

State of Alabama }  
County of Etowah }  
City of Hokes Bluff }

MINUTES OF HOKES BLUFF CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday, 02/09/2010, 7:00 P.M. City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wayne Whitt, Kathy Ellzey, Gary Reeves, Jeff Cheatwood, Michael Elrod, John Moore

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Robert McWhorter, Sheila Burns

Call to Order

Mayor Reeves called the regular meeting of the Hokes Bluff City Council to order at 7:03 p.m. An invocation was given by Councilmember Whitt and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

Review/Approve Agenda

Councilmember Whitt made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Councilmember Moore seconded the motion. There was no question, discussion, or change requested. On voice vote, all voted aye. None opposed. The motion was carried.

Read/Approve Minutes

Councilmember Ellzey made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 01/26/2010 regular Council meeting and pre-Council meeting and to approve them as written. Councilmember Elrod seconded the motion. There was no question, discussion, change, addition, or correction requested. On voice vote, all voted aye. None opposed. The motion was carried.

Accounts Payable

Councilmember Whitt advised that he had reviewed the bills submitted for payment and that all appeared to be in order. He made a motion to pay the bills. Councilmember Moore seconded the motion. There was no question or discussion. On voice vote, all voted aye. None opposed. The motion was carried.

Public Comments

None.

Seminar – "Dealing With Conflict"

Councilmember Ellzey made a motion to authorize the payment of registration fees and associated expenses for interested council members to attend a seminar entitled "Dealing With Conflict" at the Anniston City Meeting Center on Wednesday, February 24, 2010. Councilmember Elrod seconded the motion. There was no question or discussion. On voice vote, all voted aye. None opposed. The motion was carried.

Pre-Order of Halloween Bags

Councilmember Elrod made a motion to pre-order 1,500 Halloween bags from the National Crime Prevention Council at a cost of \$0.52/each, the same price paid in 2009. Councilmember Ellzey seconded the motion. There was no question or discussion. On voice vote, all voted aye. None opposed. The motion was carried.

Retaining Wall Between Baseball Fields

Councilmember Moore made a motion to authorize the expenditure of up to \$6,500 to purchase materials (i.e., block, gravel, sand, and mesh) to build a retaining wall between the baseball fields. Councilmember Cheatwood seconded the motion. There was no question or discussion. On voice vote, all voted aye. None opposed. The motion was carried.

"Healthy Marriage Month" Resolution

Councilmember Ellzey made a motion to adopt a resolution recognizing February as "Healthy Marriage Month." Councilmember Elrod seconded the motion. There was no question or discussion. On voice vote, all voted aye. None opposed. The motion was carried.

Reports From Standing Committees

**Finance and Personnel Committee:** Councilmember Whitt said he hoped to schedule a committee meeting next week to discuss several items.

**Parks and Recreation:** Councilmember Moore announced a benefit concert for Craig Osborn was scheduled at Center Stages in Rainbow City on February 27.

**Public Works: CBDG Grant Application:** Councilmember Ellzey reported that she had been in contact with Diane McClellan at E.A.R.P.D.C. to discuss beginning work on the new CBDG application. However, the applications will not be due until July this year for the 90/10 grant. There is much optimism that we could be successful with our application for the same nine (9) streets this year.

**Potential Federal Funding for Fiscal Year 2011:** Councilmember Ellzey had continued to review the potential Federal projects that were listed through Congressman Aderholt's office. It had been over six (6) years since any funding had been awarded for street improvements. Most funding appeared to be mainly enhancements for bicycle trails or sidewalks. It did not look like this would be a viable funding source for the City to explore at this time.

**Facilities and Equipment: Fire Truck:** Councilmember Cheatwood reported that there was no new information about the fire truck at Good Hope Fire Apparatus. The two attorneys were continuing to try to make contact.

**Security Equipment for Public Safety Building:** Security equipment with recording features was needed for the public safety building, especially the fire hall.

**Public Safety:** Councilmember Elrod reported that all was good.

**Police Department Renovations:** An initial amount of \$5,000 had been approved for renovations to the police department. Councilmember Elrod made a motion to approve the payment of \$678 in additional expenses. Councilmember Moore seconded the motion. There was no question or discussion. On voice vote, all voted aye. None opposed. The motion was carried.

Other Business

**Extra Payments on Loan:** A question had arisen concerning extra payments that had been made on the City's loan with Wachovia without the Council specifically voting each time before such payment was made. Mr. McWhorter pointed out that what the City actually had was a 'line of credit.' There was nothing improper about extra payments being made by the Mayor and Treasurer. However, the Council's internal procedure could be changed by adding a rule that making an extra payment must first come before the Council.

Sample Smoke-Free Ordinance

Councilmember Ellzey asked the Council to review the sample ordinance and information from the State Department of Public Health about making the City a smoke-free city. She also called attention to an article in "The Gadsden Times" stating that the State would be getting \$1.5 million in federal funds to increase physical activity, improve nutrition, reduce obesity, and decrease smoking. Of the \$1.5 million, \$830,666 would be used to expand tobacco cessation programs.

Adjournment

As there was no other business to be discussed at the time, Councilmember Moore made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cheatwood. On voice vote, all voted aye. None opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Hamilton Burns, CMC  
City Clerk/Treasurer