

**MINUTES**

The Pine Bluff City Council met for a regular meeting at approximately 5:30 p.m. September 15, 2008 in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Mayor Redus called the meeting to order.

**The Invocation** was given by Rev. Dewitt Hill

**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 September 2, 2008 meeting, seconded by Alderman Brumett and the motion carried 8-0.

Sgt. Armstrong was allowed the opportunity to present to the City a certificate of appreciation from his fellow soldiers for support that they received from the City while serving in IRAQ. He also presented a flag which had flown over their headquarters during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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 1<sup>st</sup> reading but will be completed

Item No. 2 up for the 1<sup>st</sup> reading

Item No. 3 has been pulled by the sponsor

Items No. 4 & 5 will be heard and completed

Dr. Phil Shirley, president of Southeast Arkansas College thanked the council and the mayor for their support and the donation of \$5,000.00 which goes toward the scholarship fund for the school.

Alderman Brumett, Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee reported: the committee met this afternoon at 5:00 p.m. and we have two budget adjustments to recommend to the council.

**Budget adjustment (1)** is from District Court I to provide temporary resources through year end to reduce backlog of warrants not processed for \$7820 in salaries. This will come from District Court I revenue that has already been generated so will not impact the general fund. Alderman Brumett moved for approval of the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and the motion carried 8-0.

**Budget adjustment (2)** is from the Animal Control Department. They need an additional \$1000 for dog food and \$2800 for gas, oil and lube for a

total of \$3800. The funds will come from unused Group Insurance so there will be no impact on the general fund. Alderman Brumett moved for approval of the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts 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 reported: Alderwoman Roberts read the Down Town Entertainment District report in its entirety and filed a copy with the City Clerk's Office.

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

Alderman Smith, Chairman for Public Works Committee reported: the committee met on Thursday at Chester Hynes Center in order to see the damage done to the building and to assess what repairs need to be made. A contract was given to Reynolds Construction Company for repairs. Mr. J. Hilton, a forester who will be working with timber management was allowed to make a presentation regarding plans for cutting of timber at Boyd's Point and 33<sup>rd</sup> and Mississippi park. Mr. Hilton stated that the

timber land has been unmanaged for years and the trees need thinning. The selective harvesting of trees will generate \$125,000.

Alderman Steps, Chairman of Development and Planning Committee reported: no report

Alderman Boyd, Chairman of the Traffic and Aviation Committee reported: no report

Alderman Easterly, Chairman of the Administration Committee reported: the committee met last week and discussed the City's web site design and maintenance, which has been passed on to the Human Resources Department to look into providing compensation to Johnnie Martin for his work with the site. The issue will then go before the Ways and Means Committee. The other topic of discussion was recovery from utility overcharges and that has been put on hold. The Mayor announced that Alan Pyron has joined the City as Internal Auditor.

Alderman Holcomb, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee reported: no report. The Public Safety Committee will meet on October 6, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The main topic of discussion will be the intergovernmental District Court Facilities agreement. The County Prosecutor, Steve Dalrymple, representing the County Judge; District Court Division I Judge Kim Bridgforth; City Attorney, Carol

Billings; and District Court Division II Judge-Elect John Kearney will be invited. All council members are encouraged to attend

- (1) AN ORDINANCE TO CLOSE THE ALLEY BETWEEN BAY & BOIS D'ARC STREETS AND WEST 5<sup>TH</sup> AND WEST 6<sup>TH</sup> AVENUES (up for the 1<sup>st</sup> reading) was read by the City Attorney. Alderwoman Holcomb moved to suspend the rule and place the ordinance on second reading, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and 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 Alderwoman Roberts and after a roll call the vote was 8-0. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and the motion carried 8-0. Alderwoman Roberts and the other aldermen requested to join as co-sponsors.
- (2) AN ORDINANCE TO CLOSE ALABAMA STREETS BETWEEN 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> AVENUES (up for the 1<sup>st</sup> reading) was read by the City Attorney and placed on the calendar.
- (3) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INTERGOVERNMENTAL DISTRICT COURT FACILITIES AGREEMENT was pulled by the sponsor.

(4) A RESOLUTION SETTING THE MILLAGE FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE PINE BLUFF PUBLIC LIBRARY was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Brumett and the motion carried 8-0.

(5) A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR PLACEMENT OF COSTS OF CORRECTING CERTAIN NUISANCES ON TAX BOOKS AS DELINQUENT TAXES AND COLLECTED AS SUCH was heard. Alderman Easterly moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Brumett. Alderman Stepps moved for amendment of the resolution by removing some properties from the list which is attached to the resolution, seconded by Alderman Brumett 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:

“Between You and Me”, a drama by writer, producer, director and actor, Dui Jarrod, a Pine Bluff native, will be performed Saturday, September 20, 2008 at 3 and 7 p.m. at the Pine Bluff Convention Center.

Pine Bluff Rotary Club will meet at noon Tuesday at the Pine Bluff Country Club. The speaker will be Dr. Mike Sutherland. At noon Thursday at the Country Club, the West Pine Bluff Rotary Club will meet featuring Jim Dailey of Arkansans for Economic Opportunity.

The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Golden Lions football team will travel to Alcorn State University to take on Alcorn State Braves in Lorman, Mississippi on Thursday, September 18.

The Pine Bluff School Board will meet at 6 p.m. tomorrow at the Jordan-Chaney Administrative Center. The annual report to the public will be presented.

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

Meeting adjourned

No further business

All other comments