

MINUTES

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

March 15, 2010 in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Mayor Redus called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Rev. Johnny Smith, pastor of Shiloh 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, Aldermen Boyd and Brown.

Approval of Minutes – Alderwoman Holcomb moved for approval of the minutes from the March 1, 2010 Special Called meeting, seconded by Alderman Brumett and the motion carried 8-0. Alderman Brown moved for approval of the minutes of the March 1, 2010 meeting, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts 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 (up for the 3rd and final reading) will be heard and completed.

Item No. 2 (up for the 2nd reading) will be heard and completed

Item No. 3 will be completed

Item No. 4 will be completed.

ADD TO AGENDA Alderman Holcomb stated we have two items to add to the agenda that were recommended by the committee and it requires unanimous consent for them to be placed on the agenda tonight. The first item is **“AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING HOURS OF OPERATION OF COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS WHICH PERMIT CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON THE PREMISES”** and if it is added it will become Item 1-A on the agenda. Alderwoman Holcomb moved to add the item to tonight’s agenda, seconded by Alderman Brumett. After a roll call the vote was 7-1 with Alderwoman Walker voting no. Alderwoman Holcomb stated the item will not go onto tonight’s agenda but will be heard at the next council meeting.

Alderwoman Holcomb stated the second item is **“A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE A SIX-MONTH MORATORIUM ON**

THE APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR ‘SPECIAL EVENTS CENTERS’, ‘RECREATION CENTERS’ OR LIKE-TERMS WHILE THE CITY DEFINES SUCH USES AS A PART OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE”. Alderwoman Holcomb moved to add the item to tonight’s agenda, seconded by Alderman Brumett and after a roll call the vote was 7-1 with Alderwoman Walker voting no. Alderwoman Holcomb stated the item will not go onto tonight’s agenda but will be heard at the next council meeting.

Alderwoman Holcomb stated that during the Ordinances and Resolution Committee meeting it was asked that we offer a motion to deviate from our normal procedure. She moved to have public comments before the council meeting, seconded by Alderman Brumett and after a roll call the vote was 8-0.

Alderman Brumett, Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee reported: the committee did not have a meeting tonight but each councilman has a copy of the sales tax revenue which is down approximately \$103,000.

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

Alderwoman Roberts, Chairperson of Community Development Committee reported: she requested that the sponsor of Item No. 3 on tonight's agenda would allow the resolution to be referred back to the Economic & Community Development Committee for proper structure and proper procedure and for review. She invited everyone to tune in to ESPN on tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. to watch the UAPB Golden Lions in the NCAA tournament. Alderman Easterly commended the Lady Wildcats who are state champions. Mayor Redus requested that Alderwoman Roberts and City Clerk Loretta Whitfield invite the championship teams to come to 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: no report.

Alderman Brown, Chairman of the Traffic and Aviation Committee reported: the committee met on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 with one item on the agenda. That item was to rename Hazel Street to MLK Drive. The matter was referred to the Planning Commission for a public hearing.

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 committee members present. The Police Department did not have a monthly report but they recommended that the ordinance regarding hours of operation of commercial establishments be brought before the full council. Since it did not have unanimous consent to be added to tonight's agenda, it will be on the agenda for the next council meeting. Deputy Chief Dana Powell presented a handout and each council member has a copy. Deputy Chief Whitfield made a report regarding the baseball camp that will occur during spring break.

Chief Smith of the Fire Department brought an ordinance that will be presented at the next council meeting which would allow the Chief to appoint the Deputy Chiefs. We propose to have one reading of that ordinance; it has been before the committee already.

District Court II had no report.

Animal Control wants to revise an ordinance to comply with state laws specifically relating to rabies and they would like to have a scheduled adoption event where no fees will be charged for adoption. These items

will be in the form of an ordinance and a resolution at the next council meeting.

Weed & Seed had no report, however, we have information that the Weed & Seed program will continue and will probably get stronger. Rev. Turner will speak to that issue at a later date.

There was a resignation from the Civil Service Commission. Mr. George Mitchell resigned to seek the office of Justice of the Peace of District 5 and there was an individual who expressed an interest in replacing Mr. Mitchell on the commission.

First Lady Michelle Obama will be the commencement speaker at UAPB on May 8, 2010 and we would like to see a cohesive effort and a united front in the community for this historic event.

Alderman Brumett moved that the council go into executive session to discuss the firing of the Police Chief and also moved that citizens be allowed to speak before the executive session, seconded by Alderwoman Holcomb and the motion carried 8-0.

The public comments session followed, with ten speakers making comments.

Alderwoman Roberts requested a legal opinion from City Attorney Carol Billings regarding whether the council can ask Chief Howell to come

into the executive session and ask the mayor to leave out while the council questions the Chief. Attorney Billings stated the employee and the immediate supervisor can be in the meeting; they don't have to be in there at the same time.

The council went into executive session at approximately 6:18 p.m. and returned at approximately 8:25 p.m. and reconvened the meeting. Alderman Brumett moved to reinstate Chief John Howell to the City of Pine Bluff, seconded by Alderman Easterly. After a roll call the motion was 5-3 with Alderman Stepps, Alderwoman Walker and Alderman Brown voting no. The motion failed for lack of support.

(1) AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING REVISED POLICIES FOR THE POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL FOR THE PINE BLUFF POLICE DEPARTMENT (up for the 3rd and final reading) was read by the City Attorney. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Brumett and the motion carried 8-0.

(2) AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ARKANSAS FIRE PREVENTION CODE (2007 EDITION) AND AMENDING SECTIONS 10-51 AND 10-52 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS

(up for the 2nd reading) was read by the City Attorney. Alderwoman Holcomb moved to suspend the rule and place the ordinance on 3rd and final reading, seconded by Alderman Brumett and after the roll call the vote was 8-0. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Brown and the motion carried 8-0.

(3) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AN UPDATED AND CLARIFYING AGREEMENT WITH JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Brumett. After discussion, Alderwoman Roberts requested that the resolution be sent back to the Economic & Community Development Committee which will meet on Thursday, March 18, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. in the Economic & Community Development conference room, 716 Georgia Street. Alderwoman Holcomb withdrew her motion, Alderman Brumett withdrew his second and the resolution will be on the next city council agenda.

(4) A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN HOUSES, BUILDINGS, AND/OR STRUCTURES AS NUISANCES AND

ORDERING THEIR ABATEMENT was heard. Alderman Easterly moved for adoption, seconded by Alderwoman Holcomb. Alderman Stepps moved to amend the resolution to remove nine (9) properties from the list, seconded by Alderman Easterly 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

The following announcements were made: no announcements

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