

MINUTES

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

June 4, 2007 in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Mayor Redus called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Rev. Mike Tinker, Chaplain for the Pine Bluff Police Department.

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 May 21, 2007 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 up for the 3rd and final reading

Items No. 2 thru 8 will be completed.

Alderman Brumett, Chairperson of the Ways & Means Committee reported: the committee met at 5:00 p.m. this afternoon and we have four budget adjustments. The first one is from the Community Development department, reason required is for Purchases Auto & Workman's Comp over budget. CDBG appropriated more funds for 2007 than budgeted and additional revenue budgeted to Pitts Drain Project & Youth Program; \$2,285.99 to Workman's Comp from salaries; \$1,500.00 to purchases authorized from Disposition Real Property; and \$23,539.00 to Pitts Drain Project; and \$6,000.00 to Public Services Youth Program both from the 33rd Year Community Development Funds. Alderman Brumett moved for approval, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 8-0.

The second budget adjustment is for the Street Department, reason required, Workman's Compensation & electric expense over 2007 budget. There's \$25,000.00 being taken from part-time salaries and distributed \$16,000.00 Electric Expense and \$9,000.00 to Workman's comp.

Alderman Brumett moved for approval, seconded by Alderman Smith and after discussion Alderman Brumett withdrew his motion. Alderman Smith withdrew his second and Alderman Brumett tabled the adjustment until the next meeting.

The third budget adjustment is for Transit, reason required is for Transit Advertising Expense over full year budget (2007), for \$60.28. They're asking for that amount to be moved from training. Alderman Brumett moved for approval, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and the motion carried 8-0.

The fourth budget adjustment is involving the health insurance premium. Alderman Brumett asked that Alderman Easterly give his Administration Committee Report because it will have a bearing on this budget adjustment.

Alderman Easterly, Chairman of the Administration Committee reported: the Administration Committee met this morning at 10:00 a.m. to deal with our health care cost which has gone up, effective July 1, 2007 to another tier. It's putting our family coverage up to \$819.00. In round numbers it's close to \$150,000 and we've already taken some out of the emergency fund this year to help keep from having an increase on employees. The Administration Committee felt that we probably will need to have a split between the employees and the city together, \$25.00 a month for employees and \$25.00 a month put in by the city for each employee. And that was recommended to the Ways & Means Committee. A request for

proposals (RFP) will be put out for bids on insurance. Between now and the end of the year we will be looking at other funding.

Alderman Brumett stated the last budget adjustment for \$76,300.00, reason required is for Health Insurance Premium increase from Municipal League based on cost of claims for city employees. City will incur \$25 per employee increase and each employee's cost will increase \$25 per month the amount is \$76,300.00 from undesignated funds to the appropriate accounts within the departments to cover their group insurance cost. Alderman Brumett moved for approval, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 8-0.

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

Alderwoman Roberts, Chairperson of Community Development Committee asked that Donald Sampson give a report on the Downtown Revitalization project and a copy of that report be filed in the City Clerk's office. Alderwoman Roberts announced that the Community Development and Planning & Development committees will meet for a joint meeting June 12, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. here in the Council Chambers.

Alderwoman Walker, Chairman of Public Health & Welfare Committee reported: no report

Alderman Smith, Chairperson for Public Works Committee

reported: no report

Alderman Stepps, Chairman of Development and Planning

Committee reported: no report

Alderman Boyd, Chairman of the Traffic and Aviation Committee

reported: Alderman Boyd announced Pine Bluff Aviation commission will celebrate the opening of a new hangar ribbon cutting ceremony, Thursday, June 7, 2007 at 5:15 until 6:30 p.m. and the public is invited.

Alderwoman Holcomb, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee

reported: the committee met today at 4:00 p.m. with all members present. Also present were Mayor Redus, Chief Howell and Chief Hipp. The first thing on the agenda was Rev. Sanders speaking on the house next to her church and she will be speaking after the meeting tonight. There were three things on the agenda that I called "points to ponder" and they were sales tax ½ cent would generate 3.5 million per year, sales tax 1 cent would generate 6.5 million per year and then I had information I passed on a bond issue. We learned at that time the mayor was researching a proposal capital improvement bond issue which would help in various areas. And the council as a whole will hear more about this around July 15, 2007.

(1) AN ORDINANCE TO CLOSE THE NORTH 120 FEET OF THE ALLEY BETWEEN 8TH & 9TH AVENUES AND OHIO AND PENNSYLVANIA STREETS (up for the 3rd and final reading) was read by the City Attorney. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Smith and the motion carried 8-0.

(2) A RESOLUTION APPOINTING DR. MARY BENJAMIN TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS ARTS AND SCIENCE CENTER was heard, Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and the motion carried 8-0.

(3) A RESOLUTION APPOINTING JEWEL WALKER TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS ARTS AND SCIENCE CENTER was heard, Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and the motion carried 8-0.

(4) A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ADAM B. ROBINSON JR. TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS ARTS AND SCIENCE CENTER was heard, Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 8-0.

(5) A RESOLUTION APPOINTING DABNEY PELTON TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS ARTS AND SCIENCE CENTER was heard, Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 8-0.

(6) A RESOLUTION APPOINTING WALTER JOHNSON TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS ARTS AND SCIENCE CENTER was heard, Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Brumett and the motion carried 8-0.

(7) A RESOLUTION APPOINTING JUNE LAMBI TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS ARTS AND SCIENCE CENTER was heard, Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 8-0.

(8) A RESOLUTION APPOINTING LEIGH COCKRUM PHILIPPI TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS ARTS AND SCIENCE CENTER was heard, Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and the motion carried 8-0.

Announcements

Mayor Redus made several announcements. The second Town Hall

Meeting will be held Tuesday, June 5th at Coleman Elementary School.

The Character Trait for June 2007 is Humility.

The year of Entrepreneurial Growth in Pine Bluff first of several seminars will be held Wednesday, June 13, 2007 at the School of Business & Management Auditorium on the campus of UAPB.

The Saracen Landing Clean-up will take place Saturday, June 9, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. until noon all are encouraged to participate.

The Saracen Landing Dedication will take place Saturday, June 16, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. We are encouraging all elected officials, city employees and residents to attend.

Larry Ault, reporter for the Pine Bluff commercial passed on May 31, 2007. Memorial services will be Wednesday, June 6 at 2:30 p.m. at the Gross Funeral Home Chapel in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

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