

MINUTES

The Pine Bluff City Council met for a regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. November 3, 2008 in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Mayor Redus called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Rev. Henry Wilkins IV, Pastor of the St. James United Methodist Church.

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 October 20, 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 3rd and final reading

Item No. 2 up for the 1st reading

Item No. 3 up for the 1st reading but will be completed

Items No. 4 thru 6 up for the 1st reading

Items No. 7 thru 10 will be heard and completed

Alderman Brumett, Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee reported: the committee met prior to the City Council meeting and the Finance Director provided a copy of the regulatory basis financial statements and other reports from the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee for the State of Arkansas that was recently completed for 2007 for the City of Pine Bluff. Copies of this audit are on file with the City Clerk's office and any one wishing to review it can obtain a copy there. Alderman Brumett then moved to **pay the bills** owed by the city, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 8-0.

Alderwoman Roberts, Chairperson of Community Development Committee allowed visiting students from Dollarway Middle School to present a proclamation to the full council relating to Red Ribbon Week and their drug-free campaign. She also reported that the committee met on 10/28/08 at 4:00 p.m. There was one item on the agenda which was the Consolidated Plan submission for 2009 which included the Turtle Creek Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy area. A copy of the minutes of the

Community Development Committee will be filed in the City Clerk's office and available to the public upon request.

Alderwoman Roberts then read the Downtown Entertainment District report in its entirety. Pine Bluff hosted the State Commissioners for the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission at Saracen Landing on October 21. As part of this visit, the City of Pine Bluff and other members of the Lake Saracen Project Association discussed future development plans for Lake Saracen. The Game & Fish Commission has allocated \$270,000 to restore designated sections of the shoreline of Lake Pine Bluff.

The report included these announcements:

- There will be a Veteran's Day Parade in Downtown Pine Bluff on November 11, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.
- Pine Bluff Downtown Development Old Towne Subcommittee continues to prepare for Old Towne Christmas. The event will be held on December 6, 2008, the first Saturday in December.

A copy of the Downtown Entertainment District report will be on file with the City Clerk's Office and will be available to the public.

Alderwoman Walker, Chairperson of Public Health & Welfare Committee reported: no report however; Mayor Redus presented Coach

Harold Davis with a proclamation, recognizing his work with Special Olympics and declaring November 3, 2008 as *Coach Harold Davis Day*.

Alderman Smith, Chairman for Public Works Committee reported:

no report

Alderman Stepps, Chairman of Development and Planning

Committee reported: no report but the committee will meet on November 14, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

Alderman Boyd, Chairman of the Traffic and Aviation Committee

reported: no report

Alderman Easterly, Chairman of the Administration Committee

reported: The city will remain with QualChoice for healthcare for employees. There will be a small increase, the largest part of which will be paid by the city and a small increase will be passed on to the employees. The Mayor thanked the committee, Steve Miller and Vickie Conaway for working so diligently to minimize the increase to the employees.

Alderman Holcomb, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee

reported: the committee met today at 4:00 p.m. with all members present. The Police Department discussed public safety in general and regarding zero tolerance it was determined that we don't presently have the money for extra overtime. We also discussed a request to reclassify an

administrative payroll clerk position to an administrative financial manager and did not make a decision on that, but after a job description is provided and some other things are done we will be able to present a recommendation on that to the full council. A report from the Reed Architect has been provided to each council member in reference to the Sam Taylor project. The committee will allow the council to study the report and a special call meeting to address the issue will be held on November 17, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.

The Fire Department gave their monthly report and they passed out a fact sheet about current and future activities including:

- the recent dedication of the new fire truck and naming it the “Irene Holcomb”.
- A safety house sponsored by Simmons First National Bank on November 12, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the intersection of 6th and Georgia Street. The public is invited to attend.
- Citizens can call the Arson Hotline at 543-5150 pertaining to unlawful setting of fires.
- There will be a written exam for firefighters on November 18, 2008 at 5:30p.m. at 1 Convention Drive. The committee recommended that item #3 on the agenda be completed tonight.

(1) AN ORDINANCE TO CLOSE * OLEANDER STREET BETWEEN 8TH AND 10TH ANENUES, 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 3rd and final reading) was read by the City Attorney. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Brumett and the motion carried 8-0.

Alderwoman Holcomb moved for approval to complete item #2, seconded by Alderman Smith and during discussion it was determined that a motion was not necessary for a motion to complete the item. Alderwoman Holcomb withdrew her motion and Alderman Smith withdrew his second.

(2) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 5431 TO CORRECT A LEGAL DESCRIPTION AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE A QUIT CLAIM DEED IN FAVOR OF SMITH PAPER PRODUCTS COMPANY (up for the 1st 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 7-1 with Alderwoman Walker voting no. Alderwoman Holcomb moved to further suspend the rule and place the ordinance on the 3rd and final reading, seconded by Alderman Brumett and after a roll call the vote was 7-1 with Alderwoman Walker voting no. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Smith and the motion carried 8-0.

- (3) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH FORD MOTOR CREDIT COMPANY FOR POLICE UNITS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (up for the 1st reading) was read by the City Attorney. Alderwoman Holcomb moved to suspend the rule and place the ordinance on the second reading, seconded by Alderman Brumett and after a roll call the vote was 8-0. Alderwoman Holcomb moved to further suspend the rule and place the ordinance on the 3rd and final reading 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. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption of the

emergency clause, seconded by Alderman Brumett and after a roll call the vote was 8-0.

- (4) AN ORDINANCE TO CLOSE THE EAST HALF OF LOUISIANA STREET LOCATED BETWEEN EAST 10TH AND EAST 12TH AVENUES (up for the 1st reading) was read by the City Attorney and placed on the calendar.
- (5) AN ORDINANCE TO CLOSE A PORTION OF EAST 13TH AVENUE AND A PORTION OF AN ALLEY LOCATED SOUTH OF EAST 13TH AVENUE, BOTH LOCATED IN LEROY'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS (up for the 1st reading) was read by the City Attorney and placed on the calendar.
- (6) AN ORDINANCE TO CLOSE WEST 7TH AVENUE BETWEEN PINE STREET AND CHESTNUT STREET (up for the 1st reading) was read by the City Attorney and placed on the calendar.
- (7) A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'S 2009 CONSOLIDATED PLAN WITH RULES AND REGULATIONS AS ADOPTED WITH AMENDMENTS BY

THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1974 was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and the motion carried 8-0.

(8) A RESOLUTION ADJUSTING RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE RATES was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Brumett and the motion carried 8-0.

(9) A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT OFFICIALS IN THE INSPECTION AND ZONING DEPARTMENT TO DISTRIBUTE LEAD-SAFE INFORMATION TO CONTRACTORS SEEKING RENOVATION PERMITS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 8-0.

(10) 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 Alderman Easterly, during discussion, Alderman Stepps moved for removal of names on the list which was provided by the Inspection & Zoning department, seconded by

Alderman Brumett and the motion carried 8-0. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for the original as amended, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 8-0. NOTE: a copy of the list of 8 names will be attached to the resolution.

Announcements

The following announcements were made:

Gina Devers has re-joined the City of Pine Bluff as Internal Auditor.

Gina served the City of Pine Bluff for six years in a variety of financial roles including Internal Auditor, Interim Finance Director and Finance Manager. She brings a wealth of municipal accounting experience back to the city.

“Murder in the Magnolias” a wild southern mystery, will be performed at the Arts and Science Center November 6 – 9 and show time is 7:30 p.m.

Live @5 – Blues singer Charlotte Taylor headlines the Arts and Science Center’s “first Friday of the month” live music event at 701 Main Street, the cost is \$5.00 and includes light refreshments.

The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff golden Lions football team will play Grambling State University at the Delta Classic for Literacy on

November 8th at War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock; kick off time is 4:00 p.m.

November 4, 2008 is Election Day and voting hours are from 7:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Character Trait for the month of November is "Gratefulness."

There will be a watch party election night, on Main Street where the street will be blocked off and we encourage everyone to come out.

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

Meeting adjourned

No further business

All other comments