MINUTES

The Pine Bluff City Council met for a regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. December 1, 2008 in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Mayor Redus called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Rev. Charles Boyd, pastor of the 1st Missionary Baptist 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 November 17, 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:

Items No. 1 thru 3 up for the 3rd and final reading

Item No. 4 up for the 2nd reading

Item No. 5 up for the 1st reading but will be completed

Item No. 6 up for the 1st reading

Item No. 7 will be heard and completed

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

Budget adjustment (1) is from the Street Department, reason required is to provide a bonus of $2,400.00 to Johnie Martin in recognition of additional responsibilities performed in maintaining the City Website. No additional funds are required due to open positions in the Street Department. Alderman Brumett moved for approval of the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderman Smith and the motion carried 8-0.

Budget adjustment (2) is from the Grants Department for $5,857.15, reason required is to provide funds for Clean & Beautiful funding shortfall and to purchase two weed eaters and one lawnmower. Alderman Brumett moved for approval of the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderman Smith and the motion carried 8-0.

Budget adjustment (3) is for $85,000 from the Police Department; reason required is to provide additional funds for overtime to cover unforeseen

overtime requirements and to provide for scheduled holiday events. No additional funds are required the amount will be taken from gas, oil and lube and salaries. Alderman Brumett moved for approval of the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 8-0.

Budget adjustment (4) is for $3,823.22 from the Grants Department; reason required is to provide funds for insurance on the Merrill Center Building which was not included in the 2008 budget, this amount will come from undesignated funds balance. Alderman Brumett moved for approval of the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderman Smith and the motion carried 8-0.

Budget adjustment (5) is from the Inspection Department for $21,500; reason required is to provide additional funds for lot clearance due to heavy growth, debris removal and deferred abatement activity, and operating expense for construction surcharge fees and PC repair, postage for increased nuisance and structure notices. No impact on undesignated fund, the total will be moved from their salaries account. Alderman Brumett moved for approval of the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and the motion carried 8-0.

Budget adjustment (6) is from the Grants Department for $10,000; reason required is to provide funds to Pine Bluff Downtown Development for

downtown maintenance and revitalization projects. The additional funding is needed to partially replace funds lost due to Partners in Progress grant not being renewed. This will not impact the undesignated fund balance because this amount will come from the Workmen's Compensation account. Alderman Brumett moved for approval of the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderman Stepps and the motion carried 8-0.

Budget adjustment (7) is from the Transit Department for $50,000; reason required is to provide account for disbursement of insurance funds for repair of transit facility. A new account was needed to be able to keep track of the insurance reimbursement for this department. 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.

Alderwoman Roberts, Chairperson of Community Development Committee reported: Alderwoman Roberts presented an update of the Downtown Entertainment District and filed a copy with the City Clerk's Office.

Alderwoman Walker, Chairperson of Public Health & Welfare Committee reported: the committee met last week, present at this meeting

was Alderman Boyd, Steve Miller, and a representative from CASA. There was a commitment made to CASA for $150,000 which had been discussed before over three years for a matching grant for a new CASA building. They also requested that the Simpson property previously donated to the Pine Bluff Police Department, located on State Streets, be donated to them for the new site. There has been communication between the Simpson Family, CASA representatives and the Police Department and the Police Department has agreed to allow CASA to utilize the property. It was suggested that Donald Sampson would obtain that agreement in writing and present it to the full council at the next meeting. Alderwoman Walker stated, Larry Reynolds with the Transit Department reported the buses we got from Texas had some minor repairs and they should be on the streets by now. There was a $1,500 request from the 20/20 initiative for copies and different office expenses and also a $2,600 request for research for the proposed youth center and after discussing this with the mayor, the $2600 would probably not be available at this time. Alderwoman Walker spoke against the ½ cent tax.

Alderman Smith, Chairman for Public Works Committee reported: No report.

Alderman Stepps, Chairman of Development and Planning Committee reported: A few council members went out to the Hope Academy and after viewing the area we approved it based on the parking. It was suggested that Alan Skinner and Robert Tucker get together and contact the Hope Academy representative and provide to them in writing exactly what they need in order that the full council can vote on this issue appropriately by the next council meeting. Alderman Stepps spoke against the ½ cent tax.

Alderman Boyd, Chairman of the Traffic and Aviation Committee reported: the Aviation Committee met on 11/26/08 along with Steve Miller and we approved a budget adjustment for $9,100. Alderman Boyd spoke against the ½ cent tax.

Alderman Easterly, Chairman of the Administration Committee reported: the committee met on 11/19/08 we looked at the budgets and we passed them all to the Ways & Means Committee for final review.

Alderwoman Holcomb, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee reported: the committee had two meetings, the first one we reviewed the budgets and passed them on to the Ways & Means committee for final review and they will meet next week. We also had a meeting today at 4:00 with representatives from the Fire Department and the Police Department. Kedisha Miller with the Fire Department was allowed to make a

presentation on working smoke detectors and prepared a list of 25 reasons to have one. Ms. Miller read the top ten reasons to have a working smoke detector. From the Police Department, Deputy Chief Whitfield stated he was setting in for Chief Howell in his absents. He stated the Police Department is asking for a do pass on item number five on tonight's agenda. He also report on the issue that was printed in the newspaper in reference to a 32% increase in crime which he stated was incorrect. He also reported that the Police have approximately 50 tazers at this time.

(1) AN ORDINANCE TO CLOSE THE EAST HALF OF LOUISIANA STREET LOCATED BETWEEN EAST 10TH AND EAST 12TH AVENUES (up for the 3rd and final reading) was read by the City Attorney. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and the motion carried 8-0.

(2) AN ORDINANCE TO CLOSE A PORTION OF EAST 13TH AVENUE AND A PORTION OF AN ALLEY LOCATED SOUTH OF EAST 13TH AVENUE, BOTH LOCATION IN LEROY'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS (up for the 3rd reading) was read by the City

Attorney. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Stepps and the motion carried 8-0.

(3) AN ORDINANCE TO CLOSE WEST 7TH AVENUE BETWEEN PINE STREET AND CHESTNUT STREET (up for the 3rd and final reading) was read by the City Attorney. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Easterly and the motion carried 8-0.

(4) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 13-3 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS, REGARDING RUMMAGE SALES (up for the 2ND reading) was read by the City Attorney and placed on the calendar.

(5) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CHIEF OF POLICE 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 2nd 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, seconded by Alderman Smith and after a roll call the vote was 8-0. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Smith and the motion carried 8-0. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption of the Emergency Clause, seconded by Alderman Easterly and after a roll call the vote was 8-0.

(6) AN ORDINANCE TO CLOSE THE ALLEY LOCATED BETWEEN MAIN AND STATE STREETS AND BETWEEN 2ND AND 3RD AVENUES (up for the 1st reading) was read by the City Attorney and placed on the calendar.

(7) 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, during discussion Alderman Stepps moved for an amendment stating there is a list of eight names that need to be removed from the list because payment has been made, 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.

Announcements

The following announcements were made:

Old Towne Christmas events will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, December 6th at the Jefferson County Courthouse, prior to the annual Pine Bluff Christmas Parade, set to begin at 8th Ave. and Convention Center Drive at 6:30 p.m.

Thousands of lights create the annual Enchanted Land of Lights and Legends, a winter wonderland in Regional Park, featuring over 100 specialty lighting displays that can be viewed from the comfort of your vehicle. There is no admission charge, but donations are accepted at the exit.

Pine Bluff Rotary Club will meet at noon, Tuesday at the Pine Bluff Country Club. The program will feature Lisa Due discussing Jefferson Regional Medical Center's Weight Los Program.

The West Pine Bluff Rotary Club will meet at the Pine Bluff Country Club, noon Thursday, December 4th featuring St. Tyrone Pinder, commanding office of the Salvation Army, as the speaker.

Early voting begins Tuesday, December 2nd on the proposed half cent economic development sales tax for Jefferson County. The special election is 12/9/08; however, early ballots may be cast Tuesday through December 8th at the county courthouse during regular business hours.

The large biennial event in support of the Arts and Science Center, Potpourri 2008 will take place at the Pine Bluff Convention Center, beginning at 6 p.m., Friday, December 5th. The black-tie optional evening will include live and silent auctions, cocktails and delicious food.

The Pine Bluff Social Security Office staff invites you to visit their new office during their Open House, Thursday, 12/18/08 from 10 to 2 p.m. The open house will take place at 3511 Market Street. For more information call 543-6397

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