

Bolivar City Council Meeting
September 11, 2023
6:00 P.M.

The Bolivar City Council met in regular session, Monday, September 11, 2023, at the Bolivar Municipal Building with the following attendance:

Present:

Mayor Julian McTizic
Councilmember Michael Brown
Councilmember Melvin Golden
Councilmember Todd Lowe
Councilmember Larry McKinnie
Councilmember Caroline Miller
Councilmember Suzanne Rhea
Councilmember Chris Williams
Councilmember Tommie Woods

Others present: Carri Beth Rhea, Sarah Rice, Mick Vinson, Jim Nuckolls, Chief Lynn Price, Chief Mike Jones, Anthony Ford, Eddie Vandiver, Ricky Watkins, Dylan Hill, Jessica Phillips, Darrell Teubner

Mayor McTizic called the meeting to order and welcomed the guest in attendance and those who were watching on social media. Mayor McTizic asked Councilmember Woods to lead the group in prayer. After the prayer, the mayor asked for a moment of silence remembering the victims and their families in the September 11 attacks. Then followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor McTizic asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the August 14, 2023 Council meeting. There being no corrections, Councilmember Miller made a motion, seconded by Councilmember McKinnie to approve the minutes as written. All voted "Aye."

Mayor's Report:

- a. The mayor reminded the council members that the 2023 Governor's Conference was September 18th and 19th in Chattanooga.
- b. Mayor McTizic announced that city offices will be closed on October 9th in observance of Columbus Day. He asked that the regular scheduled council meeting on the 9th be rescheduled. The council decided October 16th would work for everyone's schedule.
- c. The mayor announced that the Bolivar BBQ Blowout will be held October 27th and 28th, and the Mayor's Luncheon will be held on the 27th at noon to kick off the festivities.

Public Comments:

Mayor McTizic opened the meeting to the public for any comments or concerns. Mr. Benard Williams came before the council requesting that Margin Street be changed to Williams Street. Mr. Williams proceeded to tell the council that his family's deed has the property listed as Williams Street and he would like the name to be changed back to honor his family. After some discussion, it was stated that the city would do some research to see if they can find why and when it was changed to Margin Street. Councilmember McKinnie stated that before any changes are made, he would like for everyone that lives in the Margin Street community to agree upon the change. The street name change will be discussed at a later meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Electric – Mayor McTizic

The Bolivar Energy Board met on August 28, 2023 for their regular monthly meeting. The following actions were taken by the Board:

- Approved an amendment to the Define Benefit Retirement plan enhancing the multiplier after 30 years of service.
- The Board gave BEA the authority to send out an RFP for short term financing and approved a Resolution to borrow \$2.2 million to upgrade the aging meter system.
- Approved BEA partnering with Vaughan Oil, Seven States Power Corporation, and EOS to bring electric vehicle fast chargers to Bolivar through an 80% grant with TVA.
- Fiber Update:
 - Take Rate- 34%
 - Active Customers- 2,170
 - Working on the last serve area. All mainline construction should be complete by December 2023.
- TVA Update: Announced a 4.5% retail rate increase effective on all meters read after 10/1/2023. This will amount to an average of \$3.50 per bill.

Utilities – Jim Nuckolls, Director

The Utility Board met on September 6, 2023 in regular meeting to discuss the following:

- The regulator station behind 3-way was hit on August 30th by a vehicle. The utility department was able to make repairs quickly. The person driving the vehicle was not injured and was very lucky.
- Voted to use JE Sims to cap off the gas line at the old Tannery plant.
- Around 95% complete on repairing the filter at the water plant.
- Gas prices for September are \$0.65
- 811 will be hosting an awareness fish fry on September 26th at 5:30 pm here at City Hall. The utility department will be cooking fish, hushpuppies, and french fries. Everyone is invited to attend.

Fire – Chief Lynn Price

- Total fire calls – 39 (30 city, 9 county), Civilian Fire Injury-0, Fire Service Injury- 1
- Training hours – 197
- Smoke alarms installed – 1
- Fire Code Inspections – 34
- Public Relations Events- 2
- Fire Prevention Festival will be held October 14th from 10-1, and Fire Training will be September 22nd-23rd

Police – Chief Mike Jones

- Calls for service – 651
- Citations – 185
- Accidents – 21 (0 fatal, 6 injuries, 15 property damage)
- Arrests – 34 (13 juvenile, 21 adult)
- Special events- DUI Saturation
- Training Hours- 307

Parks and Recreation Department – Anthony Ford, Director

- The youth soccer league has begun and will run through September and October.
- Adult exercise (line dance) class continues on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 pm and has reached a two year milestone since it started.
- Registration for the corn hole tournament held during the BBQ Blowout has begun and will run through October 20th.

- The adult men basketball league registration will begin October 1st and run through November 1st.
- The adult volleyball league registration begins September 18th and will run through October 18th.

Street/Sanitation – Eddie Vandiver, Superintendent

- Mowing grass and bush hogging.
- Cleaning up flowerbeds and other landscape.
- Tons taken to landfill in August- Commercial- 319.57 tons, Residential- 154.07 for a total of 473.64 tons.
- October 2nd will be bulky pick up
- Everything else routine.
- Dumpster Bid Opening- The Street and Sanitation department advertised for bids on 8 cubic yard dumpster containers. They received one bid that was from Wastequip that was for \$1,037.00 per dumpster. Councilmember Williams made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Lowe to accept the bid from Wastequip for \$1,037.00 per dumpster. All voted “Aye”. Following the meeting, Mayor McTizic called Wastequip and negotiated a better price. The final cost was \$1,000.00 per dumpster.

Library, Jessica Phillips, Director

- Financials: Donations, Copies, Fines, and Faxes- \$1,010.75
- Total Programs: 9, Total Participates: 70, Estimated August Patronage: 650
- Circulations Report: Material Circulation- 2,248, Computer Users- 298, Wi Fi Users- 2,435, READS (Regional E-book and Audio Book Download System)- 728

Compliance/Zoning – Ricky Watkins

- Building Consultations – 10
- Building permits written– 1
- Building Inspections – 2
- Plumbing Inspections – 2
- Mechanical Inspections – 0
- Courtesy Notice Issued – 25

Community Development and Tourism- Dylan Hill, Director

- Continued meeting with various city departments and local non-profits to prepare for Small Town. Big Christmas.
- Met with representatives from Tennessee Tech to begin economic impact studies on potential city projects, as well as city events such as the upcoming BBQ festival and Christmas festival.
- Secured upcoming events for the month of October, including a haunted attraction that will take place at the fairgrounds for three weekends and Halloween night and a carnival for the BBQ festival.
- Attended Urban Land Institute’s City Exchange in Jackson, TN. An informative event surrounding city development and opportunity.

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

a. Resolution 2023-011: Tourism Enhancing Matching Grant

This Resolution will authorize Mayor McTizic to execute and submit an application for a Tourism Grant. The Tourism Grant will be used to help finish developing Sand Beach Lake. The match for this grant is 5% of the total awarded amount. Councilmember Rhea made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Williams to approve Resolution 2023-011. All voted “Aye”.

b. Resolution 2023-012: Occupancy Tax

This Resolution will impose a 4% occupancy tax within the City of Bolivar. The Tennessee Annotated Code (T.C.A.) 67-4-1401 (2) hotel is defined to include: any structure or space, or any portion thereof, that is

occupied or intended or designed for occupancy by transients for dwelling, lodging, or sleeping purposes, and includes privately, publicly, or government-owned hotels, inns, tourist camps, tourist courts, tourist cabins, motels, short-term rental units, primitive and recreational vehicle campsites and campgrounds, or any space in which rooms, lodgings, or accommodations are furnished to transients for consideration. The mayor explained the occupancy tax is to be used to establish a long-term tourism fund to promote tourism. Councilmember Miller stated that she was concerned about the families that live in the local hotels and how much this tax will impact the extra cost on them. Councilmember Williams stated that he and his wife own a pharmacy next door to a local hotel and majority of the car tags he sees are from out of state. He also stated that he does not feel the 4% will be a huge burden on any family that may live in a local hotel. After much discussion, Councilmember Rhea made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Williams to approve Resolution 2023-012. Councilmember Brown, McKinnie, Miller voted "Nay", Councilmember Golden, Lowe, Rhea, Williams, and Woods voted "Aye". Motion passed.

c. Resolution 2023-013: Property Conservation Matching Grant

This Resolution will authorize the Bolivar Fire Department to submit an application for the Property Conservation Matching Grant Program. Chief Price stated that if awarded this grant they will use the funds to build a security fence around the newly renovated training center. Councilmember Williams made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Golden to approve Resolution 2023-013. All voted "Aye".

d. Resolution 2023-014: Exploratory Annexation by Referendum

This Resolution will send a request to the Bolivar Regional Planning Commission to review a plan of services for territory under consideration to be annexed into the City of Bolivar by Referendum. Mayor McTizic presented rough draft maps of the proposed area to be annexed. He also went to explain that this Resolution does not annex the territory it only requests an exploratory annexation. If this Resolution is passed, then the proposed territory to be annexed will go before the Planning Commission. The mayor went on to explain that annexation is a lengthy process and passing this Resolution is one of the first few steps to proceed. Councilmember McKinnie made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Williams to approve Resolution 2023-014. All voted "Aye".

There being no further business, Councilmember Woods made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Brown to adjourn the meeting. All present voted "Aye."

Attest:

Mayor

City Clerk & Recorder