

December 9, 2008

Bell Buckle Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in regular session. Those present were Mayor Webb, Alderman Hunt, Reagor, Anderson and Rooney. Alderman Rooney, seconded by Alderman Reagor, made a motion to suspend the reading of the minutes from November 11. All Aye. Alderman Rooney, seconded by Alderman Reagor, made a motion to approve the minutes from November 11. Motion carried.

Alderman Anderson, seconded by Alderman Rooney, made a motion to approve the Financial Reports with a correction on the budget report general fund office supplies. This will be changed from \$14,092 to 14.92. All Aye.

There was a public hearing prior to the meeting to discuss CDBG options. Sara Brown from South Central Development District was present to explain the program. There was discussion on project need and impact as well as whether it would be better to try to apply for a sewer grant or for water issues. Alderman Hunt reported that she and Supervisor Lokey had met and talked about priorities replacing the water lines at Higgins Road and Fosterville Road and the results from leak inspector Joe Richards. There is a deadline the end of February for the application to be turned in. Engineer Patterson reminded the board of the MOM Program requirements to do certain rehab projects within the collection system. This would be another financial liability for the town. However, if the Town applied for and was awarded a \$350,000 grant through CDBG, the split is 84/16% with the town's portion being \$56,000.

Supervisor Ronnie Lokey gave the Water Sewer Report. There were no leaks for the month and we bought very little water from BCUD. The water loss was only 10%! There was a meeting today about Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) with Brett Ward from MTAS and representatives from Bedford County Schools, Webb School, and Bell Buckle Café. Later they met with 82 Market owners concerning disposal of grease, oils and fats.

Alderman Anderson asked about the Telemetry System. Supervisor Lokey reported that we have quit going to Wartrace to check the system and are now checking it on the computer.

Mayor Webb stated that he had written Bedford County Utility District a letter asking for an extension to consider the contract so we can do more research and they can address the THM concerns. The Mayor had a positive meeting with Mayor Gallagher from Wartrace but has heard no further word. Alderman Hunt also spoke with Marty Davis of BCUD and they are working on the THM sampling process.

Chief Ronnie Lokey gave the Fire Department Report. They had 17 calls, 7 medical and 10 fire related (including 7 mutual aid calls). The Chili Cook-off is scheduled for February 28. Afghans are still for sale.

Mayor Webb reported that Officer Wiley had issued 15 warnings, 1 citation, and a vandalism report at Webb School. The Mayor requested Alderman Reagor to put

together a Policies Manual for the Police Officer. Alderman Hunt reported that Officer Wiley is looking into applying for a \$4,000 grant for equipment. Alderman Rooney requested that we get signs posted at the city limits stating “No Engine Brakes Allowed” and Alderman Reagor mentioned also getting signs stating “Speed Enforced by Radar”.

Alderman Reagor gave the Planning Commission Report. There was no meeting because the Strategic Planning meeting had been cancelled by the state due to travel restrictions. The next Planning Commission has been set for January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Alderman Hunt gave the Sidewalks Committee Report. Engineer Patterson, Mayor Webb, and Alderman Hunt met with TDOT officials regarding the sidewalks up Webb Road and Maple Street. The meeting went well and the project is moving along. Once the Design Phase is approved, the construction can begin. Engineers St. John and Patterson were well prepared and praised for their work on the engineering phase.

Alderman Hunt gave the Chamber of Commerce Report. The Bell Buckle Chamber of Commerce held their first ever Holiday Mixer on Monday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>. A large crowd helped assemble the greenery that now decorates the town. James Elkins then flipped the switch to light the “official” Bell Buckle Christmas tree in front of the town square. Thanks to all that attended.

The Bell Buckle Chamber of Commerce RC-Moon Pie Festival has been chosen as a Southeastern Tourism Society Top 20 Event for 2009. The event will be featured in their April, May, and June sections, brochures, advertising, etc. This is quite an honor and the Chamber is ecstatic to have been chosen.

There was no Avian Flu Preparedness Committee report.

Alderman Hunt gave the Parks and Recreation Report. The Forestry grant for tree replacement was awarded to Countywide Nursery in Shelbyville for a bid of \$5,000. This is a 50/50 grant. Trees will begin to be planted now.

The State Urban Forestry staff has been experimenting with aerial photos of cities and towns to see if they can make some estimates of canopy cover, and State Forester Bruce used Bell Buckle as a guinea pig. He met with the Tree Board to discuss what they’re doing and see what our local reaction might be. Their goal is that each municipality strive for a 40% canopy cover through ordinances and development situations and identify plantable spaces and work towards increasing canopy. By using the grid aerial map, Bell Buckle has achieved 36% canopy in 2008(as opposed to 19% when last aerial shot was taken in 1997) and has obtained a Tree Preservation document from our state planner that we would like to ask the Planning Commission to pass. The Bell Buckle Tree Board is honored to have been chosen to be the inaugural town for aerial study to set the standard and the pace to increase canopy covers for all municipalities.

The park has new t-shirts in to raise money for the park. One is “What Happens in Bell Buckle Stays in Bell Buckle” which we’ve had before and the new is “What Happens in

Bell Buckle (then “stays in Bell Buckle is crossed out) Beats You Home”. All shirts are \$10 each and can be purchased in Town Hall or the Bell Buckle Café.

The Park will be hosting a wheelchair basketball tournament Nov. 6 & 7<sup>th</sup> 2009 at Webb School. It will consist of college and semi-pro teams participating. More details to follow. This will be a fundraiser for the park in hopes to build a basketball court with the proceeds.

The park restrooms are closed for the winter.

Mayoral Updates: Mayor Webb stated he will look into the request from Alderman Rooney about changing the time of the study session to 6 PM instead of 6:30 PM.

There will be an employee meeting in January for the employees to set goals and talk about meeting expectations. There is a contest about coming up with a logo on customer service.

Old Business: Alderman Reagor, seconded by Alderman Rooney, made a motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Ordinance Amending the Zoning Ordinance. All Aye.

New Business: Employee Compensation-Mayor Webb presented a proposal for the Employees to receive a Christmas Bonus of 2% which will be approximately \$3000 and to increase the salaries 5% which would be approximately \$7500. He feels this will fit into the current budget. He also stressed that any salary increases should be reviewed only at fiscal year budget time from now on and that he plans to update the Employment Benefit Manual.

Alderman Anderson, seconded by Alderman Hunt, made a motion to approve the 2% Christmas Bonus and for the minutes to reflect that the 2% is not automatic but is a year to year decision. Motion carried.

Alderman Anderson, seconded by Alderman Hunt, made a motion to approve a 5% increase in salaries effective immediately. He then amended the motion to read effective the first of the year. All Aye. Alderman Rooney, seconded by Alderman Hunt, made a motion that all further salary increases be in conjunction with the fiscal year and that it is decided by salary reviews instead of across the board. All Aye.

There being no further business, Alderman Rooney, seconded by Alderman Anderson, made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Dennis H. Webb, Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

Janet Robinson, Town Recorder \_\_\_\_\_

