

Bolivar City Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 8, 2025
6:00 P.M.

The Bolivar City Council met in regular session, Monday, September 8, 2025, at the Bolivar Municipal Building with the following in 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, Jim Nuckolls, Chief Lynn Price, Chief Mike Jones, Anthony Ford, Jerry Mayfield, Dylan Hill, Monroe Woods, family members from Johnny Nelson's family, Angela Herron, Charles "Butch" Gatlin, Shay Gatlin, and others from the Blossom Park neighborhood.

Mayor McTizic called the meeting to order, welcomed the guests in attendance and those who were watching on social media. The mayor then asked Councilmember Woods to lead the group in prayer and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor McTizic asked for a moment of silence for Ms. Tracey Byrum who was a City Council member for several years and to keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor McTizic asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the August 12, 2025 regular scheduled meeting. There being no corrections, Councilmember Rhea made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Woods to approve the August 12, 2025 minutes as written. All voted "Aye."

Mayor's Report:

- A. Mayor McTizic announced that city offices would be closed on October 13th in observance of Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day and asked for the regular scheduled council meeting to be rescheduled to October 6, 2025. All were in agreement.
- B. The mayor noted that the bicentennial celebration is in full planning mode. He noted that the bicentennial events will start with a gala on October 18, 2025 and there will be a week full of events that will end with the Bolivar BBQ Blowout on October 25th.
- C. The mayor welcomed the family of Mr. Johnny Nelson to the front for a presentation. The family members thanked the mayor and council for giving Mr. Johnny the honorary street signs. They presented the mayor with a plaque as a thank you. They noted Mr. Nelson sends his best wishes to the city and he had hoped to be there in person to present the plaque.
- D. Mayor McTizic then opened the floor for the Blossom Park Public Forum.

Public Comments: Blossom Park Playground and Basketball Goals

Mayor McTizic started the Public Forum, and expressed that he felt it is important for the children in that neighborhood to have something to do. He stated "we never know the next Willie Kemp "might be in the area and these children need to have the option of playing basketball at the park. He pledged that himself and Chief Mike Jones will that the park will be a safe environment. Sky cops will be installed, and police patrolling the park as well as the neighborhood. Mayor McTizic noted that he feels that it is much safer for the children to be playing basketball at the park rather than have the goals in the street like they are now.

Mr. Charles "Butch" Gatlin was the first citizen to speak regarding the playground and basketball goals being put at Blossom Park. He stated that he has lived in the neighborhood for over 40 years, and he does not want basketball goals at the park. Mr. Gatlin noted that he feels that the playground alone is sufficient enough. He then brought up the reason the old goals were taken down at the park, he feels the goals will bring crime to the area again and cause trouble for the neighborhood.

Ms. Laquisha Pugh approached the front next and stated that she believes that the kids deserve the park and the basketball goals. A few others from the audience spoke up as well stating that the kids needed the goals, and felt it was important for the neighborhood. One lady noted that she has a 20 year old that might be considered "older" youth, and that he plays college basketball. He would love to have basketball goals in the neighborhood. She also noted that she has a 12 year old that plays basketball for Bolivar Middle School and they play with standard size goals, short goals would not be for them.

Towanda "Shay" Gatlin came to the front next and noted that she did not live in the neighborhood any longer but still considers it home because her childhood home and parents are there. She said that she is not against the basketball goals being put up but wanted to be sure that the goals will be for the youth in the neighborhood. Shay said that she grew up playing basketball in the neighborhood as a kid and when the "older" youth came and took over the basketball courts it was not safe for the other youth. She wants to be sure that the youth's safety is a priority of the neighborhood and city.

Council members then added their input on the basketball goals being put up at Blossom Park. Councilmember Golden suggested putting up shorter goals so the "older" youth would not take over the court. Councilmember Brown asked how long it would take to get a SkyCop at the park. Chief Mike Jones noted that once the dollars are approved, he could get them on order and shouldn't take more than 1-2 months. Councilmember Miller suggested putting up signage stating the hours and rules of the park and basketball court. She also noted that the adults in the neighborhood need to watch the children also and make sure "older" youth are not coming to take over. Ms. Miller stated that parents need to take responsibility and be present for their children. The parents cannot rely on solemnly on the police. Councilmember Williams stated that basketball goals do not create problems, crime, and violence but it is the people that do. He said it will take everyone on board and working together to make the park successful and safe. Mr. Williams also noted that he feels our parks should be enjoyed by everyone and all ages. Councilmember Woods asked the council "would you want a basketball goal in front of your house". Mayor McTizic spoke up and said with 4 boys, he would love to have a basketball goal in front of his house. Councilmember Williams said he feels we need 3 things, safe measures in place, accountability, and structure at the park. Councilmember McKinnie stated that the children need a place to play. The noted that if there are issues then the city can take the goals back down like they did 18 plus years ago but we have to give the youth a chance to act right. Councilmember Brown asked if there had been any issues with the city basketball courts that already have SkyCops. Chief Mike Jones stated that there have a couple but were able to be resolved quickly and easily. He also noted that there are ways to make the parks work safely. If people in the community will call and report issues, it would be a huge help to his police force and that SkyCops are a huge help as well. He also stated that if issues start then put padlocks on the goals.

Ms. Shay Gatlin spoke up again stating that citizens have to do their job as well and manage our own children and assist officers when needed to make their community parks safe. Councilmember Rhea stated that if the city is going to put basketball goals in, then it needs to be regulation height goals and then add more things for the smaller kids to do at the playground. Mayor McTizic added that he feels the council and majority of the citizens in attendance tonight are in agreement that the basketball goals would be a good investment for the youth of the neighborhood.

Standing Committee Reports:

Electric- Mayor McTizic

Bolivar Energy Authority Board met on August 25, 2025 for their regularly monthly meeting. The following action was taken by the board:

- The board approved the opening of a credit card account with the Bank of Fayette. The limit will be \$5,000.00.
- BEA and Aeneas reached the 4,930 customer mark on internet sales with a take rate of 45%.

Utilities- Jim Nuckolls, Director

The Bolivar Utility Board met on September 3, 2025 and discussed the following:

- The altitude valve for the water tower on Lake Street should deliver by mid-September.
- Opened sealed bids for a 40x60 building at the gas shop. The board voted to accept the low bid from Blue Steel Manufacturing.
- The Utility department finished with the annual flushing of fire plugs.
- Gas prices are at \$0.68 for September.

Fire- Chief Lynn Price

- Total Fire Calls- 117 (111 city, 6 county), Civilian Fire Injury-0, Fire Service Injury-0
- EMR Assist Calls- 86 (86 city, 0 county)
- Training Hours- 194
- Smoke Alarms Installed- 12
- Fire Code Inspections- 20
- Public Relations Event- 0

Police- Mayor McTizic

- Calls for service- 709
- Citations- 170
- Accidents- 16 (0 fatal, 6 injuries, 10 property damages)
- Arrest- 104 (29 juvenile, 75 adult)
- Special Events- THSO Safe Streets Task Force- 12
- Training Hours- 296

Parks and Recreation- Mayor McTizic

- The adult volleyball league registration will begin on September 22nd.
- The park/playground at Blossom Lane is almost completed. We will be adding a walking trail in the near future.
- We began the youth soccer league this month and games will begin the week of September 15th.
- The renovations at the fields at West Park continue to come together.

Street and Sanitation- Jerry Mayfield, Superintendent

- Tons taken to landfill: 122.21 for residential ,277.43 for commercial, for a total of 399.64 tons of trash. Brush 52.76 tons.
- Mowing and bush hogging.
- Assisted with the West Park ballfields renovation.
- Dumpster bid opening will be held tonight.

Library- Mayor McTizic

- Financials: Donations, Copies, Fines, and Faxes- \$1,454.74
- Total Programs: 18, Total Participates: 110
- Passive Programs: 2, Total Participates: 134
- Estimated patronage: 572
- Meeting Room: Bookings- 5, Guests- 10
- Circulations Report: Material Circulation- 1,593, Computer Users-290, Wi Fi users- 2,627, READS (Regional E-book and Audio Book download system)-629, History Room-10, Microfilm Reader usage-1

Compliance/Zoning- Mayor McTizic

- Building Consultations-10
- Building Permits Written- 3
- Building Inspections- 3
- Plumbing Inspections- 2
- Mechanical Inspections- 2
- Courtesy Notices Issues- 30

Community Development and Tourism- Mayor McTizic

- Continued preparation for the Bicentennial celebration.
- Began preparations for Small Town. Big Christmas.
- Hosted Timeless Treasures day trip to Shiloh and Hagy's.
- Attended a MGO seminar on city wide software at Southwest Development District.
- The Timbers hosted two events.

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

A. Bid Opening for Dumpsters

The City of Bolivar Sanitation department requested sealed bids for the purchase of their annual 8 yard dumpsters. One bid was submitted from Wastequip in the amount of \$1,078.00 per 8 yard dumpster. Councilmember Williams made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Rhea to accept the bid from Wastequip for \$1,078.00 per 8 yard dumpster. All voted "Aye". The cost was later negotiated to \$1,046.00 per 8 yard dumpster.

B. Bid Award Approval- Sludge Removal

The engineering firm, A2H, sent a letter of recommendation to accept the bid award from Merrell, Bros., Inc for the Water Treatment Plant Improvement- Cell 1 Sludge Removal in the amount of \$720,580.00. This project is part of the TDEC ARP grant. There were 3 bids received: 1. Merrell Bros., Inc- \$720,580.00, 2. Synagro, Inc.- \$744,335.00, 3. Grinder Taber Grinder, Inc.- \$1,256,589.83. Councilmember Williams made a motion, seconded by Councilmember McKinnie to accept the bid from Merrell Bros., Inc for \$720,580.00. All voted "Aye".

C. Bid Award- 40x60 Building at the Gas Shop

The City of Bolivar Utility department requested sealed bids for the construction of a 40x60 building located at the gas shop. The Bolivar Utility Board sends a favorable recommendation to accept the bid from Blue Steel in the amount of \$73,706.18. There were two bids submitted: 1. Blue Steele- \$73,706.18, and Donnie Spence- \$78,350.00. Councilmember McKinnie made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Miller to approve the bid from Blue Steel for \$73,706.18. All voted "Aye".

D. Performance Services Contract

Mayor McTizic presented the council with information for Performance Services. He explained that the company is a Design to Build company, meaning that they build to the client's budget. The mayor noted that using this company to help with grant projects will be at no extra cost to the city, and the fees are part of the grant budget. He also stated that he would like to use them on the recent Rails to Trails Grant that was recently awarded to the city by the state, this grant will be used to pave the trail around Sand Beach Lake. After some discussion, Councilmember Miller made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Rhea to approve to contract work with Performance Services. 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