

Bolivar City Council Meeting
November 8, 2021
6:00 P.M.

The Bolivar City Council met in regular session, Monday, November 8, 2021, at the Bolivar Municipal Building with the following attendance:

Present:

Mayor Julian McTizic
Councilman Larry Crawford
Councilman Melvin Golden
Councilman Dylan Hill
Councilman Todd Lowe
Councilman Larry McKinnie
Councilman Suzanne Rhea
Councilman Tommie Woods

Absent:

Councilman Carol Spinks

Others present: Carri Beth Rhea, Abby Odom, Attorney, Sarah Rice, Mick Vinson, Mike Jones, Ricky Watkins, Cliff Henson, Curtis Stack, Anthony Ford, Eddie Vandiver, Darrell Tuebner, Rafard Turner, Shareta Hardaway, Tony Kirk, Brian Vandiver, representatives from Hardeman County EMS, representatives from CareMed and representatives from West TN Healthcare

Mayor McTizic called the meeting to order and welcomed the guest in attendance and those who were watching on social media. Mayor McTizic asked Councilman Woods to lead the group in prayer followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor McTizic asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from October 18, 2021 Council meeting. There being no corrections, Councilman Crawford made a motion, second by Councilman McKinnie to approve the minutes as written. All voted "Aye."

Mayor's Report:

- a. Mayor McTizic announced the city offices will be closed on Thursday November 11th, in observance of Veteran's Day. The Mayor thanked all of our veterans and the city employees that were veterans. There was only one city employee veteran that was in attendance and Mayor McTizic presented Chris Wilkerson with a certificate of appreciation. The Mayor also encouraged all the guests to attend the Veteran's Day program that will be held at BCHS.
- b. Mayor McTizic announced city offices will be closed November 25th and 26th for Thanksgiving.
- c. The Mayor read to the Council a thank you card from the family of Fire Chief Lynn Price.
- d. Mayor McTizic invited the City Council to the employee Christmas breakfast on December 1st.
- e. Mayor McTizic thanked everyone for their hard work getting the city ready for the Bolivar BBQ Blowout and thanked everyone that came out. He then turned it over to Councilman Rhea to give an update on the number of attendees, feedback from professional teams, and more.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Electric – Mayor McTizic

The Bolivar Energy Board met October 25, 2021 for the regularly scheduled meeting. The following was discussed and approved:

- Alexander Thompson & Arnold presented the fiscal year 2021 audit. There were no findings in the audit. The Board accepted the 2021 fiscal year audit.
- Stuart C. Irby presented a plan for fiber to the home for BEA's service area. Total cost of the project would be approximately \$28 million and would take around 3 years to complete the build out. The Board gave BEA management the authority to proceed with the broadband fiber to the home project partnering with Stuart C. Irby as the engineering design firm and Aeneas as the third- party partner for customer service and billing. Also, to give the President/CEO the authority to proceed with the high-level design of said project, to apply for any and all grants available and to issue bonds to fund project.
- Approved BEA to assist the City of Bolivar and DevCo with the installation of EV chargers downtown.

Utilities – Cliff Henson, Director

- The Utility Board did not meet on November 3rd due to board members attending a Utility Conference in Gatlinburg in order to get their continuing education hours required by the state.
- We will light pilot lights through November 30th free of charge. The Utility Department is asking everyone to be patient, because they are extremely busy this time of year.
- Natural gas prices are still rising and for November the price is at \$0.97 per 100 cubic feet. This is a 45% increase from mid-summer. Be prepared for higher prices over the next several months.
- Everything else routine

Fire – Chief Lynn Price (absent)

- Total fire calls – 13 (9 city, 4 county)
- Training hours – 237
- Smoke alarms installed – 36
- Preplan courtesy inspections – 1
- Department staff provided one fire safety and educational program in October
- Department staff supported the annual campaign to raise awareness about breast cancer education and early detection
- All engines received their annual maintenance services
- The annual ladder inspection of both our aerial apparatus and all ground ladders was completed with no deficiencies noted.
- Engineer Kyle Earnest resigned his position on September 30, 2021, with an effective date of October 12, 2021. We interviewed and selected Weston Wilhite to fill the vacant position.
- Special thanks to the Hardeman County Golf & Country Club for treating our employees during the recent city Employee Appreciation Day. All of our employees thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Police – Chief Mike Jones

- Calls for service – 589
- Citations – 129
- Accidents – 18(0 fatal, 2 injuries, 16 property damage)
- Arrests – 30 (4 juvenile, 26 adult)
- Special events- 3 THSO DUI Saturations, Trunk or Treat, Homecoming motorcade
- Training Hours- 192 HRS

Parks Department – Curtis Stack, Director

- We have started the foundation work on the mobile building at Sand Beach
- We have had our pre-construction meeting with Graves Construction Company on the playground at Sand Beach
- Routine maintenance

Activities Department- Anthony Ford, Director

- Our 5-13 year old soccer league ended on October 28th and the youth received their trophies. The season went well and we closed out on a good note.
- Our adult volleyball league registration has ended and we have had 2 games so far.
- We will begin our adult basketball league registration on November 15th
- The youth 6-10 year old basketball league registration is from November 1 – December 3rd
- The adult exercise class is going well and we will continue it through the rest of the year

Street/Sanitation – Eddie Vandiver, Superintendent

- Working on Christmas decorations downtown
- Changed pedestrian crossing lights and buttons downtown
- Helped with Bolivar BBQ Blowout
- Bushhogging grass throughout the city and Industrial Park
- Picking up litter on streets
- Bulky item pick up was all of October and a lot was picked up during the month
- Still hauling garbage to Walnut, MS as well as bulky items to Walnut, MS

Library – Becky White, Director (absent)

- Financials: \$651.25 from donations, copies, fines and faxes.
- Total Programs – 8 with 141 participants
- Circulation report – Material Circulation- 1,112, Computer users 239, Wi Fi users 1,648, READS (Regional E-book and Audio Book Download System)- 530

Compliance/Zoning – Ricky Watkins

- Building Consultations – 6
- Building permits written– 2
- Building Inspections – 3
- Plumbing Inspections – 3
- Mechanical Inspections – 3
- Courtesy Notice Issued – 20

Devco- Mayor McTizic: DevCo and Bolivar Main Street will be hosting City of Bolivar Christmas parade December 4th at 6:00 p.m.

Old Business:

a. Update on CareMed and West TN Healthcare EMS proposals

Mr. James Ross with West TN Healthcare came before the Council and presented them with a proposal for West TN Healthcare bringing in an EMS service for the City of Bolivar. After his presentation, the Council had many questions regarding the proposal and the services they will offer. During the discussion the City Council thanked our county EMS workers who were in attendance and for the outstanding service they do for the county. It was noted that the City

Council did not want the Hardeman County EMS team to feel that the decision to bring in an EMS for the city had anything to do with their performance. The City Council in turn hopes this will help relieve some of the pressure on employees with the county EMS and that they can focus on helping the rest of the county. Next, CareMed representative thanked the council for their consideration and extended gratitude to the City of Bolivar. After further discussion, Councilman McKinnie made a motion, second by Councilman Golden to enter into contract with West TN Healthcare bringing an EMS service to the City of Bolivar. Councilman Crawford voted no against this motion, Councilman Golden, Hill, Lowe, McKinnie, Rhea and Woods all voted yes for the motion. The motion passed with 6 yes and 1 no.

- b. Mayor McTizic asked the City Council for approval to hire an engineer company to help with the remodel of the old Annex building which will house the EMS service that West TN Healthcare will provide for the City of Bolivar. The Mayor told the council he would like to talk to TLM Engineering out of Jackson, TN to help with the remodel. Councilman McKinnie made a motion, second by Councilman Woods to allow the Mayor to hire an engineering firm to help with the remodel of the old Annex building. All voted "Aye".

New Business:

a. First Reading of Ordinance 21-006: A Broadband Ready Community

Mayor McTizic asked Mr. Tony Kirk, President of Bolivar Energy Authority, to come to the front and update the City Council on broadband before presenting Ordinance 21-006. Mr. Tony updated the Council on a few things going on at BEA. First, BEA is partnering with the City of Bolivar and DevCo to bring electric vehicle (EV) charging stations to the downtown area, secondly, they are about to break ground to begin work on the solar farm out on Mecklinburg Dr., and lastly the update on broadband. Tony told the Council that the estimated cost will be around \$28 million and they will be working to get all grants possible to help fund this project. Also, he let them know that Aeneas will be a third party providing customer service and billing. Mr. Kirk stated they hope to get started as soon as they get the money available and his goal is to start by second quarter of 2022. Mr. Tony asked for support from the Council and City of Bolivar. Mayor McTizic then told the Council Ordinance 21-006 will state that Bolivar is a Broadband Ready Community and passing this Ordinance will help BEA when applying for grants to bring broadband to Hardeman County. Councilman Rhea made a motion, Councilman McKinnie second the motion to pass the first reading of Ordinance 21-006. All voted "Aye".

Community Development: None

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

Attest:

Mayor

City Clerk & Recorder