

MINUTES

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

July 7, 2008 in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Mayor Redus called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Rev. Michael Williams, pastor of Family Time Ministries.

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 June 16, 2008 meeting and a special called meeting June 24, 2008, seconded by Alderwoman Holcomb 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 2nd reading

Items No. 2 for the 1st reading

Item No 3 has been reworded to read: AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING AGREEMENTS RELATED TO PINE BLUFF 20/20 INITIATIVE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. It will be read three times tonight and completed.

Items 4 thru 11 will be heard and completed, with the exception of No. 6, which has been withdrawn by the sponsor.

Alderman Brumett, Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee reported: as a clarification, Item No. 6 on tonight's agenda has been pulled to allow the Mayor to schedule a meeting with the Advertising and Tourist Promotion Commission and the Civic Complex Commission. The Ways & Means Committee met this afternoon at 5:00 p.m. and we have six budget adjustments and the committee has recommended these to the full council.

Budget adjustment (1) for the Transit Department; reason required is natural gas expense is higher due to increasing energy prices. This requires no new monies from the General Fund; it is a transfer of \$4000.00 for salaries to the gas expense fund within the Transit Department. Alderman Brumett moved for approval of the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderwoman Holcomb and the motion carried 8-0.

Budget adjustment (2) is for the Inspection Department in the amount of \$6000 for repair and maintenance of autos. The reason required is due to higher than normal level of maintenance required due to increased level of inspections in 2007 and 2008. The money is being transferred from unused funds for group insurance. Alderman Brumett moved for approval of the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderwoman Holcomb and the motion carried 8-0.

Budget adjustment (3) is for the Street Department in the amount of \$11,400.00 involving Workmen's Compensation, \$5400 and gas expense, \$6000. The Workmen's Compensation billing for 2008 was \$35,497; the 2008 budget was set at 2006 level of \$30,000 instead of 2007 actual expense of \$38,000. Natural gas is higher due to energy price increases. This is an internal adjustment utilizing monies from unused salaries and group insurance to offset this increase. Alderman Brumett moved for approval of the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderman Smith and the motion carried 8-0.

Budget adjustment (4) is for a grant to fund the preparation of the Community Strategic Plan from citizen input gathered during the Pine Bluff 20/20 Community Visioning Process. The total funding requirement

is \$7,014.28 of which \$5000 will be paid*from CDBG funds already budgeted for Community Development activities. The Southern Good Faith Fund serves as the fiduciary for the PB 20/20 Initiative. This adjustment of \$2014.28 goes to account 18-4754 Southern Good Faith Fund-PB 20/20 from Undesignated Funds. Alderman Brumett moved for approval of the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderman Smith and the motion carried 8-0.

Budget adjustment (5) is a request involving the Lake Saracen Projects.

A number of projects are planned for development of Lake Saracen funded by grants from Southeast Arkansas Economic Development and the Arkansas State Highway Department with local match from the City. A department and new accounts are needed to track the expenses and assist with project management. No funds will be required from either Undesignated Funds or the General Fund; the goal is to set up accounts for funds to be moved into and tracked as disbursements are made Alderman Brumett moved for approval of the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderman Smith and the motion carried 8-0.

Budget adjustment (6) is from the Fire Department for \$86,000 to be taken from Undesignated Funds. The 2008 budget for overtime of \$126,000 is a fixed number from prior years without supporting

documentation. Prior to 2008, overtime expense was not tracked separately from salary expense and variance to budget was not understood. Overtime scheduled due to seven 24 hour shifts in 21 day work period is \$90,000 and unscheduled overtime to cover absences due to sickness, vacation, military duty, and FMLA are estimated at \$300,000 annually. There are offsetting favorable variances in salaries and group insurance due to open positions, costs for sick pay and other line items not calculated in detail by employee. Alderman Brumett moved for approval of the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 8-0.

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

Alderman Roberts, Chairperson of Community Development Committee reported: no report

Alderman Walker, Chairperson of Public Health & Welfare Committee reported: no report but allowed Dr. Lawrence A. Davis, Jr. to speak to express his gratitude to the city for the coalition that has been developed to improve the security and safety of the campus at UAPB. The coalition includes the UAPB police department, the Sheriff's Department the Arkansas State Police, the Department of Corrections, and the Pine Bluff Police Department. The Chancellor wanted to especially

acknowledge the Pine Bluff Fire Department for their response to a recent dormitory fire and their subsequent assistance in helping to ensure the safety and security of the campus. Also, because of the University's agreement with Pine Bluff Transit, UAPB students are assured of transportation away from the campus.

Alderman Smith, Chairman for Public Works Committee reported:

The Public Works Committee met on June 26, 2008 with Alderman Wayne Easterly, Alderman Thelma Walker and Alderman Derwood Smith in attendance. The departments represented at the meeting were Pine Bluff Wastewater Utility-Ken Johnson; Parks and Recreation-Angela Parker and Street Department-J. T. Golden. Mr. Johnson discussed at length the items that needed to take place before the sewer project between I-530 and 73rd Street could be formed. Angela Parker addressed the issue of seeking additional grant money. She stated that there are no matching funds at this time and that we need to complete the grants that are in process at this time. There was a follow-up meeting this morning regarding the sewer extension. Alderman Easterly reported that they met with some of the residents of the area and discussed some other avenues of financing, possibly to bring in some other entities such as the water company and

C&L Electric that might have some interest in helping to get sewer in the area. It is an ongoing process and they will meet again in the near future.

Alderman Stepps, Chairman of Development and Planning Committee reported: no report but the Development and Planning Committee will meet at 10:30 a.m. on July 18, 2008.

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 at 4:00 p.m. with all committee members and several citizens present. The Police Chief reported that the department has six new officers bringing the total to 136. Ten additional people have taken physicals and nine of them passed. Donald Sampson made a presentation on the Sam Taylor School project. The committee recommended seeking professional assistance to perform a technical evaluation. Mrs. Holcomb moved to take \$12,500 from Undesignated Funds to fund the evaluation, seconded by Alderman Brumett and the motion carried 8-0.

Mrs. Holcomb stated that the Animal Control Department had no issues; Weed and Seed provided the committee with a copy of their

newsletter. Courtney Monk and Donte Savāge with the Summer Youth Program and who are working with the Fire Department made a presentation. Mrs. Holcomb stated that these two young people are excellent representatives from the summer youth program.

- (1) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE II OF SECTION 10 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS, REGARDING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT (up for the 2nd reading) was read by the City Attorney and placed on the calendar.
- (2) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING HOUSE COUNT PROVISIONS IN GARBAGE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT (up for the 1st reading) was read by the City Attorney and placed on the calendar.
- (3) AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING AGREEMENTS RELATED TO PINE BLUFF 20/20 INITIATIVE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (up for the 1st reading) was read by the City Attorney. Alderwoman Holcomb moved to suspend the rule and place on second reading, seconded by Alderman Smith and after a roll call the vote was 7-1 with Alderman Easterly voting no. Alderwoman Holcomb moved to suspend the rule and place on

third and final reading, seconded by Alderman Smith and after a roll call, the vote was 7-1 with Alderman Easterly voting no. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and the motion carried 7-1 with Alderman Easterly voting no. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption of the emergency clause, seconded by Alderman Smith and after a roll call the vote was 7-1 with Alderman Easterly voting no.

(4) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE EASEMENTS FOR EAST 11TH AVENUE STREET PROJECT (IMBEAU BAYOU STREET AND APPRS) was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 8-0.

(5) A RESOLUTION APPOINTING FRANK HARTWICK TO THE PINE BLUFF PLANNING COMMISSION was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Stepps and the motion carried 8-0.

(6) A RESOLUTION CREATING A COMMITTEE TO EXPLORE OPTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE CITY'S PROCEDURES FOR COLLECTING THE CITY'S OCCUPATION LICENSE

TAX AND THE CITY'S SALES AND USE TAX was pulled by the sponsor.

(7) A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO ANY PROPOSAL TO INCREASE JEFFERSON COUNTY SALES AND USE TAXES FOR THE PUTATIVE PURPOSE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WORKFORCE TRAINING was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Stepps and after lengthy discussion a roll call was conducted. The vote was 4 yeas, 3 nays, 1 abstain. Mayor Redus voted yea. Aldermen Brumett, Smith and Easterly voted no and Alderwoman Roberts abstained. The motion carried 5-3-1.

(8) A RESOLUTION COMMENDING KATHLEEN MAJEWSKA FOR SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY AS A MEMBER OF THE PINE BLUFF HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 8-0.

(9) A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ROBIN CHANEY TO THE PINE BLUFF HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION was

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

(10) A RESOLUTION APPOINTING LOLA DAVIS GORDON TO THE PINE BLUFF HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION was heard. Alderman Easterly moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Brumett and the motion carried 8-0.

(11) A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ERNIE MURRAY SR. TO THE PINE BLUFF HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Brumett and the motion carried 8-0.

Announcements

Mayor Redus did not have any announcements. Alderwoman Roberts announced that the Community and Economic Development Committee which was scheduled for July 8, 2008 is cancelled.

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