

**MINUTES**

The Pine Bluff City Council met for a regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. January 22, 2008 in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Mayor Redus called the meeting to order.

**The Invocation** was given by Rev. William Shaw, Pastor of the Pleasant View Ministry.

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

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

**Approval of Minutes** – Alderman Brumett moved for approval of the minutes from the January 7, 2008 meeting, seconded by Alderman Smith and the motion carried 8-0.

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:

Item No. 1 was pulled by the Sponsor

Items 2 and 3 will be completed

Alderman Brumett, Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee reported: the committee met this afternoon at 5:00 p.m. and we have two budget adjustments to consider. The first one is from the Police Department for two new patrol cars and the amount is \$50,374.02 to be transferred from undesignated funds. This was recommended by the Public Safety Committee. Alderman Brumett moved to approve the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderwoman Holcomb and the motion carried 5 yeas and 3 nays. Voting no were Alderman Stepps, Alderwoman Roberts and Alderwoman Walker.

Alderman Brumett stated the next budget adjustment is from the Fire Department for \$22,148.00 to purchase a Customer Service Vehicle. This amount will be taken from undesignated funds. Alderman Brumett moved to accept the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderwoman Holcomb and the motion carried 8-0.

Alderman Brumett moved to **pay the bills** owed by the city, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 8-0.

Alderman Brumett stated, at the last Public Works Committee meeting; I was permitted to head up a public hearing in reference to the Pine Bluff Cable Company. Alderman Brumett stated that a public hearing

is set for Monday, February 4, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall; all citizens are invited to attend and express their concerns in reference to the Pine Bluff Cable Company. Alderman Brumett requested that the City Clerk's office be responsible for advertising this hearing in the newspaper.

Alderswoman Roberts, Chairperson of Community Development Committee reported: Alderswoman Roberts presented a copy of the Downtown Entertainment District report to all council members and filed a copy with the City Clerk's Office.

Alderswoman Walker, Chairperson of Public Health & Welfare Committee reported: no report

Alderman Smith, Chairman for Public Works Committee reported:  
no report

Alderman Stepps, Chairman of Development and Planning Committee reported: no report

Alderman Boyd, Chairman of the Traffic and Aviation Committee reported: no report

Alderman Easterly, Chairman of the Administration Committee reported: no report

Alderswoman Holcomb, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee reported: the committee met today at 4:00 p.m. with all committee members present. There were a number of items discussed. The first item was a situation with a clerk salary and since it is a personnel issue we will forward that on to the Police Chief and he will make a recommendation. The next item was MECA and as chairman of the committee I feel we should go ahead and separate because we have not been able to resolve issues with the county. Deputy Chief Whitfield is in the process of preparing something in case worse comes to worse. We also discussed the complaints that were brought out in reference to the 13<sup>th</sup> & Maple area. We also have a sergeant that will resign on the 31<sup>st</sup> of this month. Mr. Anthony, Superintendent of Pine Bluff Schools, has allowed the Police Department to walk through Sam Taylor and Indiana Schools. The committee felt that Sam Taylor School would be the ideal location. We understand minor improvements will need to be made and they will present to us what those improvements will be and the cost. Also information was shared in reference to advertising for recruitment of officers. Weed & Seed allotted \$2500.00 to COP (Citizens On Patrol) and other agencies as well. The Fire Department spoke on the over-all education of fire prevention. And several firefighters attended a recent neighborhood watch

meeting. There will be promotions made\* at the Fire Department on January 28, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

Alderwoman Holcomb stated there's a police department procedure manual which was passed out a couple of meetings ago and the council needs to pass this. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for approval of this manual, seconded by Alderman Brumett. During discussion it was recommended that the changes and additions made in the manual be forwarded to each council member for review before this is approved. After discussion Alderwoman Holcomb withdrew her motion and Alderman Brumett withdrew his second.

- (1) A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2008 ANNUAL BUDGET TO ADD FUNDS FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION TO FUND SALARY INCREASES **was pulled by the sponsor.**
- (2) A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A NEW COMMISSIONER IN THE SEWER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 39 OF THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption seconded by Alderman Brumett and the motion carried 8-0.

(3) 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 Brumett. During discussion Alderman Stepps moved for an amendment stating there are 3 properties on the list that needed to be removed, seconded by Alderman Brumett and the motion carried 8-0. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for the original as amended, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 8-0.

### **Announcements**

Mayor Redus made the following announcements:

Early voting for Presidential Primary begins January 29, 2008

January 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> – Trinity Episcopal School Chili Fund Raiser.

Lunches are \$6.00 each and will be delivered by the student's parents from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

January 31<sup>st</sup> registration for the Blue & You Fitness Challenge brought to you by the Blue Cross & Blue Shield and the Arkansas Department of Health. Register your group by calling 1-800-686-2609

Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. the Pine Bluff 20/20 will meet at the Convention Center.

Pine Bluff Jefferson County Clean & Beautiful Commission is still accepting disposal computer items for recycling. For more information call 543-4901.

Alderman Brumett moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Roberts and the motion carried 8-0.

Meeting adjourned

No further business

All other comments