

Bell Buckle Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2014

Bell Buckle Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in regular session on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at 6 PM. Members present were Mayor Webb, and Aldermen Reagor, Hunt, Anderson and Chilton.

Mayor Webb called the meeting to order. Alderman Reagor, seconded by Alderman Anderson, made a motion to suspend the reading of the minutes of the February 11 meeting. All aye. Alderman Reagor, seconded by Alderman Anderson, made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 11 meeting. Alderman Reagor, seconded by Alderman Anderson, made a motion to accept the financial reports. Motion carried.

Supervisor Lokey gave the Water Report. They repaired one mainline leak at two services. Both regular water samples and the samples taken at the mainline leaks were all negative for coliform and e-coli. The water loss was 25.3% this month.

Wastewater Plant Operator Johnson gave the Sewer Report. The State is requiring additional testing and specific equipment to run the tests at the Wastewater Plant. A new incubator that holds 16 bottles, as well as an IDEX system to run tests for E-coli will have to be purchased. Total cost will be approximately \$10,000. Alderman Hunt made the motion to approve and stated that it could come out of Maintenance & Supplies that is already budgeted. This was seconded by Alderman Reagor and approved unanimously.

Alderman Hunt gave the Water & Sewer Board Report. The work is moving forward on the Headworks. After reviewing other wastewater treatment plants, they removed the Muffin Monster from the list. We hope to advertise in April, bid in May and have notice to proceed by June 1st. Amendments to the contract with TDEC take one week now. There is an 8-12 week lead time on equipment with 45-120 days scheduled for project duration.

We are considering collecting our scrap metals and the money collected will go towards the purchase of needed tools.

The truck that was purchased last March that is used mainly for meter reading is having major transmission problems. Jason & Ronnie have checked and found approximately \$2500 needed to fix. We spent \$3500 on the truck and it has over 200,000 miles on it. We will do further research and have a recommendation for the Board by the April meeting on how to resolve.

Alderman Hunt stated that maintenance is still not being done up to her standards for vehicles & equipment. She requests Tommy be removed from this position and Jason to begin overseeing the maintenance for service and record keeping on all vehicles and equipment with the exception of the police cruiser which can remain under Tommy's supervision. Mayor Webb appointed Jason to this.

Mayor Webb stated he had an update on Jennifer Little's property on Fosterville Road. Last month, Alderman Chilton had made the motion, seconded by Mayor Webb, to have Attorney Perry resolve the issue with her by paying her estimate and her signing a release. The vote was Alderman Chilton & the Mayor voting Aye; Aldermen Hunt & Reagor voting Nay (Alderman Anderson had to leave the meeting prior to the vote). Tie vote and the Mayor broke the tie. It was discovered that the vote was invalid since the Mayor voted and broke the tie. This was reviewed by the Board. Alderman Anderson, seconded by Alderman Chilton, made a motion to allow the attorney to pay Jennifer Little

her estimate with her signing the release. Alderman Reagor stated that he thought the work should be done before she was paid her estimate. Alderman Anderson then withdrew his motion and Alderman Chilton withdrew her second. Alderman Anderson made another motion to allow Attorney Perry to work with Jennifer Little, and after the work was done with signed invoices and a signed release being turned in, pay her the estimate she had given us. Motion passed with Mayor Webb, and Aldermen Anderson, Chilton, & Reagor voting Aye. Alderman Hunt voted Nay.

Chief Ronnie Lokey gave the Fire Department Report. There were a total of 5 calls for the month, which included 1 medical, 2 MVA's, 1 grass fires and 1 smoke in house investigation with no fire. The Chili Cook-Off was Saturday, March 8 and was a big success. Donations of \$2184 were raised. Chief Lokey presented a plaque to Assistant Chief Willie Snell for the James Elkins Fireman of the Year Award and thanked him for all of his hard work at the Fire Department. Chief Lokey reported that the Fire Department wants to sell the 1974 Hahn Fire Truck and the 1994 Chevrolet Suburban First Responder Truck, and purchase a new truck that will respond to grass fires and medical calls. They will do more research on this and present it at the April meeting.

Chief Tommy Wiley gave the Police Department Report. There were 24 citations and 33 warnings issued since last board meeting and had helped with 6 county assists. The only major expense on vehicle repair was \$1250 for new backhoe tires.

Chairman Rodney Simmons gave the Planning Commission Report. Ordinance 14-002 was presented-see New Business. The 5 year Growth Planning Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 25 at 4 PM in the Town Hall.

Alderman Hunt gave the Chamber of Commerce Report. She congratulated Mayor Webb for being voted Citizen of the Year and stated it was well deserved. There was a good crowd at Daffodil Day and the 14th year Bell Buckle has received the Tree City USA award. The commercial was a huge success and stores are reporting much higher traffic flow since this started. The commercial was produced using grant money from the Tourism Department and then aired using Chamber funding.

This will be the 20th Anniversary of the RC Moon Pie Festival. Several publications will be featuring it in their magazines such as the Reader's Digest and Food Network magazine. Alderman Hunt has begun tracking the local and state sales tax trends for the town and will present those in future meetings so we can all be aware of the impact this has on our General Fund. Things like advertising and the commercials will add greatly to the financial health of our stores and our town.

The Chamber is offering to stripe the parking lot at no cost to the town. The person volunteering to do this work understands the state required spacing and handicap areas and paint. Alderman Hunt recommended that the town ask the chamber to submit their proposal in writing and have TDOT review and approve beforehand.

The Parks and Recreation Board report was given by Chairman James Anderson. There had been no meeting due to lack of a quorum. Supervisor Lokey was asked to turn the water fountain on after Easter.

There was no report from the Historical Commission, or from the Arts Council.

Mayoral Updates: Mayor Webb stated that the town has decided to accept Mr. Fayne Haynes donation of a pole and flag for the front island. He requested Supervisor Lokey to speak with Mr. Haynes and talk about the expense involved for a concrete base, etc.

Webb School would like to begin welcoming Bell Buckle Residents during their regular operating hours during the school year. They are developing a children's section and a community patron policy that they hope to launch by the end of the school year. More details will be coming soon. The Mayor stated he appreciated Hannah Byrd Little, the Library Director, getting this worked out.

Mowing Bids were opened for both the Town and Park. Bids were received from Cassady's Lawn & Tree Works, Chad Smotherman, Hector's Lawn Care, Brian's Lawn Care, and Robert's Lawn Service. After reviewing all bids, Alderman Anderson, seconded by Alderman Chilton, made a motion to approve Hector's Lawn Care for both the Town and the Park bids. The bid on the Town mowing was \$200 for each time. The bid for the Park was \$230 for each mowing with upkeep on the beds included, and \$1,100 for mulching the flower beds, trees, etc once a year. Mayor Webb stated Hector's bid was the most concise, Alderman Anderson said Hector has the experience working on both, and Alderman Hunt said it was also good to have the same person doing both. Motion passed unanimously with the disclaimer that both Alderman Anderson uses Hector for his lawn care and Alderman Chilton has used him in the past.

Old Business-none

New Business-Ordinance 14-003 was presented to amend Court Costs to \$125 which would combine the current court cost and equipment fee together. Alderman Reagor, seconded by Alderman Hunt, made a motion to approve on 1st Reading. All aye.

Alderman Reagor, seconded by Alderman Hunt, made a motion to suspend the rules because Ordinance 14-002 and 14-004 were sent out after the original Agenda was sent. All aye.

Ordinance 14-002 was presented for approval on 1st Reading to the Board which would amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow illuminated and non-electronic changeable text signs for churches and schools as a special exception. There was discussion regarding size restrictions and number of lumens allowed. Alderman Reagor, seconded by Alderman Hunt, made a motion to approve. Alderman Anderson stated he was against lighting in residential areas and Alderman Chilton agreed. Motion passed on 1st Reading with Mayor Webb, Aldermen Reagor and Hunt voting Aye. Aldermen Anderson and Chilton voted Nay.

Ordinance 14-004 to establish absentee by mail ballot voting procedures for non-resident property owners in municipal elections, was presented. Alderman Anderson, seconded by Alderman Hunt, made a motion to approve. Motion carried for 1st Reading. A public hearing and 2nd Reading will be held in April.

Mayor Webb asked if there was any word from the audience. Gary Pittack commented that the Town fixed everyone else's property but his own and then left the meeting, slamming the door behind him.

There being no further business, Alderman Reagor made a motion to adjourn.

Dennis H. Webb, Mayor_____

Janet Robinson, Town Recorder_____