MINUTES

The Pine Bluff City Council met for a regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. April 20, 2009 in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Mayor Redus called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Rev. Ed Gillham, pastor of the Southside 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 – Alderman Stepps moved for approval of the minutes from the April 6, 2009 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

Items No. 2 and 3 up for the 1st reading

Items No. 4 thru 6 will be heard and completed

Alderman Brumett, Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee reported: the committee met prior to the meeting tonight and we have **six budget adjustments** that were in the packet. The **first one** is from the Grants Department for $77,571.60 for additional funds required for Imbeau Bayou due to higher contract bids; adjust budget for Sanitation Fee adjustment from Waste Management per Ordinance 6254. Only $16,182.45 will be taken from Undesignated Funds. Alderman Brumett moved for approval of the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderwoman Holcomb and the motion carried 8-0.

The **second budget adjustment** is from the City Attorney's Department for an employee's retirement with 23 days accumulated sick time and 33 days of unused vacation. That amount is $6,518.40 and will be taken from undesignated funds. Alderman Brumett moved for approval of the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and the motion carried 8-0.

The **third budget adjustment** is from the Police Department for $14,573.79, reason required is because a Sergeant with the department is retiring and has 86.6 days accumulated sick time; this amount will be taken

from within the department's budget. Alderman Brumett moved for approval of the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and the motion carried 8-0.

The **fourth budget adjustment** is from the Grants Department, reason required is to have the AEDC Grant Expense added to the budget so there will be a way of distributing the funds. Alderman Brumett moved for approval of the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and the motion carried 8-0.

The **fifth budget adjustment** is from the Human Resources Department for $1,000.00 and the reason required is to budget funds for services of the Johanson Group in rating jobs and assigning salary ranges. The amount will be taken from the department's budget. Alderman Brumett moved for approval of the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderwoman Holcomb and the motion carried 8-0.

The **sixth budget adjustment** is from the Brownfield Grants Department for $200,000.00. Alderman Brumett stated this adjustment is being referred back to committee.

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

Alderman Brown, Chairman of the Traffic and Aviation Committee reported: the Aviation committee met on March 26th and the Architectural Grant was approved which was requested by the Airport.

Also discussed were fire extinguisher training for Grider Field; the search for a lease for the restaurant; and establishing a foundation to accept donations for the airport museum. The committee met on the 16th of April and in that meeting Ken Johnson talked about a schedule of the Black Pilots conducting a circle of events during the Memorial Day weekend.

Alderman Easterly, Chairman of the Administration Committee reported: the committee discussed the District Courts I and II and adjusting salaries to make them match on both sides and it will go to Ways and Means. The Human Resources Department is continuing to work on the matter.

Alderwoman Holcomb, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee reported: the committee met today with all committee members present. The Police Department announced that they have sworn in eight new officers. Chief Howell reported that the Department now has 142 officers and we are budgeted for 144. The Fire Department reported that fires are down. The committee thanked Fire Chief Horton for a job well done and wished him well as he goes back to Virginia. District Courts Division I and

Alderwoman Roberts, Chairperson of Community Development Committee reported: Brandon Jolly performed a heroic act of saving his mother and family last week in a house fire and Alderwoman Roberts presented a $50.00 savings bond to Brandon.

Alderwoman Roberts allowed Jerry Riley to speak in reference to the CHDO funds. She also stated there will be a committee meeting on April 23, 2009 at 4:15 p.m. at 716 Georgia. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony on 4/14/09 at the new Community Development offices; citizens are welcome to visit at any time. The Downtown Entertainment District has had no new activity since the last update on April 2, 2009.

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: There will be a meeting on April 29, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room. Alan Skinner with the City Planning Department stated there will be a public hearing of the Planning Commission on April 28, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Division II were represented by Judges Bridgforth and Kearney and both are in favor of the new court building. There was some sentiment among committee members that they want to revisit the issue of the new court. It was voted on and the vote was 2-1. Alderwoman Holcomb was the dissenting vote and Aldermen Brumett and Easterly voted yes. The Animal Control Department is working on some Stimulus project activities.

(1) 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 3rd and final reading) was read by the City Attorney. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Brown. Alderman Easterly expressed concern for the safety of residents in the area while construction of the additional apartments is going on with heavy vehicles moving into the area. After discussion, the sponsor agreed to table the ordinance until construction is complete.

(2) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CHIEF OF POLICE TO EXECUTE FINANCE AGREEMENT(S) FOR ACQUISITION OF POLICE UNITS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (up for the 1st reading)

was read by the City Attorney. Alderwoman Holcomb moved to suspend the rule and place the ordinance on second reading, seconded by Alderman Brumett. After a roll call the vote was 8-0. Alderwoman Holcomb moved to further suspend the rule and place the ordinance on third and final reading, seconded by Alderman Brumett and after a roll call the vote was 8-0. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Brumett and the motion carried 8-0. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption of the emergency clause, seconded by Alderman Brumett and after a roll call the vote was 8-0.

(3) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART B OF CHAPTER 18 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS, REGARDING RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING TRANSIENT MERCHANTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (up for the 1st reading) was read by the City Attorney and sent to committee.

(4) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO CONVEY REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2805 WEST 27TH STREET THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT was

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

(5) A RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF HENRY WILKINS III, IN RECOGNITION OF HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF AND THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND RENAMING MAPLE STREET "HENRY WILKINS III DRIVE" was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb asked all of the council members to sign on as sponsors and the vote was 8-0. The resolution was referred to committee for review. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 28, 2009 at 4:00p.m. in the Council Chambers and the Planning & Development committee will discuss this resolution on April 29, 2009 at 4:00p.m in the Mayor's conference room. An ad will be run in the newspaper regarding the public hearing.

(6) 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. Alderman Stepps moved to amend the resolution to remove four properties from the list, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and

the motion carried 8-0. Alderman Stepps moved to add 917 East 2nd to the list to be removed from the resolution, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and the motion carried 8-0. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for the original as amended, seconded by Alderman Boyd and the motion carried 8-0.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

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

Meeting adjourned

No further business

All other comments