

February 10, 2009

Bell Buckle Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in regular session. Those present were Mayor Webb, Alderman Hunt, Reagor, Anderson and Rooney. Alderman Reagor, seconded by Alderman Anderson, made a motion to suspend the reading of the minutes from January 13. All Aye. Alderman Reagor, seconded by Alderman Rooney, made a motion to approve the minutes from January 13. Motion carried.

Alderman Reagor, seconded by Alderman Anderson, made a motion to approve the Financial Reports. Motion carried. Alderman Hunt asked under the animal control expense on the General Fund, if the town could possibly levy a fine on the customer who left town leaving dogs locked up in his house-if he ever returns to town. We will consult with Attorney Perry regarding this.

Supervisor Ronnie Lokey gave the Water Sewer Report. Ronnie and Randy met with Brett Ward from MTAS on issues such as laboratory work, quality control and testing. Mr. Ward cautioned that the costs for wastewater treatment would only go up in the future. There was a 35% water loss for the month. A meeting is being set up with Steve Wyatt also from MTAS in March to discuss water issues that will affect us. Earl Griner, representative for the company that built the wastewater plant, came and assessed the plant. The report will be coming soon, but he stated that he was impressed with the overall condition of the plant since it was 29 years old.

Mayor Webb reported that we had received a fax from Mayor Gallagher from Wartrace today. Wartrace was notified they had been awarded a grant to change over to Tullahoma Utility District. The new fee that Wartrace will be able to offer the Town of Bell Buckle is \$2.50 per 1000 gallons when the change over is complete.

Mayor Webb presented the CDBG Resolution 09-001. Alderman Hunt explained this includes the Higgins Road and Fosterville Road lines, would help to replace the meters that are over 10 years old, would allow us to do another leak survey and if there was any funds left over, would apply to the replacement of the water line on Hwy 82 past Webb School. Alderman Hunt, seconded by Alderman Anderson, made a motion to approve the Resolution. Motion carried.

Chief Ronnie Lokey gave the Fire Department Report. There were 10 calls for service-6 fire and 4 medical related. Work continues on the new ladder truck. An 8 hour class was held to train using the ladder truck and was taught by an instructor from the fire and codes academy. The Olan Mills fundraiser netted the department \$8985.50. He reminded everyone of the 3rd annual Fire Department Chili Cook-off on February 28th at 6 PM at the Fire Hall. He requested the Board approve spending \$3500 from the Fire Department fund for the purchase of 3" fire hoses for the trucks. Alderman Anderson, seconded by Alderman Reagor, made a motion to approve. All Aye.

Chairman Rodney Simmons gave the Planning Commission Report. There was a public hearing prior to the meeting about an amendment to the Subdivision Regulations

regarding Street Lighting. This was passed on the 2nd Reading. A Strategic Planning meeting was held immediately following. Mayor Webb stated that the main focus of the meeting was the economic vitality of the Town, rehab of the Water/Sewer System, and to maintain the rural character of the Town. He also mentioned that the overall feeling of the Commission regarding the new Tree Ordinance that had been presented by the Tree Board, was that it was too far reaching and should only be incorporated into the Subdivision Regulations for new development. There is already an old Tree Ordinance on the books.

Alderman Hunt reported for the Sidewalks Committee. We are waiting approval from the State on the Environmental Reports after which we will have a Public Hearing for input regarding the design phase. Then we can send the design to the state for approval before proceeding to the construction phase.

Alderman Hunt gave the Chamber of Commerce Report. Daffodil Day is March 21st. We will have our annual Daffodil Flower show, our 9th year Tree City USA presentation, and other festivities. The Arbor Day ceremony will be at 3:00. We are very excited this year to announce for the 2nd time in Bell Buckle's 9 years as a Tree City USA we have earned the Growth Award for Matt Bettis's Eagle Scout project, encouraging natural growth around the perimeter of the park for wildlife habitats, and for the implementation of a Mayor's Grove.

2009 brochures are out and can be found at most all stores in town. The Chamber is in the midst of shooting a commercial with some of the funding coming from a Tourism grant. The commercial will hopefully be a useful marketing tool in keeping Bell Buckle in the forefront during a very difficult economic environment.

Bell Buckle's RC-Moon Pie Festival made the cover of the Tennessee Press Association's newspaper directory. Motorcycle Days will be May 16 and the Geo Woodstock will be May 23.

Alderman Hunt gave the Parks and Recreation Report. Trees planting for the tree grant are almost completed. Tianna Hyatt of Uptown Web Services donated domain name for park again.

The Bell Buckle Citizen of the year award that is sponsored by the Park every year will begin taking applications the first of February until March 1st. Applications will be available at Town Hall and on the park web site (www.BellBucklePark.info). The Mayor has appointed a committee to review and choose this year's recipient.

A brick walkway was constructed from the walking trail to the playground. A brick pad with the engraved bricks that have been ordered through our brick program was completed around the kiosk. About 8 more bricks are on order and will be placed there by Daffodil Day. Another brick pad was placed on either side of the entrance to the Coop Picnic Pavilion where benches will be placed as a tribute to Mr. and Mrs. P.G. Coop whose children built the pavilion in their parents' memory.

Posts and rope have been constructed to deter cars from being driven on park property.

Plans are well underway for the 3 major park events this year. Best of the Butts BBQ Cook Off – Will be held Saturday, September 5th. Applications have gone out to those who participated last year and they have priority until April 1st after which time we will take new applications which will be on a first come, first serve basis. We have 24 spots. We will hold a Judges' Class on Saturday, April 25th at 11:00 at the Capt Rodney stage. The cost is \$10 to cover expenses. We have 25 spots available for that which are also first come, first serve. I have applications.

4th of July Celebration – There will be the annual favorites – the Car Rally which Tri-Lakes Sports Car Club sponsors and the cookout. We are looking to hold the grand opening for the amphitheater for everyone in Bell Buckle that day and have Uncle Tom's Band scheduled to play.

Rollin Round Robin Basketball Tournament – Carla Webb has been working on this around the clock. It will be held Friday, November 6th and Saturday, Nov. 7th at Webb's Barton Gym. This is a wheelchair basketball tournament and we're already getting quite a bit of inquiries and this looks to be a super event for all.

We are now taking bids for the mowing and maintenance of the park. Bid specs can be found on the park's web site and bid opening will be Feb. 17th at 5:00 at the park meeting.

Mayoral Updates: Mayor Webb reported that he had met with the Town Employees to discuss goals and reinforce commitment to the customers and prepare for the future. There will be an unveiling of a branding customer service logo soon.

Old Business: None

New Business: Water Rate Increase. Alderman Anderson presented a proposed water rate increase for our customers. This would include a 5% increase across the board and raising the amount for over the minimum from \$3.50 to \$4.50 per thousand gallons. An Operations and Maintenance fee was also included of \$1 for inside town limits and \$2 for outside town limits per month. He showed examples of the 08-09 and the 09-10 budgets with using the current rates and explained the deficiency the Town would be showing for both years. The State will not allow municipalities to have a deficient in their Water and Sewer fund for 3 consecutive years. This will be the third year we will show a loss. There was much discussion from the board and audience. Alderman Anderson showed how the proposed rate increase would affect the budgets. The 08-09 budget would still show a loss since there would only be 3 months in the year with the new rates. There would be an approximate profit of \$15,000 for the 09-10 budget. Alderman Anderson, seconded by Alderman Hunt, made a motion to approve on 1st Reading. Alderman Anderson reiterated that there will be a public hearing prior to the 2nd Reading next month. All Aye.

Charles Cooke asked the Board to check what it costs the Town to purchase water per thousand gallons and wondered if the rate increase might need to be increased. Positive feedback was also stated from those in attendance.

Gayle Winnett requested that the Board seriously look at the police issue and that the money could be spent elsewhere.

Mayor Webb stated he would state a budget meeting soon to prepare for next year's budget and amending the current year's budget.

There being no further business, Alderman Reagor, seconded by Alderman Anderson, made a motion to adjourn. All Aye.

Dennis H. Webb, Mayor _____

Janet Robinson, Town Recorder _____