Minutes
Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Regular Meeting
September 1, 2026

Mayor Staton called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Members Present: Ben Adams, Carol Keith, Jerry Malone, Carolyn Payne, Eric Johnson

Prayer, Alderwoman Keith. Pledge of Allegiance, Chief Depew

Mayor Staton opened the meeting for the following:

Discussion and Action: Board of Mayor and Aldermen Meeting Minutes for June 30, 2026; July 7, 2026; August 3, 2026; August 4, 2026; August 18, 2026; and August 24, 2026

Alderwoman Payne expressed her concerns regarding vagueness of the minutes.

Motion to approve minutes collectively, Vice-Mayor Adams. Second, Alderman Johnson. Vote: Alderwoman Payne, No; Alderman Malone, Yes; Alderwoman Keith, Yes (Abstain on August 18); Vice-Mayor Adams, Yes; Alderman Johnson, Yes. Motion passed.

First Session of Public Comments:

David Harmon, 200 Holston Avenue, spoke about changing the meeting time to 7:00 p.m., signage for Wells Park, and Public Works trucks.

Mr. Frye explained a change to the meeting time would require an ordinance, two (2) readings, and a public hearing.

Discussion and Action: Appointment of the Finance Officer/Town Recorder

Ms. Morris explained that the candidate withdrew his application.

Discussion and Action: Public Hearing and Second Reading - Ordinance 2026-005 - THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE TOWN OF BLUFF CITY'S INTERNET, CYBERSECURITY, AND SENSITIVE INFORMATION POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Mr. Frye read the ordinance and stated it had passed first reading. Mayor Staton opened the public hearing at 6:29 p.m. No speakers. The public hearing was closed at 6:29 p.m.

Ms. Morris explained the ordinance is for cybersecurity procedure for employees.

Motion to approve Ordinance 2026-005, Alderman Johnson. Second, Vice-Mayor Adams. Vote: Alderwoman Payne, Yes; Alderman Malone, Yes; Alderwoman Keith, Yes; Vice-Mayor Adams, Yes; Alderman Johnson, Yes. Motion passed.

Discussion: TriCities IT

Alderwoman Payne described her TriCities IT document request.

Discussion: Audio/Video Equipment

Alderwoman Payne asked that new audio and video equipment be purchased. Ms. Morris stated she was getting quotes. Alderman Johnson agreed that the equipment be updated.

Report from Town Attorney:

Mr. Frye stated $20,000 in delinquent property taxes was collected in the month of August.

Financial Report, Town Report, Department Reports

Ms. Morris read the reports for the Police Department, Public Works, and the Administrative Office.

Austin Smith updated the board on the consent order schedule and the asset management progress. He stated the GIS mapping was close to being completed.

Ms. Morris presented the Financial Report.

Motion to approve the Financial Report, Vice-Mayor Adams. Second, Alderman Johnson. Vote: Alderwoman Payne, Yes; Alderman Malone, Yes; Alderwoman Keith, Yes; Vice-Mayor Adams, Yes; Alderman Johnson, Yes. Motion passed.

Board of Mayor and Aldermen Comments:

Vice-Mayor Ben Adams thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and commented on the tension at recent board meetings.

Alderwoman Carol Keith thanked everybody for coming to the meeting. She stated she would continue to do what is right. She also stated she had not moved despite the rumors. Ms. Keith reminded the citizens that there was no tax increase, and the water and sewer rates did not increase this budget season.

Alderman Jerry Malone gave an update on the Senior Citizens Center. He explained that he had volunteers to get things going until the end of the year so the Town of Bluff City wouldn't need to take over the building.

Alderwoman Carolyn Payne thanked Alderman Malone for his work with the Senior Center. She stated she fights for the citizens, would continue to ask questions, and that every board member should ask questions.

Alderman Eric Johnson stated that he feels everybody on the board wants the best for Bluff City and we might not agree what that is, but that's okay. We can we can agree to disagree. Mr. Johnson also asked for everyone to be neighborly.

Mayor Staton thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She thanked Mr. Moultrie and Chief Depew for success during the month, as well as Ms. Morris.

Old Business:

Alderwoman Payne asked that the board begin working on updating the Charter. The board discussed having a Town Hall.

New Business: None.

Second Session of Public Comments:

James Roberts, 231 Lakeview Drive, stated people he's spoken to are pretty happy with Ms. Morris. He also spoke about Charter change procedures.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Lori Staton

Lori Staton, Mayor
This 1st day of September 2026

Krista Morris, Town Manager