: no report

Alderman Stepps, Chairman of Development and Planning Committee reported: the committee met last week with one issue on the agenda. Several council members expressed concern about downtown properties which are not being maintained including the old ice house; the old Town House Motel on 6<sup>th</sup> Street, at 6<sup>th</sup> and railroad the old Welch Auto building and Oak Flooring building; at 2<sup>nd</sup> and University the old Tyson Plant and the Brake and Drum building. The Inspection Department was asked to check on these properties and work on getting them cleaned up.

Alderman Brown, Chairman of the Traffic and Aviation Committee reported: no report but commended the Juvenile Court for their efforts in cleaning up ditches in the city.

Alderman Easterly, Chairman of the Administration Committee

reported: no report, but mentioned that Mr. Monroe Isadore will be 104 years old.

Alderwoman Holcomb, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee reported: no report but Police Chief Howell made a presentation. He commended Officer Johnathan Fallis for his response to an emergency call where he delivered a baby. The Police Department is also sponsoring a coloring contest for Pine Bluff elementary school students in recognition of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. The entries are displayed in the foyer of the Police Department and the Pine Bluff City Hall. Winners will be recognized on January 20, 2010 at each elementary school.

- (1) A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A CONTRIBUTION OF REAL PROPERTY (North 80 ft., Block 39, McCammons Subdivision) was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 7-0.
- (2) A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN HOUSES, BUILDINGS AND/OR STRUCTURES AS NUISANCES AND ORDERING THEIR ABATEMENT was heard. Alderman Easterly moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Brown. During discussion, Alderman Stepps moved for an amendment to

remove a list of five properties from the resolution, seconded by Alderman Brown and the motion carried 7-0. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for the original as amended, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 7-0.

(3) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR GENERAL IMPROVEMENT FUND THROUGH THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND TOURISM TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO TOWNSEND PARK was read by the City Attorney. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Brown and the motion carried 7-0.

(4) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION was read by the City Attorney. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Brown and the motion carried 7-0.

#### **Announcements**

The following announcement was made: Alderwoman Roberts stated that the Economic & Community Development committee meeting that she announced in her committee report will be cancelled until further notice. It will be rescheduled at a later date.

Alderman Easterly moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by

Alderman Stepps and the motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned

No further business

All other comments