

Bolivar City Council Meeting
Monday, March 24, 2025
6:00 P.M.

The Bolivar City Council met in regular session, Monday, February 10, 2025, 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

Others present: Carri Beth Rhea, Sarah Rice, Mick Vinson, Jim Nuckolls, Chief Jones, Anthony Ford, Jerry Mayfield, Ricky Watkins, Dylan Hill, Eddie Vandiver, Leon McNeal, and Brandon Burvee.

Mayor McTizic called the meeting to order, welcomed the guests in attendance and those who were watching on social media. Mayor McTizic asked Councilmember Woods 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 February 10, 2025 council meeting. There being no corrections, Councilmember Miller made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Brown to approve the minutes as written. All voted "Aye."

Mayor's Report:

- A. The Mayor's Charity Ball will be held on April 12th at 6:00 pm.
- B. Spring Fling will be held on April 26th.
- C. Proclamation for Blue and Green Day Mid-South.
- D. Mayor McTizic noted that DevCo plans to meet on March 31st at 5:00 pm at City Hall. Councilmember Miller noted that the Historic Zoning Commission will meet on April 29th with officials from the State Historic Commission also at 5:00 pm at City Hall.
- E. City Projects Updates:
 - Sand Beach Lake
 - The footing for the pavilion is currently being poured and the structure should be delivered by mid-May.
 - The footing for the amphitheater will be poured right after pavilion.
 - The boat ramp is complete but not open to the public for now.
 - The slab for the outfitters hut area will be should be poured soon, other than furnishings that will complete this building.
 - Councilmember Woods asked if the pavilion and amphitheater will be completed by Red, White, and Bolivar. Mayor McTizic stated that the engineers are saying it will be completed in June with weather permitting and no new hurdles along the way.

- Councilmember Williams asked if the kayaks will be owned by the city or ran by a third party. Mayor McTizic noted that the city is looking at grants that might cover the cost of kayaks and also noted he is looking into State agencies that will manage the kayaks and other rentals.
- YMCA and Armory/Sportsplex
 - The mayor stated that he is still waiting on final numbers for the YMCA/Sportsplex proposed project to bring before the council. He stated there will be a public meeting regarding the project and looks forward to the community's input.
 - Councilmember Millers asked if a price on the old National Guard Armory had been sent from the State. Mayor McTizic noted it had and it was \$975,000.00.
 - Councilmember Williams asked if the USDA loan that has been discussed will cover the costs of the new ballfields as well as remodeling the current ballfields. Mayor McTizic stated that the USDA loans can not cover the actual ballfields. There will have to be a separate loan for the ballfields.
- ICE Building
 - Mayor McTizic stated the grant to redo the ICE factory that the city bought is starting to move a little quicker. He noted that the vandalism and theft of the building's wiring was extremely damaged and it has taken a good bit of time to get the plans drawn up of what work needed to be done. Mayor McTizic the bids for the work had been received and there will be a letter of recommendation for approval later in the meeting. A2H was the engineering firm handling the grant project.
 - The mayor also noted that he has been talking with a potential prospect to occupy the building.
 - Councilmember Williams asked what happened with the contents that were in the building. The mayor noted that the potential prospect he is talking to is interested in all of the contents that are still in the building. The potential prospect is in the same line of manufacturing that the former ICE company was in.
- NeighborHub
 - Mayor McTizic stated that he is still waiting on design plans from TML who is handling the project of remodeling the building. The grant received will cover the cost to finish remodeling the remaining parts of the building.
- Wall Innovations
 - Mayor McTizic reported that Wall Innovations received a 2 year extension on their contract with the State. He also noted that the building materials have been purchased and they are waiting on the contractor. The State has reimbursed the purchase of the building materials.
- Blossom Park
 - The installation of a new playground is almost complete. The playground equipment was donated to the city.
 - Mayor McTizic stated there will be no basketball goals in stalled.
 - Councilmember McKinnie asked what happened to the citizens that live in the Blossom Park area from 10-12 years ago that stated they did not want a park in the area. Mayor McTizic said he held a public meeting about 4 years ago with citizens regarding a putting a park in the area and the ones in the area were fine with a park being put built in the area and requested no basketball goals.
 - Councilmember Brown stated that the park was a good idea and the kids need to have a place to go.

- Councilmember McKinnie stated the people do not want a park in the area and asked why did the city put one in if they do not want it. Mayor McTizic stated that he went to the community and spoke with the ones that live there and they were all good with the park going in except for Butch Gatlin.
 - Councilmember McKinnie stated again that people have come up to him saying they did not want a park in the area. It was Butch Gatlin that said he did not want a park.
 - Councilmember Brown asked Councilmember McKinnie where did he want the kids to go and McKinnie stated the people did not want the park and it should have not been put in and the kids can go somewhere else.
- Councilmember Miller thanked Mayor McTizic for the update on the projects.
 - Councilmember Williams asked about the grant regarding the old tannery. Mayor McTizic noted that the Brownfield grant was still active and there is still work being done however it is a long process due to all the chemicals and things they contaminated the site.
 - Councilmember Williams asked about the new shopping center and liquor store on Main Street. Mayor McTizic noted that Maria Howell purchased the building and her son Christian Howell does have plans at this time to open a liquor store in the building however he does not know of any other plans with the remaining part of the building.

Public Comments: NONE

Standing Committee Reports:

Electric- Mayor McTizic

The Bolivar Energy Authority Board met on February 24, 2025, for their regular monthly meeting. The following was discussed by the board:

- Chris Mitchell updated the Board on TVA's current status and gave an overview of the financial position of BEA.
- Approved the low bid from Murphy & Sons for the fiber warehouse of \$463,0210.00. 70% of the cost will be covered by a state fiber grant.
- Garnett Electric Company was awarded the bid on the Hebron substation renovation for the TVA and Silicon Ranch Solar project. Their bid was \$1,930,445.00. These funds will be reimbursed by Silicon Ranch.

Utilities- Jim Nuckolls, Director

The Bolivar Utility Board met on March 5th and discussed the following:

- The Utility Services check was received for the antennas on the water tank in the amount of \$46,239.27.
- A2H had a bid opening for the ARP Sewer Rehabilitation Phase 1, they recommend going with Suncoast Infratstruce, Inc. The bid recommendation letter will be presented later in the meeting.
- The washout repair on Hwy 125 is complete.
- Gas prices are at \$0.76 for March.

Fire- Chief Lynn Price

- Total Fire Calls- 82 (74 city, 8 county), Civilian Fire Injury-0, Fire Service Injury-0
- EMR Assist Calls- 67, 6 career firefighters have completed their EMR training and scheduled to take exams
- Training Hours- 364
- Smoke Alarms Installed- 16
- Fire Code Inspections- 18
- Public Relations Event- 5

Police- Chief Mike Jones

- Calls for service- 320
- Citations- 139
- Accidents- 12 (0 fatal, 2 injuries, 10 property damages)
- Arrest- 56 (8 juvenile, 48 adult)
- Special Events- THSO Safe Streets Task Force -12
- Training Hours- 192

Parks and Recreation- Anthony Ford, Director- absent

- We have installed the final 6 permanent disc golf baskets on the course at Pleasant Run.
- Our youth basketball (15-18 yr olds) league will begin it's registration process on March 15.
- We will begin our search for possible summer lifeguards at the end of the month.
- Our youth basketball for 11-14 year olds games are underway and the games are played on Mondays and Thursdays.

Street and Sanitation- Jerry Mayfield, Superintendent

- Tons taken to landfill: 263.68 commercial, and 115.27 residential for a total of 378.95 tons.
- Picked up brush and leaves.
- Pressure washed buildings at the Lion's field to help prepare it for painting.
- Bulky item pick begins April 1.

Library- Jessica Phillips, Director - Absent

- Financials: Donations, Copies, Fines, and Faxes- \$1,086.85.
- Total Programs: 5, Total Participates: 40, Estimated December patronage: 601
- Meeting Room: Bookings- 27, Guests- 43
- Circulations Report: Material Circulation- 1,599, Computer Users-227, Wi Fi users- 2,492, READS (Regional E-book and Audio Book download system)-550, History Room-6, Microfilm Reader usage-2, History Room Materials Circulated-18

Compliance/Zoning- Ricky Watkins

- Building Consultations-10
- Building Permits Written- 3
- Building Inspections- 2
- Plumbing Inspections- 2
- Mechanical Inspections- 2
- Courtesy Notices Issues- 20

Community Development and Tourism- Dylan Hill, Director

- Attended Southwest's Tourism Summit with Commissioner Ezell.
- Attended TEDC Day on the Hill. Met with Senator Walley and Representative Shaw, along with other state and community leaders.
- Completed Retail Academy in an effort to gain knowledge and best practices in retail and franchise recruitment.
- Hosted a sold out show at the Luez Theater featuring Grammy award winner Jason Crabb.

Old Business:

A. Honorary Street Names

Mayor McTizic brought before the board a subject of honorary street names and would like to put a policy in place regarding the matter. Since the council voted last month to do an honorary street name for Mr. Johnnie Nelse the mayor stated he had received several calls requesting honorary street name for others. The mayor presented the council a policy he had found on line regarding honorary street names. Councilmember Williams asked what other honorary street names had the city done in the past. Mayor McTizic noted that the only one he could think of was "Tiger Alley" that was by the schools. Councilmember Rhea stated she didn't think the city should be in the business of issuing street signs to everyone and Councilmember McKinnie agreed and stated that the city wouldn't be able to please everyone with honorary street signs. Councilmember Woods stated that another request had been made to rename Margin Street and that was denied. Councilmember Rhea noted that she does see how the city could go about setting boundaries on who or what meets qualifications for an honorary street name because there will be some that think the rules do not apply to them. After some discussion, Councilmember Rhea made a motion, seconded by Councilmember McKinnie to not adopt a policy on honorary street name nor to issue honorary street names going forward. All voted "Aye". Mayor McTizic asked the council for clarity how they would like to handle Mr. Johnnie Nelson's agreement to accept an honorary street name in place of renaming the entire street. Councilmember Williams suggested on presenting Mr. Nelson a certificate and street sign but not putting the street sign up. All were in agreement.

New Business:

A. Resolution 2025-003: Capital Outlay Note for Purchase of Land

Mayor McTizic brought before the council a Resolution that will approve the city issuing a Capital Outlay Note for the purchase of land for "Project Gentle Giant". The mayor noted that this was the property that was property that was discussed last month in the attorney/client meeting. He stated that the city has to pass a Resolution to send to the Comptroller's office for approval of the debt. Mayor McTizic stated that Councilmember Miller reached out to him and wanted to speak with a representative from "Project Gentle Giant" and he let the council know that he had a contact if any of them are interested in speaking with the representative. Councilmember McKinnie stated that he would like the representative's contact as well. Councilmember Miller noted that even though the council approved the purchase in their attorney/client meeting she stated she would like to hear from a representative of "Project Gentle Giant" for more details. Miller also stated that she felt they needed more information regarding this project when deciding on spending \$375,000.00 on the land purchase. Councilmember Golden spoke up and stated he felt that the members had been given adequate information regarding the project and what the purchase of the land was for. He also stated that no one spoke up with questions in the attorney/client meeting. Councilmember Woods suggested not voting on the Resolution and let the representative come speak to the councilmembers. Mayor McTizic stated the council had already approved the purchase in last month's attorney/client meeting. Councilmember Rhea spoke up and stated that is the mayor's job to be the liaison between corporations and the governing body. Councilmembers Miller and McKinnie spoke up stating they would like the number to the representative to call and get more details. Mayor McTizic stated that the governing body had already approved the purchase of the land and tonight he was asking for approval of the Resolution for a Capital Outlay Note to send to the Comptroller's office. Councilmember McKinnie stated to the mayor that they are the ones that have to answer to the citizens and he feels they need to have more details in order to be transparent to the citizens. After more discussion, Councilmember Williams made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Lowe to approve Resolution 2025-003 that approves issuing a Capital Outlay Note up to \$375,000.00 for the purchase of land for "Project Gentle Giant". Councilmember McKinnie sustained from voting, Councilmember Miller voted "Nay", all others voted "Aye". Motion carried.

B. Resolution 2025-004: A Resolution Supporting Blue Oval City’s Project

Mayor McTizic brought before the Council a Resolution that cities and counties were asked to pass in support of Blue Oval City project. Councilmember Miller stated that she doesn’t understand the purpose of the Resolution and what are we passing it for. She asked if the Resolution was to praise Blue Oval for postponing the opening again and again and she thought the city should wait to pass the Resolution once they complete the project. Councilmember Miller also stated that “we” have gotten into the habit of bringing the Governor to town, take pictures, and then nothing happens. She stated Wall Innovations came to town, everyone had their hard hats and shovels, took pictures and nothing has happened in a year, there are still no jobs, and that is frustrating to her. Councilmember Williams made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Golden to approve Resolution 2025-004 showing support for Blue Oval City. Councilmember McKinnie and Miller sustained from the vote, all others voted “Aye”. Motion carried.

C. Approval and Acceptance of bid for ICE Building Wiring Renovation

Mayor McTizic noted that the ICE building wiring renovation that is part of a Site Development Grant had gone to bid and A2H has sent a recommendation letter to accept the bid from S&T Wiring, Inc. The bids that were received were:

- S&T Wiring, Inc- \$407,517.00
- Wagner General Contractors, Inc.- \$574,450.00
- Reed Electric- \$589,000.00
- Savannah Electric- \$599,000.00
- Rose Construction Inc.- \$653,350.00

Councilmember Williams asked if any local companies bid on the project, the mayor noted that no local companies bid on the project. It was noted that S&T Wiring is close to being local, they are located in Moscow, TN. Councilmember Williams made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Miller to approve the low bid from S&T Wiring for \$407,517.00. All voted “Aye”.

D. Approval and Acceptance of bid for ARP Sewer Rehabilitation Phase 1

Mayor McTizic noted that the ARP sewer rehabilitation phase 1 had gone out for bid. The Utility Board has already approved the bid. Engineers at A2H is recommending going with Suncoast Infrastructure, Inc. The bids were as follows:

- Suncoast Infrastructure, Inc- \$553,765.00
- Moore Construction Company, Inc. - \$613,555.00
- Gulf Coast Underground, LLC- \$5,554,000.00

Councilmember McKinnie made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Brown to accept the lowest bid from Suncoast Infrastructure for \$553,765.00. All voted “Aye”.

There being no further business to discuss, Councilmember McKinnie made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Williams to adjourn the meeting. All voted “Aye”.

Attest:

Mayor

City Clerk & Recorder