

MINUTES

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

October 20, 2008 in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Mayor Redus called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Rev. George Stepps

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Redus.

Roll Call – Answering present were Alderwoman Holcomb, Aldermen Brumett, Smith, Easterly, Alderwoman Roberts, Aldermen Stepps, and Alderman Boyd. Alderwoman Walker was absent.

Approval of Minutes – Alderwoman Roberts moved for approval of the minutes from the October 6, 2008 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 2nd reading

Items No. 2 and 3 have been pulled by the sponsors.

Alderwoman Holcomb stated we have two resolutions that will replace those two and it takes unanimous consent to add them to the

agenda tonight; one is "A RESOLUTION DIRECTING TRANSFER OF SURPLUS FUNDS FROM THE ACCOUNT OF WESTSIDE SEWER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 35 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES". Alderwoman Holcomb moved to add this item to the agenda, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and after a roll call the vote was 7-0.

Alderwoman Holcomb stated the other item is "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO CONVEY REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1001 EAST 10TH STREET THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT". Alderwoman Holcomb moved to add this resolution to the agenda, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and after a roll call the vote was 7-0.

Alderman Brumett, Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee reported: the committee met this afternoon at 5:00 p.m. and we have three (3) budget adjustments that the committee recommended a do pass on.

Budget adjustment (1) is from the department of Community Development for \$89,000.00, reason required is for new project titled Georgia Street acquisition for property located at 716 Georgia to be occupied by the Economic and Community Development department. There will be no impact on the general fund. Funds will be taken from the

Willow Street Drainage account #27-6964 and placed in the Georgia Street Acquisition account #27-6978. Alderman Brumett moved for approval of the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderman Smith and the motion carried 8-0. (Alderwoman Walker had joined the meeting at this point and cast her vote.)

Budget adjustment (2) is from the Inspection & Zoning Department for \$35,100.00, reason required is for funds to demolish additional abandoned structures, for extended grass cutting due to heavy late season rains, additional postage and data processing expenses. There will be no impact on the general fund balance, funds will be taken from salaries account and placed into several different accounts to cover this cost. Alderman Brumett moved for approval of the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 8-0.

Budget adjustment (3) is for the Street Department for \$20,000.00, reason required is to provide funds for storm debris pickup and emergency street maintenance after hours and on weekends for the remainder of 2008. There will be no impact on the general fund balance, funds will be taken from the salaries account #10-4001 and placed into the overtime account #10-4002. Alderman Brumett moved for approval of the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderman Smith 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: There has been no activity pertaining to the Downtown Entertainment District since the last update dated October 6, 2008. The committee will meet October 28, 2008 at 4:30 in the Mayor's Conference Room.

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

Alderman Smith, Chairman 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: no report but later stated there is a report. The Traffic Operations Committee met on Friday, October 3, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. There are four items that need council's approval and those are:

1. T-Intersection of Fir Street & 42nd Avenue / Peggy Ann Drive:
Recommend approval to install "No Parking" signs on the north and east side of 42nd Avenue / Peggy Ann Drive beginning 100 feet east

of the intersection on 42nd Avenue and ending 150 feet north on Peggy Ann Drive.

2. Intersection of 17th Avenue & Cherry Street: Recommend installing “No Parking” signs at the intersection on all four corners of the intersection so as to remove the on-street parking within 40 feet of the intersection in all directions.
3. Cherry Street between 16th & 17th Avenue: Recommend installing a “Loading Zone” sign on the east side of Cherry Street located at the entrance to the funeral home chapel.
4. Intersection of Walnut & Barraque Avenue: Recommend removal of the traffic controller at the intersection and installing “Stop” signs on Barraque Avenue.

Alderman Boyd moved for approval, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and the motion carried 8-0.

Alderman Easterly, Chairman of the Administration Committee

reported: The committee will meet Wednesday, October 22, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

Alderwoman Holcomb, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee

reported: no report

- (1) AN ORDINANCE TO CLOSE OLEANDER STREET BETWEEN 8TH AND 10TH AVENUES, WEST 9TH AVENUE

BETWEEN FIG AND BLAKE STREETS, AND PARTS OF ALLEYS LOCATED IN BLOCK 14 OF HOUSTON AND ROANE ADDITION, BLOCK 15 OF MONK'S ADDITION AND BLOCK 6 IN LINCOLN PARK ADDITION #4 (up for the 2nd reading) was read and placed on the calendar.

(2) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INTERGOVERNMENTAL DISTRICT COURT FACILITIES AGREEMENT was pulled by the sponsor.

(3) A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN HOUSES, BUILDINGS AND/OR STRUCTURES AS NUISANCES AND ORDERING THEIR ABATEMENT was pulled by the sponsor due to the property owners not being notified. *NOTE: A copy of that list is attached to the original resolution.*

Announcements

The following announcements were made:

Early voting for federal, state and local candidates began today at the Jefferson County Courthouse and will continue through November 3, 2008.

Torri Hunter, a Pine Bluff native who is a Golden Glove Award Winner/All-Star baseball star was inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of

Fame Saturday evening at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock.

Pine Bluff residents who own property in the 5th Avenue Historic District are eligible for homeowner grants up to \$7500.00. Anyone interested should contact the Department of Economic & Community Development at 870-543-1820.

Pine Bluff Fire & Emergency Services graduated its first class from the 5th Grade Fire Safety Education Program last week at Broadmoor Elementary School.

The Delta Rivers Nature Center presents "Boo on the Bayou" on October 24, and 25 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The deadline for the Memorial Star Campaign is October 24, 2008. The Pine Bluff Festival Association welcomes community participation in the 12th annual Enchanted Land of Lights & Legends from November 18th through January 2, 2009

The Pine Bluff Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at 4:00 p.m. October 28th here in the council chambers. The agenda includes zoning, street/alley closing applications and use permit issues.

Navigating the Financial Journey will be presented by the Jefferson County Cooperative Extension Service from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. November 1st in the Extension Conference Room located at 500 Idaho

Street. The workshop provides a certificate of debtor education for bankruptcy filers or for anyone who is interested in the class. For more information call Mary Kizer at 534-1033.

The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff will celebrate homecoming this week. Festivities began yesterday and will culminate with the Homecoming Game Saturday, October 25th against Lincoln University (Missouri). For more information refer to the special insert in the Pine Bluff Commercial or call the Student Activities Office at the university at 575-7060.

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

Meeting adjourned

No further business

All other comments