

MINUTES

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

May 18, 2009 in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Mayor Redus called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Father Harvey of St. Joseph Catholic Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Redus.

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

Approval of Minutes – Alderwoman Roberts moved for approval of the minutes from the May 4, 2009 meeting, seconded by Alderman Brown and the motion carried 6-0.

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:

Items No. 1 and 2 up for the 2nd reading

Items No. 3 and 4 up for the 1st reading

Items No. 5 and 6 will be heard and completed

ADD TO AGENDA Alderman Holcomb stated the committee recommended adding one (1) item to tonight's agenda. It takes unanimous consent to be placed on the agenda and it is "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PROVIDE LOCAL MATCH FUNDS FOR THE ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION'S APPLICATION TO THE ARKANSAS HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT'S TRAILS GRANT TO CONSTRUCT PHASE II OF THE TRAIL AROUND LAKE SARACEN". Alderwoman Holcomb moved to add this item on tonight's agenda, seconded by Alderman Easterly and after a roll call the vote was 6-0.

Alderman Brumett, Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee was absent, therefore Alderwoman Roberts gave the report: the committee met prior to the meeting tonight and there are six **budget adjustments** to consider; the **first budget adjustment** is from the Police Department for \$20,226.82. The reason required is to purchase vehicles for the Police Department, to be funded from sales at auction of used vehicles and

nothing being taken from undesignated fund balance. Alderwoman Roberts moved for approval of the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderman Boyd and the motion carried 6-0.

The **second budget adjustment** is from the City Clerk's Department for \$325.00. The reason required is to add funds required for service contracts on office equipment offset by reduction of publishing expense. Alderwoman Roberts moved for approval of the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 6-0.

The **third budget adjustment** is from District Court II in the amount of \$23,931.56. The reason for the request is to fund raises for District Court II clerks to equalize their salaries to clerks in District Court I and to add an additional full-time Deputy Clerk position. The amount of this adjustment will come from Undesignated Funds. Alderwoman Roberts moved to accept the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderman Boyd and the motion carried 6-0.

The **fourth budget adjustment** is from the Inspection Department to fund an increase in the salary of the Zoning Official to an annual salary of \$35,145. The total adjustment is \$3845.64. Alderwoman Roberts moved to accept this budget adjustment, seconded by Alderwoman Holcomb and the motion carried 6-0.

The **fifth budget adjustment** is from the Fire Department in the amount of \$23,770.53. The reason required is due to Chief Howard Hipp's retirement with 816 hours accumulated sick time. The adjustment is coming from Salaries, Social Security and Retirement. Alderwoman Roberts moved to accept the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderwoman Holcomb and the motion carried 6-0.

The **sixth budget adjustment** is from the Fire Department for Finnegan & Associates' fees for grant writing services on a Fireman Assistance Grant for a new ladder truck. The total amount is \$5000 for consulting fees to come from Salaries. Alderwoman Roberts moved to accept the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 6-0.

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

Alderwoman Roberts, Chairperson of Community Development Committee reported: no report but she requested that Lori Walker and Donald Sampson introduce a guest. Charles Ray, Vice President of government initiatives for Brownsfields is currently EPA project manager for Technical Assistance to Brownsfields Communities Grant. Mr. Ray stated that his role is to assist those local governments that have received

Brownsfields funding; to provide assistance* in areas of site inventory, profiling sites that have high potential, and working through levels up to assessment of Brownsfields programs. The services are paid for by the EPA so there is no cost to the city.

Alderwoman Roberts stated each council member should have a packet of information on the Stimulus package update and a copy is available to the public by request.

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

Alderwoman Walker, Chairperson for Public Works Committee reported: Mr. Ken Johnson and his staff at Pine Bluff Wastewater Utility assisted with the recent flooding problem at City Hall and she offered her thanks on behalf of the City to Wastewater Utility and to Mr. Chuck Mitchell. Mr. Ken Johnson reported that on May 6, 2009, Wastewater responded to a call concerning flooding in the basement and worked in concert with Chuck Mitchell, Maintenance Director at City Hall and after several hours they were able to resolve the issue. The cause of the flooding was due to a holding tank that had become clogged. Chuck Mitchell also spoke and personally thanked Mr. Johnson and the Wastewater personnel.

Committee was absent and there was no report.

Alderman Brown, Chairman of the Traffic and Aviation Committee reported: no report but he invited everyone to attend the Black Pilots of America Fly-In at Grider Field next week end.

Alderman Easterly, Chairman of the Administration Committee reported: the committee met last week and set forth the structure of two of the budget adjustments that were voted on tonight relating to District Court II.

Alderwoman Holcomb, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee reported: no report.

- (1) AN ORDINANCE TO CLOSE BRYANT STREET BETWEEN WEBB AND SMART STREETS (up for the 2nd reading) was read by the City Attorney and placed on the calendar.
- (2) AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE REZONING OF CERTAIN TERRITORY IN THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS (1303 W. 46th Avenue) (up for the 2nd reading) was read by the City Attorney and placed on the calendar.

- (3) AN ORDINANCE WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR ENGINEERING STUDY was read by the City Attorney and placed on the calendar.
- (4) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 6083 TO INCREASE FINES FOR MISDEMEANOR OFFENSES AND VIOLATIONS TO DEFRAY COSTS OF INCARCERATING PRISONERS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (up for the 1st reading) was read by the City Attorney and placed on the calendar.
- (5) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH FINNEGAN AND COMPANY, INC. was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 6-0.
- (6) A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN HOUSES, BUILDINGS, AND/OR STRUCTURES AS NUISANCES AND ORDERING THEIR ABATEMENT, was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Boyd and the motion carried 6-0.

(7) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PROVIDE LOCAL MATCH FUNDS FOR THE ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION'S APPLICATION TO THE ARKANSAS HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT'S TRAILS GRANT TO CONSTRUCT PHASE II OF THE TRAIL AROUND LAKE SARACEN was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 6-0.

Announcements

The following announcements were made:

The fly-in of Black Pilots of America will be held this weekend, May 21, 2009 through May 25, 2009.

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

Meeting adjourned

No further business

All other comments