MINUTES

The Pine Bluff City Council met for a regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. March 16, 2009 in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Mayor Redus was not in attendance so Alderwoman Holcomb presided over the meeting. Alderwoman Holcomb called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Rev. Todd Howard, Pastor of Watson Chapel Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderwoman Holcomb.

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

Approval of Minutes – Alderman Stepps moved for approval of the minutes from the March 2, 2009 meeting, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and the motion carried 6-0.

A proclamation was given to representatives of the American Red Cross declaring March, 2009 as American Red Cross Month.

Alderman Easterly acting as Chairperson of the Ordinances and Resolutions Committee reported: the committee met prior to the Pine Bluff City Council meeting and recommends taking the following action:

Items No. 1 and 2 will be read for the first time

Item No. 3 has been pulled and is to be replaced with another ordinance from the Community Development Department: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A SHORT-TERM FINANCIAL AGREEMENT WITH UNION BANK OF PINE BLUFF TO ACQUIRE TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY FOR THE USE OF THE PINE BLUFF ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Alderman Easterly moved to add that ordinance to the agenda, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and the motion passed 6-0

Items 6 thru 8 will be heard and completed

Proposed Item No 9 is A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR DISTRICT COURT FACILITIES. Alderman Easterly moved to add this item to the agenda, seconded by Alderman Brown and after a roll call the vote was 6-0.

Alderwoman Roberts provided the report in the absence of Alderman Brumett, Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee: the

committee met this afternoon at 5:00 p.m. and considered two budget adjustments. The first budget adjustment is a request for repair of the roof on Fire Station #2 to be funded with salary funds available due to open positions for emergency management coordinator with balance from undesignated funds. The accounts from which it will come are: Salaries-$9454.06; Social Security-$723.24; Retirement-$661.78; Repair & Maintenance Buildings-$19,889; and General Fund-$9049.92. The method of financing-none required. Alderwoman Roberts moved to accept the budget adjustment, seconded by seconded by Alderman Stepps and the motion carried 6-0.

The second budget adjustment is a request of $4327.20 Court I Automation Fund and $4321.21 Court II Administrative Justice Fund. The reason for the request is to fund payment for Katie Ayers contract work on conversion of court data processing system from the old PTS system to the new ADSI and on training for the network administrator. Funding is through Court I automation fund, Court II AOJ fund and unspent police department salaries due to open positions. The accounts will be Salaries-$12,059.10; Social Security-$922.52; Salaries-$4,327.21, Administration of Justice Fund Balance-$4,327.20 and $4327.21. Method of financing-

none required. Alderwoman Roberts moved to accept the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 6-0.

Alderwoman Roberts stated that there are two budget adjustments relating to Resolution No. 9 which will be held until the resolution is voted upon by the council. Those adjustments will then be considered.

Alderwoman Roberts moved to **pay the bills** owed by the city, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 6-0.

Alderwoman Roberts, Chairperson of Community Development Committee read the Downtown Entertainment District Update report and filed a copy with the City Clerk's office. The Old Towne Subcommittee of the Pine Bluff Downtown Development Corporation is planning its annual Paint the Town event for June. The committee has secured the funding to paint structures on 2nd Avenue and is seeking additional funding to expand efforts to buildings on 4th Avenue.

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

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

Alderman Stepps, Chairman of Development and Planning Committee reported: The Development and Planning Committee had a

meeting and Mrs. Davis came before the committee regarding a house that she wants to restore. She has bids for the restoration and Alderman Stepps moved to remove the property from the list for condemnation and recommended to the council that she be allowed a chance to restore the house. Alderwoman Roberts seconded the motion and the motion carried 6-0. Alderman Stepps moved to remove a house owned by Mr. Beard at 2500 Bell Street from the condemned list also; seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and the motion carried 6-0.

Alderman Brown, Chairman of the Traffic and Aviation Committee reported: the Traffic Operations Committee met on March 6, 2009 and recommends adoption of Ordinance No. 2 on tonight's agenda to make a portion of 45th Avenue a one-way street. The committee took the following action that does not require City Council action:

- Request to change the phasing cycle in the traffic controller at the intersection of Ohio Street and Harding Avenue. AHTD will be asked to conduct a traffic engineering study.
- Consider options for preventing vehicles from crossing undeveloped property and residential property off of Brown Street - tabled by the committee.
- Lowering the speed limit on 40th Avenue in front of JRMC – tabled by the committee
- Installing advance stop signs at the intersection of Oakwood Rd and 6th Avenue – committee will ask the Street Department to install stop signs
- Request to install curve signs on US Hwy 79B at Sissy's Log Cabin and on Martha Mitchell Expressway east of the intersection of

Michigan Street. The committee will ask the Highway Department to install curve signs.

- Request AHTD to consider installing additional warning devices on I-530 and 79B near Watson Chapel where motorists are driving up the ramp the wrong way.

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

Alderwoman Holcomb, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee reported: the committee met on Friday, March 13, 2009 to discuss the inter-local agreement regarding the court facility and the committee recommends that we act on the Resolution No 9 on tonight's agenda.

(1) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 29 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE FOR A NEW HD-1 5TH AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT ZONE AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE REZONING OF CERTAIN TERRITORY IN THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS TO SAID HD-1 ZONE (up for the 1st reading) was read by the City Attorney. Alderman Easterly moved to read only the title of the ordinance, seconded by Alderman Stepps and after a roll call, the vote was 6-0. Alderman Easterly moved to suspend the rule and place the ordinance on second reading, seconded by Alderman Stepps and after a roll call the vote was 6-0. Alderman Easterly moved to

further suspend the rule and place the ordinance on third and final reading, seconded by Alderman Boyd; after a roll call the vote was 6-0. Alderman Easterly moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Stepps and the motion carried 6-0.

(2) AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A PORTION OF 45TH AVENUE IN THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS AS A ONE-WAY STREET AND PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY (up for the 1st reading) was read by the City Attorney and placed on the calendar

(3) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A SHORT-TERM FINANCIAL AGREEMENT WITH UNION BANK OF PINE BLUFF TO ACQUIRE TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY FOR THE USE OF THE PINE BLUFF ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (up for the 1st reading), was read by the City Attorney. Alderman Easterly moved to suspend the rule and place the ordinance on second reading, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and after a roll call the vote was 6-0. Alderman Easterly moved to further suspend the rule and place the ordinance on

third and final reading, seconded by Alderman Boyd and after a roll call the vote was 6-0. Alderman Easterly moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Stepps and the motion carried 6-0. Alderman Easterly moved for adoption of the emergency clause, seconded by Alderman Boyd and after a roll call the vote was 6-0.

(4) A RESOLUTION TO OVERRIDE THE MAYOR'S VETO OF A BUDGET ADJUSTMENT "TO FUND A PROMOTIONAL INCREASE FOR THE CHIEF HOUSING INSPECTOR FROM CURRENT SALARY OF $43,611.00" ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON MARCH 2, 2009, was heard. Alderman Easterly moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Stepps and after a roll call the vote was 6-0.

(5) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, CITY CLERK, AND THE PARKS COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT TO CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A WALKING TRAIL AROUND LAKE SARACEN was heard. Alderman Easterly moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Stepps and the motion carried 6-0

(6) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO CONTRACT FOR RENOVATION OF FIRE STATION NO. 2 IN THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS was heard. Alderman Easterly moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Stepps and the motion carried 6-0.

(7) A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE CITY'S INTENT TO PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS AND TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY IN SUPPORT OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW WOMEN'S SHELTER IN THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS was heard. Alderman Easterly moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Stepps and the motion carried 6-0.

(8) 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 Stepps and the motion carried 6-0.

(9) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR DISTRICT COURT FACILITIES was heard. Alderman Easterly moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Brown and after a roll call the vote was 2-4 with

Alderwoman Roberts, Alderman Stepps, Alderwoman Walker and Alderman Boyd voting no. The motion failed for lack of support. Alderwoman Roberts stated that there was no need to act upon the two budget adjustments relating to this resolution in view of the fact that the resolution failed.

Announcements

Alderwoman Holcomb made the following announcements:

- Mayor Redus is in Washington, D. C. attending the National League of Cities.
- Auditions for the play "Annie" will be held Tuesday and Thursday at 6:30p.m. at the Arts & Science Center. Call backs will be Saturday. Annie will hit the stage May 15 through 17.
- A fundraising Easter Fashion Parade style show and luncheon will be held at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff 11:00a.m. – 1:00p.m. Saturday, March 21, 2009. Tickets are $25 and tickets also qualify for a chance in the raffle for a white diamond-studded cross necklace donated by Sissy's Log Cabin.
- Pine Bluff Rotary Club will meet at noon Tuesday at the Pine Bluff Country Club. John Graham, Director of Bands at UAPB will be the speaker.

- The Pine Bluff Symphony Orchestra concludes the 2008-2009 season with a performance entitled "Made in America: Masterpieces by American Composers. Music begins at 7:00p.m. in the auditorium of the Pine Bluff Convention Center. Featured will be violin soloist Judith Ingolfsson. For ticket information call 536-7666.

Alderman Easterly moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Stepps and the motion carried 6-0.

Meeting adjourned

No further business

All other comments