

Bolivar City Council Meeting
October 16, 2023
6:00 P.M.

The Bolivar City Council met in regular session, Monday, October 16, 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

Absent:

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, Casey Swift, and Mayor Todd Pulse

Mayor McTizic called the meeting to order and welcomed the guest 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 September 11, 2023 council meeting. There being no corrections, Councilmember Miller made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Lowe to approve the minutes as written. All present voted "Aye."

Mayor's Report:

- There will be a reception and check presentation for THDA 2023 Home Grant on October 19th at noon.
- 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.
- Mayor McTizic announced that city offices will be closed on November 10th in observance of Veteran's Day.
- The mayor updated the council that he was still looking into Mr. Williams request from September's meeting regarding renaming Margin Street back to Williams Street.

Public Comments:

- Mayor Pulse came before the mayor and council to invite them and everyone in attendance to the Hardeman County Bi-Centennial Celebrations being held on October 28th starting at 11 am on the courthouse square. He also invited them to come to the courthouse to view items on display that

were recovered from the time capsule. Mayor Pulse presented the mayor and each councilmember a memorandum coin for the bi-centennial.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Electric – Mayor McTizic

The Bolivar Energy Board met on September 25, 2023 for their regular monthly meeting. The following actions were taken by the Board:

- Approved the following for the Hebron Substation upgrade:
- The purchase of a 161:25 transformer.
- The purchase of a 161 breaker.
- Silicon Ranch will cover the cost on both items.
- Approved the purchase of a 41 foot bucket truck from Altec to be used for the fiber work. BEA will be reimbursed through the state grants.

Utilities – Jim Nuckolls, Director

The Utility Board met on October 4, 2023 in regular meeting to discuss the following:

- The 2 bleach tanks arrived Monday October 2nd. We are in the process of switching over from the old tanks.
- USG Water Solutions used a ROV camera to inspect the clear wells at the water plant. They are going to further inspect and make any repairs that are needed.
- Gas prices for October are \$0.65.

Fire – Chief Lynn Price

- Total fire calls – 22 (16 city, 6 county), Civilian Fire Injury-0, Fire Service Injury- 0
- Training hours – 247
- Smoke alarms installed – 15
- Fire Code Inspections – 15
- Public Relations Events- 7

Police – Chief Mike Jones

- Calls for service – 715
- Citations – 228
- Accidents – 19 (0 fatal, 2 injuries, 17 property damage)
- Arrests – 28 (11 juvenile, 17 adult)
- Special events- 2 DUI Saturation, Bolivar Homecoming
- Training Hours- 155
- Chief Jones invited the councilmembers to the police pinning ceremony on Monday the 23rd at city hall.

Parks and Recreation Department – Anthony Ford, Director

- The youth soccer league has been running smoothly and will end on October 19th.
- 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 that held during the BBQ Blowout has begun and will run through October 20th.
- The adult men basketball league registration has begun and will run through November 1st.

- The adult volleyball league registration has begun and will run through October 18th.

Street/Sanitation – Eddie Vandiver, Superintendent

- Mowing grass, weed eating, and bush hogging.
- Cleaning up flowerbeds and other landscape.
- Preparing for the Bolivar BBQ Blowout and decorating downtown.
- Starting to assemble Christmas decorations and checking lights.
- October is bulky item pick up and will be the last one for 2023.
- Everything else routine.

Library, Jessica Phillips, Director (absent)

- Financials: Donations, Copies, Fines, and Faxes- \$1,185.65
- Total Programs: 9, Total Participates: 75, Estimated August Patronage: 661
- Circulations Report: Material Circulation- 1,893, Computer Users- 350, Wi Fi Users- 3,253, READS (Regional E-book and Audio Book Download System)- 741

Compliance/Zoning – Ricky Watkins

- Building Consultations – 10
- Building permits written– 0
- Building Inspections – 2
- Plumbing Inspections – 2
- Mechanical Inspections – 0
- Courtesy Notice Issued – 20
- There will be a Slum Hearing immediately following the Council meeting.

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 marketing partners to begin rolling out the campaign for the Christmas festival.
- Attended Governor Lee’s ceremonial signing of the Brownfield initiative at the Luez Theater.
- Attended the Governor’s Conference on Economic Development in Chattanooga.
- Participate on a panel for a round table discussion with 4-H students representing 15 counties on the topic of entrepreneurship.

Old Business:

- **Discussion on the Library Employees’ Salaries**

Mayor McTizic brought before the council the discussion on the library employees’ salaries. He explained that their salary increases had been approved in 2021 when the city council voted to increase the minimum wage of all full-time city employees to \$15 an hour. The city needed the county to increase the salaries on their part since they are 52% ownership of the library. The County Commissioners voted to approve the raises in September 2023. The city will need to do a budget amendment on the increases at the end of fiscal year 2023-2024. The raises will be effective in payroll in November 2023.

- **Discussion on old Health Department Building**

Mayor McTizic explained to the council that the old Health Department building had reverted back to the city’s ownership since it had not been used in several years by the county. The county brought the deed over in November of 2022. He went on to explain that the county Highway Department Superintendent came to him asking if they could use the building. The mayor asked Casey Swift, Superintendent, to come to the front and let the council know what they would like to use the space for. Casey told the council that the Highway Department was needing office space as well as storage space. He went on to explain that he

knew the building needed a lot of work done on it and was not in great condition. Casey stated they would handle the work that needed to be done on the building as well as build a large parking area. He also agreed to have storage space for the city to use. The mayor suggested that the city do a quick claim deed back to the county and have the city lawyer as well as county lawyer draw up the legal documents needed. Mayor McTizic also stated that if the county ceases to use the building it will revert back to the city. Councilmember Williams made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Lowe to do a quick claim deed to the county once legal documents are presented and reviewed. All present voted "Aye".

New Business:

- **Resolution 2023-016: Authorization to Submit an Application to Tennessee Department of Economic and Community (TDEC) Site Development Grant Program**

The Resolution will authorize the Mayor to make and sign an application for grant funds through the TDEC and enter into any and all necessary agreements and assurances to consummate the application. This Site Development Grant Program will have 2.5% match obligations in the funds. If awarded this grant the funds will be used to further development the Bolivar Industrial Park. Councilmember Rhea made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Williams to approve Resolution 2023-016. All present voted "Aye".

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

Attest:

Mayor

City Clerk & Recorder