

Public Hearing, March 17, 2008 @5:30 p.m.

A public hearing was held on an appeal of the Pine Bluff Planning Commission's denial of a Use Permit On Review application by Arnette Davis to operate a pick up and delivery catering business at 3409 Texas Street. Ms. Davis was the only speaker, after which the hearing was closed.

March 17, 2008

MINUTES

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

March 17, 2008 in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Mayor Redus called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Rev. Robert Key

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 – Alderwoman Roberts moved for approval of the minutes from the March 3, 2008 meeting, seconded by Alderman Brumett 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 and sent to the Planning Commission

It was advised by legal council to take a vote on sending this item to the Planning Commission. Alderwoman Holcomb moved to send item No. 1 to the Planning Commission, seconded by Alderman Stepps and the motion carried 8-0.

Item No. 2 was pulled and sent to the Planning Commission

Item No. 3 has been sent to the Public Works Committee

Item No. 4 will be completed

Item No. 5 has been pulled

Items No. 6 thru 11 will be completed

Item No. 12 will be sent to the Public Works Committee

Item No. 13 will be completed

Alderwoman Holcomb reported: we have one item that needs to be added to the agenda and it takes unanimous support to do so. Alderwoman Holcomb moved to add item No. 14 "A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN HOUSES, BUILDINGS AND/OR STRUCTURES AS NUISANCES AND ORDERING THEIR ABATEMENT" to the agenda,

seconded by Alderman Smith and after a roll call the vote was 8-0.

Alderwoman Holcomb stated this item will be added to tonight's agenda.

Alderman Brumett, Chairman of the **Ways & Means Committee** reported: the committee met prior to the council meeting tonight. There were two budget adjustments in your packets. The first adjustment is for the Parks & Recreation Department, the Grants & Transfers funds. Reason required is for Parks softball complex lighting grant revenue in the amount of \$200,000.00. Alderman Brumett moved to accept the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderwoman Holcomb and the motion carried 8-0.

Alderman Brumett reported the next budget adjustment is for the Animal Control Department. Reason required is for the replacement of a sewer pump in the amount of \$2,000.00 from the undesignated funds balance. Alderman Brumett moved to accept the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and the motion carried 8-0.

Alderman Brumett stated we have a request on the retirement of Mr. Bobby Carr for accumulated sick leave in the amount of \$14,312.37. I'd like to move that we accept this and pay Mr. Carr his sick leave after proper investigation by the Finance Department, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 8-0.

Alderman Brumett stated item no. 13 on tonight's agenda was also discussed and we recommend a do pass to the council and I will discuss it when we get to that item.

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

Mayor Redus presented a proclamation to the Lady Wildcats of Watson Chapel High School for their successful win of the 6-A Championship.

Alderwoman Roberts, Chairperson of **Community Development Committee** reported: no report and no update on the Downtown Entertainment District.

Alderwoman Walker, Chairperson of the **Public Health & Welfare Committee** reported: no report

Alderman Smith, Chairman of the Public Works Committee reported: the committee met today before the council meeting on item number three. We decided to carry it over and look at it a little closer before we go further with it.

Alderman Stepps, Chairman of the **Development and Planning Committee** reported: the committee met Friday, March 14th, 2008 at approximately 10:20 a.m. in the Mayor's Conference room. The appeal of

Ms. Arnette Davis was discussed and we decided to bring it before the full council for a decision. Also discussed was the property located at 1220 S. Sycamore Street, Mr. Roland McFadden is the property owner. He was allowed 60 days and that location will be removed from the list.

The City Attorney stated, on the appeal of Ms. Arnette Davis we either need a motion to overturn or uphold the decision of the Planning Commission. Mayor Redus stated do we have a motion to overturn the decision of the Planning Commission. There was no response and the mayor stated the decision of the Planning Commission is upheld.

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

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

Alderwoman Holcomb, Chairperson of the **Public Safety Committee** reported: the committee met today at 4:00 p.m. with all members present. First on the agenda was the Police Department. Chief Howell made his report by stating 5 or 6 more officers have been hired and background checks are being conducted on them but we now have a total of 128 officers. School Resource Officers will soon be placed at Pine Bluff High School, Jack Robey Jr. High and Dollarway Middle and High

Schools. Officer Shapiro with F.O.P. expressed his concerns for a pay increase for officers. From the Fire Department, Chief Horton stated there would be more teaching on fire prevention. Alderwoman Holcomb stated the next Public Safety meeting will be April 7, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.

- (1) AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE REZONING OF CERTAIN TERRITORY IN THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS (within the 100 block of Grider Field Road). This item was pulled and sent to the Planning Commission.
- (2) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 29 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS CONCERNING AUTOMOBILE SALVAGE YARDS; DECLARING SUCH YARDS NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CITY CODE TO BE PUBLIC NUISANCES; PROVIDING FOR INCREASED PENALTIES FOR SALVAGE YARDS FOUND IN VIOLATION OF CITY CODES; FOR RELATED PURPOSES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. This item was pulled and sent to the Planning Commission.
- (3) A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2008 ANNUAL BUDGET TO ADD FUNDS FOR THE AVIATION

COMMISSION TO FUND THE POSITION OF FLIGHT LINEMAN. This item was pulled and set to the Public Works Committee.

- (4) A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2008 ANNUAL BUDGET TO ADD FUNDS FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION TO FUND SALARY INCREASES was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Smith. During discussion the sponsor, Alderman Smith, tabled this item until the next council meeting which is set for 4/7/2008.
- (5) A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 1607 RESPECTING INJURY LEAVE FOR EMERGENCY EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY. This item was pulled by the sponsor.
- (6) A RESOLUTION APPOINTING JULIA LAMB TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCE CENTER OF SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and the motion carried 8-0.

- (7) A RESOLUTION APPOINTING EDWARD A. LONG TO THE PINE BLUFF PLANNING COMMISSION was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Smith and the motion carried 8-0.
- (8) A RESOLUTION APPOINTING DON L. SCOTT TO THE PINE BLUFF PLANNING COMMISSION was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and the motion carried 8-0.
- (9) A RESOLUTION ADJUSTING THE SALARY PAID THE ACTING CHIEF INSPECTOR OF THE INSPECTION AND ZONING DEPARTMENTS was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and the motion carried 8-0.
- (10) A RESOLUTION URGING THE MAYOR TO DECLARE MARCH 21, 2008, AS A HOLIDAY FOR CITY EMPLOYEES was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Smith. After discussion Mayor Redus stated the resolution failed for a lack of support.
- (11) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE A LEASE WITH THE

FEDERAL AVIATION COMMISSION was heard.

Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Brumett and the motion carried 8-0.

(12) A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN OFFICIAL CITY FLAG AND LOGO FOR THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS was pulled and sent to the Public Works Committee.

(13) A RESOLUTION OF THE PINE BLUFF CITY COUNCIL CERTIFYING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT OF PHUELLINK INVESTMENTS, LLC, TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TAX BACK PROGRAM AS AUTHORIZED BY A.C.A. 15-4-2706(d) OF THE CONSOLIDATED INCENTIVE ACT OF 2003 was heard.

Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Brumett and the motion carried 8-0.

(14) A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN HOUSES, BUILDINGS AND/OR STRUCTURES AS NUISANCES AND ORDERING THEIR ABATEMENT was heard.

Alderman Brumett moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Easterly and during discussion Alderman Stepps

moved for an amendment stating we have a list of properties that needed to be removed from the list and a copy of that list is attached to the original resolution, seconded by Alderman Brumett and the motion carried 8-0. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for the original as amended, seconded by Alderman Brumett and the motion carried 8-0.

Announcements

Mayor Redus made the following announcements:

On March 19, 2008 the Crime Victim's Support Group meeting will be held. For details contact Edna Morgan @ 535-0101

On March 28 & 29, 2008 the Southeast Arkansas Chapter of the American Red Cross presents its annual fund raiser event to support Disaster Aid to victims. The event will take place in the parking lot of Brookshire's, located at 28th & Hazel Streets. For additional information, call 870-235-8037 or 870-534-7312.

On April 7-12 the Clark Terry Jazz Festival will include high school and collegiate jazz competitions; sacred jazz performance; and the main event, Clark Terry and Friends in concert. Tickets are available at the Pine Bluff Convention Center.

The Pine Bluff Fire Department's Arson Hotline reward is being increased from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 for the arrest and conviction of anyone committing the crime of arson.

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

Meeting adjourned

No further business

All other comments