

**MINUTES**

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

December 7, 2009 in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Mayor Redus called the meeting to order.

**The Invocation** was given by Alderman George Stepps

**The Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Mayor Redus.

**Roll Call** – Answering present were, Alderwoman Holcomb, Aldermen Brumett, Easterly, Alderwoman Roberts, Alderman Stepps, Alderwoman Walker and Aldermen Boyd and Brown.

**Approval of Minutes** – Alderman Brumett moved for approval of the minutes from the November 16, 2009 meeting, seconded by Alderman Brown 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:

**ADD TO AGENDA** Alderwoman Holcomb stated we have one item that needs to be added to the agenda which was recommended by the

committee and it takes unanimous consent to be placed on the agenda tonight. "A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR PLACEMENT OF COSTS OF CORRECTING CERTAIN NUISANCES ON TAX BOOKS AS DELINQUENT TAXES AND COLLECTED AS SUCH".

Alderwoman Holcomb moved to add this item on tonight's agenda, seconded by Alderman Stepps and after a roll call the vote was 8-0.

Alderwoman Holcomb stated so this resolution will be item no. 11 on tonight's agenda.

Items No. 1 and 2 (up for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading) will be read and completed

Item No. 3 up for the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading

Item No. 4 (up for the 1<sup>st</sup> reading) will be read twice

Item No. 5 (up for the 1<sup>st</sup> reading) will be read and completed

Item No. 6 up for the 1<sup>st</sup> reading

Items No. 7 thru 11 will be heard and completed

Alderman Brumett, Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee reported: the committee met prior to the meeting tonight and there are two budget adjustments to consider. The first is from the Police Department in the amount of \$66,000 to be funded from 2009 budget. Alderman Brumett

moved to approve the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderman Stepps and the motion carried 8-0

The second budget adjustment is from the City Attorney's office to contract with Jim Moser for legal counsel relating to the audit. Alderman Brumett moved to approve the budget adjustment, seconded by Alderman Stepps and the motion carried 8-0

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

The Ways and Means Committee will meet on Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room.

Alderwoman Roberts, Chairperson of Community Development Committee reported: There is a resolution on tonight's agenda regarding the Pine Bluff Boys and Girls Club and Mr. Leslie Peters would like to make a presentation to the council regarding their request for funding. Mr. Peters stated that they have requested \$30,000 from the City to assist with a renovation project at the Boys and Girls Club that is currently in progress. The total cost of the renovations is in excess of \$100,000 but the City's \$30,000 contribution will go toward revamping the parking in order to alleviate a safety problem with vehicles having to back up into traffic. Alderwoman Roberts asked for a do pass on the Boys and Girl's Club

resolution. Alderwoman Roberts stated that the Old Towne Christmas event was held last Saturday in downtown Pine Bluff. Mrs. Roberts asked that Donald Sampson, of the Economic and Community Development Department provide the committee with details of a funding request from the Family Community Development Corporation which he received from Mr. Larry Freeman, Director.

Alderman Boyd, Chairman of Public Health & Welfare Committee reported: no report, but he requested a do pass on Item No. 4 on the agenda.

Alderwoman Walker, Chairperson for Public Works Committee reported: no report.

Alderman Steps, Chairman of Development and Planning Committee reported: no report but the committee will meet on Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room.

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

Alderman Easterly, Chairman of the Administration Committee reported: no report but he requested a do pass on Item No. 5 on the agenda and the committee will meet on Wednesday, December 9, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room.

Alderwoman Holcomb, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee

reported: the committee met today prior to the City Council meeting with all members present. The Police Department presented their monthly report and presented a list of items to be funded with the budget adjustment that was approved tonight.

The Fire Department submitted their monthly report.

District Courts I and II were not in attendance.

Animal Control did not have a report.

Weed and Seed presented a report. Rev. Turner discussed the recent increase in homicides and shots fired in the city. The committee asked about the possibility of establishing a Weed and Seed site on the east side of town and Rev. Turner stated that there is a process that they have to go through in order to establish a new site.

- (1) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 29 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS, CONCERNING AUTOMOBILE SALVAGE YARDS, DECLARING SUCH YARDS NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CITY CODE TO BE PUBLIC NUISANCES; PROVIDING FOR INCREASED PENALTIES FOR SALVAGE YARDS FOUND IN VIOLATION OF CITY

CODES; FOR RELATED PURPOSES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (up for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading) was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts. During discussion Jerre George from Regional Planning stated that there has been an amendment to the ordinance and thanked the council for the amendment. She stated that a hearing was held regarding the ordinance and there were no public comments received so the Planning Commission was forwarding the ordinance back to the council with no recommendation. The motion passed 7-1 with Alderman Brumett voting no. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for the adoption of the emergency clause, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and the motion carried 7-1 with Alderman Brumett voting no.

- (2) AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE OF THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION, 2008 EDITION, AND AMENDING SECTION 7-161 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS (up for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading) was heard. Alderwoman

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

- (3) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER SEVEN OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS, BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS, TO INCLUDE STATE MANDATED NON-RESIDENTIAL SURCHARGE AS REQUIRED BY A.C.A.6-55-106; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (up for the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading) was read by the city attorney and placed on the calendar.
- (4) AN ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH WASTE MANAGEMENT OF ARKANSAS (up for the 1st reading) was read by the City Attorney. Alderwoman Holcomb moved to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on second reading, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts. After a roll call the vote was 8-0. The ordinance was placed on the calendar.
- (5) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 13-152 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS, RESPECTING THE TAX IMPOSED ON THE UNITED WATER OF ARKANSAS COMPANY FOR THE

RIGHT TO OPERATE A WATERWORKS SYSTEM IN THE CITY (up for the 1st reading) was read by the City Attorney. Alderwoman Holcomb moved to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on second reading, seconded by Alderman Stepps. After a roll call the vote was 7-1, Alderwoman Roberts answering 'present'. Alderwoman Holcomb moved to further suspend the rules and place the ordinance on third and final reading, seconded by Alderman Stepps. After a roll call, the vote was 7-1, Alderwoman Roberts answering 'present'. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Stepps and the ordinance passed 7-1; Alderwoman Roberts answering 'present'.

- (6) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 13-106 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS, RESPECTING THE OCCUPATION TAX TO BE PAID BY CENTERPOINT ENERGY ARKANSAS GAS TO THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF (up for the 1<sup>st</sup> reading) was read by the City Attorney. Alderwoman Holcomb moved to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on second reading, seconded by Alderman Stepps. After a roll call the vote was 7-1 with

Aldерwoman Roberts answering 'present'. The ordinance was placed on the calendar and forwarded to the Public Works Committee. Steve Miller responded to some questions from the council regarding when payment to the city is received from Centerpoint. Alderman Easterly requested a representative from Centerpoint to attend the next Public Works Committee meeting to be scheduled prior to December 21, 2009 and Steve Miller will forward that request along with questions that were raised regarding the impact of the ordinance on the customers.

- (7) A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$30,000 FROM STATE TURNBACK FUNDS AND AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH THE PINE BLUFF/JEFFERSON COUNTY BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR YOUTH was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderwoman Roberts and the motion carried 8-0.
- (8) A RESOLUTION OVERRIDING THE MAYOR'S VETO OF ORDINANCE NO. 6302 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A CONTRACTOR/VENDOR SERVICES POLICY FOR THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS" was

heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Brown and the motion carried 7-1 with Alderman Brumett voting no.

(9) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY BY THE CITY OF PINE BLUFF (601 SOUTH MAIN STREET) was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Stepps and the motion carried 8-0

(10) A RESOLUTION TO REMOVE HOUSE FROM THE CONDEMNATION LIST (3801 HEPBURN) was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Stepps and the motion carried 8-0

(11) A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR PLACEMENT OF COSTS OF CORRECTING CERTAIN NUISANCES ON TAX BOOKS AS DELINQUENT TAXES AND COLLECTED AS SUCH was heard. Alderwoman Holcomb moved for adoption, seconded by Alderman Brumett. Alderman Stepps moved to amend the resolution to remove four houses from the list, 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:

The Annual Enchanted Land of Light and Legends-Holiday Lighting

Exhibit is displayed until December 31, 2009 in Regional Park. The

exhibit can be viewed from the comfort of your vehicle. There is no

admission charge, but donations are accepted. For additional information

call 536-7600.

The December Character Trait is "Self-Control" vs. Self-Indulgence

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