

Bolivar City Council Meeting
Monday, September 9, 2024
6:00 P.M.

The Bolivar City Council met in regular session, Monday, September 9, 2024, 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

Absent:

Councilmember Suzanne Rhea

Others present: Kevin Snider, Carri Beth Rhea, Sarah Rice, Mick Vinson, Jim Nuckolls, Chief Price, Chief Jones, Anthony Ford, Jerry Mayfield, Ricky Watkins, Dylan Hill, Ivy and Bob Williamson, Leon McNeal

Mayor McTizic called the meeting to order, welcomed the guests in attendance and those who were watching on social media. Mayor McTizic asked Ricky Watkins to lead the group in prayer and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor McTizic asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the August 12, 2024 council meeting. There being no corrections, Councilmember Lowe made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Miller to approve the minutes as written. All present voted "Aye."

Mayor's Report:

- a. Mayor McTizic announced the Fire Department will be hosting Patriot Day on September 11th.
- b. City offices will be closed on October 14th in observance of Columbus Day.
- c. Mayor McTizic asked that the regular scheduled city council meeting on October 14th be rescheduled, the new meeting date will be October 7th.
- d. The Mayor's Safe Streets Initiative and Block Parties in the community will start soon. He is working on dates and will send the information out soon.
- e. Code Red is being used again by the City of Bolivar. He encouraged all citizens to sign up for news and alerts with important information regarding the city.
- f. The Safe Streets Task Force is up and running. They have made a few drug busts already and will be working to get the drugs off the streets of Bolivar. The mayor encouraged citizens to report crime they may see or know about to the police tip line that is anonymous. The crime continues to go down over the past few years, and the police department was thanked for all of their hard work.
- g. Mayor McTizic let the council members know that he has received a few phone calls regarding political signs in the downtown historic district. The city has looked into any regulations regarding political signs, as well as reached out to Southwest TN Development District. We have not been able to find any where that states political signs can not be in the downtown historic district. It does state that political signs are not to be put up until 30 days before early voting, not erected on public property, or on right of ways. Councilmember Miller stated that she feels like no political signs in the downtown

historic district have been a “rule” in past elections and she feels it is not being enforced because the Chairman of the Historic Zoning Commission is running for office and he has put his signs in the historic district. She and Mayor McTizic agreed to bring this up before the HZC. The council was in agreement that this should be enforced during the next election in 2025.

- h. Bolivar BBQ Blowout and Music Festival will be October 25th- 26th. The mayor’s luncheon will be held on October 25th at noon to kick off the festival activities.

Public Comments: NONE

Standing Committee Reports:

Electric- Mayor McTizic

The Bolivar Energy Authority Board met on August 26, 2024, for their regular monthly meeting. The following actions taken by the Board:

- The Board approved the purchase of a 2024 pickup from Lonnie Cobb for \$49,803.00.
- The Board was informed of the TVA rate increase of 5.25%. This increase will be for all meters read after October 1, 2024. The increase will cost an average consumer \$4-\$6 a month.
- BEA and Aeneas have reached the 4,000 customer mark on internet sales.

Utilities- Jim Nuckolls, Director

The Bolivar Utility Board met on September 4, 2024 and discussed the following:

- A2H has submitted assessment plan for the lagoon to TDEC. This is part of the TDEC ARP Grant.
- The Board approved the purchase of a new sewer camera from Mid-South Septic for \$8,200.00. The current camera is over 12 years old and no longer working.
- The Utility department received their 2nd Marketing Assistance Program (MAP) payment for \$27,628.00. The MAP program and funds are used to promote 811 awareness.
- The gas line at New Hope and Smalley roads has been completed.
- Gas prices are at \$0.65 for September.

Fire- Chief Lynn Price

- Total Fire Calls-33 (18 city, 15 county), Civilian Fire Injury-0, Fire Service Injury-0
- Training Hours- 269
- Smoke Alarms Installed- 19 plus 2 Safe Awake alarms
- Fire Code Inspections- 26
- Public Relations Event- 1
- Chief Price noted that the August 30th First Responders fair at Bolivar Middle School was a great success and thanked everyone for their support.

Police- Chief Mike Jones

- Calls for service- 619
- Citations- 179
- Accidents- 28 (0 fatal, 7 injuries, 21 property damages)
- Arrest- 49 (18 juvenile, 31 adult)
- Special Events- Safety Seat Check, DUI Saturation, THSO Safe Streets Task Force (6), Career Day
- Training Hours- 65

Parks and Recreation- Anthony Ford, Director

- We have begun to fill in the washout on the driveway at Northside Park (Kaboom).
- Adult exercise (line dance) class continues on Thursdays at 5pm.

- Adult pickle ball is on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays 9am-Noon.
- Adult men's basketball league registration will begin on September 30th.
- Our youth soccer league registration has ended and games will start in one week, September 16th.

Street and Sanitation- Jerry Mayfield, Superintendent

- Picked up trash around downtown.
 - Weed eating and mowing.
 - Tons taken to landfill: 295.38 commercial, and 122.33 residential for a total of 417.71 tons.
 - Bulky item pickup the begin October 1.
- Bid opening for dumpsters:
The city requested bids for 8 yard standard duty dumpsters. One bid was submitted from Wastequip for \$995.00 each. The city's budget is \$12,000 and will be able to purchase 12 new dumpsters.
Councilmember Lowe made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Williams to accept the bid from Wastequip for \$995.00 for each dumpster. All present voted "Aye".

Library- Jessica Phillips, Director (Absent)

- Financials: Donations, Copies, Fines, and Faxes- \$1,651.85
- Total Programs: 17, Total Participates: 42, Estimated June patronage: 811
- Meeting Room: Bookings- 14, Guests- 190
- Circulations Report: Material Circulation- 2,334, Computer Users-359, Wi Fi users- 3,384, READS (Regional E-book and Audio Book download system)-906, History Room-14, Microfilm Reader usage-3, History Room Materials Circulated-21

Compliance/Zoning- Ricky Watkins

- Building Consultations-8
- Building Permits Written- 3
- Building Inspections- 4
- Plumbing Inspections- 3
- Mechanical Inspections- 3
- Safety Inspections- 2
- Certificate of Occupancy- 3
- Courtesy Notices Issues- 30

Community Development and Tourism- Dylan Hill, Director

- Held the Grand Opening of the The Timbers. Thank you to those that were able to attend and those that sent regrets. It was a great turnout, and we look forward to the opportunities it will bring to our citizens.
- Hosted a decades night themed concert at the Luez with Party Planet. Although attendance was down, it was the best show we have had this season.
- Completed the Capstone Project for TCED certification. Graduation will take place on October 3rd.

Bolivar Historic Zoning Commission- Councilmember Caroline Miller

The Historic Zoning Commission met on August 15th to discuss the following:

- Discussion on new member candidates.
- The Commission is working with the State office to host a yearly training on Historical and Main Street training. This will become a yearly training for the Commission members.
- Discussion on extending the Historical District into East Bolivar to include the American Legion and Sunrise Café.

Old Business:

A. Update on ditch flooding at Union and Neely Street

Mayor McTizic updated the council members the ditch flooding issue that was brought to them last month by Mr. McCellhan on Neely and Union Street. The mayor said the street department was cleaning the drain out and found all kinds of debris including a mattress, tires, and tree trunks. The street department along with the fire department were able to clean the drain and culverts so the water is now draining properly and not flooding.

New Business:

A. Approval of Bank Lender and Resolution 2024-009: Capital Outlay Note for Residential Refusal Truck

Mayor McTizic let the council members know that these two approvals go together. First, the bank lender needs to be chosen then the Resolution approving the loan by the selected bank lender. The city requested interest rate quotes for the loan amount of \$423,194.60 for a 2 year note. There were 3 quotes submitted, Centennial Bank at 4.94%, CB&S Bank at 4.24%, and Simmons Bank at 4.2%. Mayor McTizic suggested going with the lowest interest rate of 4.2%. The mayor then presented the council with Resolution 2024-009 which approves issuing a Capital Outlay Note for \$423,194.60 on a new Peterbilt Residential Refusal Truck. He explained to the council that it was approved a few years ago to trade in our sanitation trucks every two years. The city will try to sell the trucks out right first, and also have the option of a buyback plan with River City Hydraulics. Once the older truck is sold, the funds will be used to pay off the current loan for that truck. Councilmember Williams made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Woods to approve Simmons Bank as the lender for the new Sanitation loan, and Resolution 2024-009 which approves a Capital Outlay Note for a Sanitation refusal truck. All present voted "Aye".

B. Approval to Sell Police Surplus

Mayor McTizic asked the council for approval to sell older police surplus, he noted that the council had to approve anything over \$1,000. Chief Jones stated that the surplus he would like to sell is all old and can only be used for scrap metal and parts. Councilmember Williams made a motion, seconded by Councilmember McKinnie to approve the selling of police surplus. All present voted "Aye".

C. Approval of the Appointment of 2 New Members to the Historic Zoning Commission

Mayor McTizic asked the council to approve the appointment of two new members to the HZC; Mrs. Kandy Shackelford, and Mr. Michael Johnson. Councilmember Lower made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Golden to approve the 2 new appointments to the HZC. All present voted "Aye".

D. Bob Williamson- Storm Water Drain Issue on East Market Street

Mr. Williamson brought before the council an ongoing issue with the storm water drain on East Market Street, located near his property at 342 East Market which now has a large sink hole. Mayor McTizic let the council know that he has had several conversations with Mr. Williamson regarding this situation, as well as TDOT, for close to 2 years now if not more. Mr. Williams stated he was able to get a camera down the Right of Way (ROW) drain to see what was blocking the drain. He presented photos to the council members so they could see what he found. Councilmember Miller asked who was responsible for the ROW, and that seems to be the question that TDOT nor the city knows the answer to. Mr. Williamson, the City of Bolivar, and TDOT are not sue who installed the drains and culverts. TDOT has replied that their stance is "that these issues originated when the drainage facilities on your property were installed and then tied into TDOT's facilities. We cannot undertake to remedy issues off of State right-of-way on private property that are caused by a private party's actions. Please keep us updated on your progress in resolving this matter and let me know if I can assist with the retrieval of any other public records." Mr. Williams stated his concern of the city's Multi-Modal Grant awarded by TDOT and the new sidewalk that will be on the opposite side of the storm water drain and other potential problems the new sidewalk could cause. Councilmember Williams

suggested the city attorney send a letter to TDOT's regional manager. Councilmember McKinnie asked Mr. Williamson if he had contacted Representative Shaw, and Senator Walley at the state level. Mr. Williamson asked if the city and council members contact our state officials about the situation. Mayor McTizic noted that the city would contact Representative Shaw, and Senator Walley. Councilmember Miller suggested that once the new sidewalk construction begins that Mr. Williamson should talk to those engineers about possible remedies for this draining problem. After lengthy discussions, Mr. Williamson asked the council to understand that he was not asking for his property to be fixed but is asking for the storm water issue to be fixed.

There being no further business, Councilmember McKinnie made a motion, Seconded by Councilmember Williams to adjourn the meeting. All voted "Aye."

Attest:

Mayor

City Clerk & Recorder