

MINUTES

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

March 2, 2009 in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Mayor Redus called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Rev. Lorenzo Jones, III, Pastor of the New St. Hurricane Missionary Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Redus.

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

Approval of Minutes – Alderwoman Roberts moved for approval of the minutes from the February 17, 2009 meeting, seconded by Alderman Easterly 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: there is one resolution on the agenda which will be read and completed tonight.

Alderman Brumett, Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee allowed Mr. Fred Reed of Reed Architectural Firm to make a presentation to

the council regarding the District Court building. Mr. Reed stated the long-term objective is to have two courts but what is under construction presently is one courtroom with the judges each having an office and their support facilities in the building. Mr. Reed has been asked what the cost would be to add an additional courtroom. Under construction is 10,700 square feet attached with an enclosed walkway from the jail to the courtroom. An additional 3500 square foot space would contain a couple of offices to be used by the City Attorney. The cost is \$405,000 and an additional \$145,000 to do a shell-in, laying the foundation and the rest of the outside of the building where later the other courtroom could be finished out. By doing it now it would save having to build the exterior wall for the first courtroom then having to go through the same procedure when the second courtroom is built. The savings would be approximately 5% to 10% of the total cost of construction. Jefferson County has put in the funds for one courtroom and that's all that they've committed to.

Alderman Brumett reported: The Ways & Means Committee met prior to the City Council meeting and there are three budget adjustments. The first one is from the Finance Department to fund a 3% cost of living

increase for the City Attorney. The impact to Undesignated Funds is \$2373.26. Alderman Brumett moved to accept this budget adjustment, seconded by Alderwoman Holcomb and the motion carried 8-0.

The second budget adjustment is from the Finance Department for \$17,112.00 to fund the annual request to match a grant for services to the aged and for contribution to the Senior Citizen's facility through payment of monthly utilities for the building. Alderman Brumett moved to accept the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderwoman Holcomb and the motion carried 8-0.

The third budget adjustment is from the Inspection and Zoning Department and in the amount of \$4,585.28 to fund a promotional increase for the Chief Housing Inspector from a current salary of \$43,611.00 based on a proposal by Alderwoman Walker. Alderwoman Roberts moved to accept the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderwoman Walker. The Mayor suggested that since this is a discussion of salary that the council go into Executive Session to discuss the matter. Alderwoman Roberts stated there is a motion and a second on the floor and that parliamentary procedure dictates that to go into Executive Session we must have a vote from the full body with a two-third majority vote; if the chair refuses to carry the motion then the next person in seniority would be responsible for carrying the motion..

The Mayor asked the City Attorney for guidance and Ms. Billings stated that she was not a parliamentarian, then she stated that a vote is required in order to go into Executive Session. Alderwoman Holcomb moved that the council go into Executive Session, seconded by Alderman Brumett and after extensive further discussion, including who should be included in the Executive Session (Attorney Billings stated that it should include the Council members, the Mayor and the employee's supervisor), the motion carried 6-2 with Alderwoman Roberts and Alderwoman Walker voting no. Alderman Easterly moved to return from Executive Session, seconded by Alderman Brumett and the motion carried 8-0. There was no further discussion of the original motion; after a roll call, the motion carried 5-3 with Alderman Easterly and Alderman Brown abstaining and Alderman Brumett voting no.

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

Alderwoman Roberts, Chairman of the Community Development Committee reported that the Pine Bluff Downtown Entertainment District had no new activity this period.

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

Alderwoman Walker, Chairman of the Public Works Committee

reported: no report.

Alderman Stepps, Chairman of Development & Planning Committee

reported: no report.

Alderman Brown, Chairman of Traffic & Aviation Committee

reported: no report.

Alderman Easterly, Chairman of the Administration Committee

reported: the Administration Committee met on February 25, 2009 and discussed the courts regarding monies for some positions and the committee requested the courts to meet with Human Resources regarding job descriptions in each court; balancing work load of the positions; and employees with the same job descriptions being paid identical salaries. Once that is done the issue will be sent to Ways & Means and Public Safety.

Alderwoman Holcomb, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee

reported: the committee met today at 4:00 p.m. with all members present. The main purpose of the meeting was to hear the report of the architect regarding the court building. The Police Department reported that they are in the process of moving their East Precinct to the old Smithwick building. The Fire Department gave a report on their customer service issues and provided their monthly report which has been given to each council member. The last

page of the report provides a tabulation of the number of fires in each ward.

Steve Miller, Finance Director, provided a report on options for funding the added courtroom for District Court II to the new court facility and a copy of the report was given to each council member.

Alderwoman Holcomb stated that the Public Safety Committee will meet on March 13, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. All City Council members are requested to attend in order to further discuss the matter of the court facility. City Attorney Carol Billings will provide council members with documents to review prior to that meeting.

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO SERVE AS THE CITY'S MATCH TO SECURE A GRANT FROM THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AERONAUTICS TO PAY FOR RENOVATION OF THE GRIDER FIELD TERMINAL was read by the City Attorney. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Brumett and the motion carried 8-0.

Mayor Redus presented a proclamation to Annette Monk, Office Manager of Pine Bluff Wastewater Utility for having graduated with honors from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration Management.

Announcements

The following announcements were made:

- the Character Trait for March is Sincerity vs. hypocrisy – eagerness to do what is right with transparent motives.
- Live @ 5, an evening of jazz will be held Friday, March 6 at 5:00 p.m. at the Arts & Science Center. The featured artist will be “In Two”. Admission is \$5 and includes light refreshments.
- The Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Clean and Beautiful Commission and Jefferson County Recycling will host an electronic Scrap Collection Event on Saturday, March 14, 2009. Items such as cell phones, computers, laptop computers, printers, copy machines, televisions, radios, etc. will be accepted between 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m at 16th and Pennsylvania Streets. Small items such as cell phones, VCRs and DVD players may be dropped off at Stereo Junction, located at 2809 W. 28th Street.
- Dollarway High School will host Class 4A State basketball tournament Tuesday, March 2, 2009 through Saturday, March 7, 2009 at the Pine Bluff Convention Center.
- The Pine Bluff Rotary Club will meet at noon on Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at the Pine Bluff Country Club. Mike Hengel, publisher and

editor of *The Commercial* will be the speaker.

Weed & Seed Coffee with the Chiefs will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at the Harmony Baptist Association located at 2001 S. Cherry Street. Ken Ferguson, the Executive Director of Arkansas Workforce Investment Board will be the guest speaker. The public is invited to attend.

The West Pine Bluff Rotary Club will meet at noon on Thursday, March 5, 2009. Juvenile Judge Earnest Brown will be the speaker.

The Mayor and City Council members are invited to have dinner at the Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Museum on Monday, April 6, 2009 directly after City Council meeting.

The Black Pilots of America will have their Operation Skyhook Annual Fly-In again this year at Grider Field on Memorial Day weekend.

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

Meeting adjourned

No further business

All other comments