

**MINUTES**

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

October 1, 2007 in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Mayor Redus called the meeting to order.

**The Invocation** was given by Rev. Jason Ferguson of the Wesley United Methodist and Hawley Methodist Churches.

**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 17, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading

Item No. 2 up for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading but has been pulled by the sponsor. Alderman Smith explained that the reason it has been pulled was due to lack of support.

Item No. 3 up for the 1<sup>st</sup> reading but will be read three times

Item No. 4 up for the 1<sup>st</sup> reading

Item No. 5 up for the 1<sup>st</sup> reading but will be read three times

Items No. 6 thru 8 will be completed

Alderman Brumett, Chairperson of the Ways & Means Committee reported: the committee met at 5:00 o'clock this afternoon with all committee members present. We have a budget adjustment from the Finance Department for the Police Department. Reason required is due to higher cost of repair and maintenance on their aging fleet of police vehicles; a 30% increase in the full year budget for repair and maintenance is needed. The entire 2007 budget for this account has been consumed. The Police Department wishes to move \$30,000 from group insurance line to the repair & maintenance line to cover this cost. Alderman Brumett moved to accept the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 8-0.

Alderman Brumett announced the Ways & Means Committee will meet October 15, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room to discuss ways to implement the Salary Survey for employees.

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

Alderman Roberts, Chairperson of Community Development Committee reported: City Officials will meet Wednesday afternoon to discuss the zoning issues and give a status report on updating the zoning to allow for an Entertainment District in the downtown area. A copy of this report will be filed in the City Clerk's office.

Alderman 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: The Aviation Committee will meet October 10, 2007 at 4:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room.

Alderman Easterly, Chairman of the Administration Committee

reported: the committee will meet soon in reference to the Health Care Plan.

Alderwoman Holcomb, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee

reported: the committee met today at 4:00 p.m. All members were present.

First on the agenda was Chief Howell of the Police Department who stated there would be a few policy changes which would be brought up at a later date. Chief Hipp of the Fire Department announced there were five (5) candidates for the Fire Chief position interviewed. We had very interesting public comments and for the record I will name those who spoke. Ms. Maxine Nelson, Dorothy Oliver, Mary Hart, Tracy Smith and Holly Dixon with ACLU and I want to thank you all.

(1) AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING PROCEDURE TO CANCEL REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF CITY COUNCIL (up for the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 14 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS TO ADD

THE OFFENSE OF "UNLAWFUL EXPOSURE", (up for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading). This ordinance was pulled by the sponsor.

(3) AN ORDINANCE SIMULTANENOUSLY DETACHING TERRITORY FROM THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF AND ANNEXING SAID TERRITORY INTO THE CITY OF WHITE HALL (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 Alderman Smith 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 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.

(4) AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 6094 AND AMENDING SECTION 19 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS, TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO FULLY PARTICIPATE IN THE RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS (up for the 1<sup>st</sup> reading) was read by the City Attorney and placed on the calendar.

(5) AN ORDINANCE WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND SELECTION AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO CONTRACT

WITH AIM HEALTHCARE SERVICES, INC. (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 Alderman Smith 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 Alderman Smith and after a roll call the vote was 8-0. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Stepps 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.

(6) A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$50,000 FROM ANTICIPATED SURPLUS STATE TURNBACK FUNDS TO THE ARTS AND SCIENCE CENTER OF SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Easterly. During discussion, Alderwoman Holcomb stated the word "anticipated" should be removed from the resolution because those funds have been received and that she would like to meet with the Arts & Science Director at a later date. Aldermen Brumett stated he overlooked this resolution during his committee report earlier. He stated the

committee did discuss this resolution and recommended a do pass; and the motion carried 8-0.

(7) A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A CONTRIBUTION OF REAL PROPERTY FROM CAROL LUSINGER was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 8-0.

(8) A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR PLACEMENT OF COSTS OF CORRECTING CERTAIN NUISANCES ON TAX BOOKS AS DELINQUENT TAXES AND COLLECTED AS SUCH was heard. Alderman Brumett moved for adoption, seconded by Alderwoman Holcomb. Alderman Stepps moved for an amendment stating there is a list of names which have made payment, seconded by Alderwoman Holcomb and the motion carried 8-0. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for the original as amendment, seconded by Alderman Brumett and the motion carried 8-0.

#### **Announcements**

Alderwoman Roberts invited all council members for refreshments immediately following the council meeting.

Alderman Smith stated one of our local soldiers, James Doster, has been killed in Iraq.

Alderman Brumett stated his niece, Mary Moser, is in a T.V. show which will premier October 7<sup>th</sup> on the CW channel which is "Life is Wild".

Mayor Redus made the following announcements:

Congratulations to Mr. Lee Meadows and the Pine Bluff Parks Department on hosting their 1<sup>st</sup> Nickelodeon "Get Out and Play" event, held Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at the Merrill Center. Thank you to our business community who donated prizes for this event.

October, 2007 has been proclaimed "Arts and Humanities Month" throughout the United States.

October 3, 2007 has been proclaimed "ENERGY STAR Change A Light Day" which is the official kickoff day for the eighth annual ENERGY STAR Change a Light, Change the World Campaign.

On Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. there will be a Paint the Old Towne "Block Painting Party" at the 200 block of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. For further information contact Ebony Anderson at United Way.

Character Trait for the month of October 2007 is "Thoroughness".

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

Meeting adjourned

No further business

All other comments