

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA
March 12, 2013**

The Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia met in regular session March 12, 2013 at 6 p.m. in the Municipal Boardroom. Present were Mayor Linda K. Whalen; Directors Tom Blevins, Mary Frances Brammer, Deb Sarver and Pete Sternloff; City Manager Jim Ferguson; City Attorney Brian Cochran and City Clerk Helen Mitchell.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE

The Invocation was given by Director Mary Frances Brammer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Linda Whalen welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES

Minutes of the February 26, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved as presented on a motion by Director Pete Sternloff, seconded by Director Mary Frances Brammer.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

City Manager Jim Ferguson recognized David Staples as being an outstanding employee and presented him with a merchant gift card in recognition of his service to the City of Bluefield.

City Attorney Brian Cochran discussed that in 1996 the Town of Ceredo passed an ordinance completely banning pit bulls, and this ordinance was upheld based on safety, public health, and types of police power issues that municipalities are authorized to pass ordinances for. The Town of Ceredo did not have any prior pit bull ordinance, so they allowed their residents to come in and register their pit bulls with the city. The city residents were given a period of time after the ordinance to come into compliance with the new law.

Attorney Cochran said, "We do have ordinances on the books that require owners of pit bulls to register them with our police department." "We have the option possibly of passing an ordinance completely banning any pit bull that is not currently registered with the City police," said Cochran.

To be more consistent with the ordinance that was upheld by the State Supreme Court, the city could give pet owners 10 days after a new ordinance was enacted to register their pit bulls. Attorney Cochran said, "Currently pit bulls are permitted to be in the City of Bluefield, but under very strict regulations, this new proposed ordinance would completely ban any pit bulls in the future. The current ones that are here and in compliance with the law can remain."

The Board requested Attorney Cochran to draft an ordinance completely banning pit bulls from the City of Bluefield.

City Manager Jim Ferguson discussed that there are new procedures in effect in the Inspection Department regarding building permits. The following procedures will be in effect immediately:

1. All applications will be screened by the Treasurer's Dept. to determine if there are any past due fees on the property, contractor licensure, or the company performing the work.
2. The permit application will be processed if the fees and license are okay.
3. Code Enforcement will maintain office hours to obtain permits between 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. A simple building permit can be obtained at any time during normal business hours.

City Manager Ferguson explained that these procedures have been put into effect to streamline things at City Hall and to become more efficient.

ACTION ITEMS

Director Tom Blevins moved to approve the payment application #7 to Swope Construction Company in the amount of \$388,194.61 for the demolition of the Scott Street Parking Building, seconded by Director Pete Sternloff. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Mayor Linda Whalen discussed that a recommendation had been made by the Parks & Recreation Director to create a Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

City Manager Ferguson explained that this advisory board will meet the first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Bluefield Municipal Youth Center, and applicant applications for this board will be reviewed and selected by the City Board.

Director Tom Blevins moved to approve the City of Bluefield Parks and Recreation Department Advisory Board creation following the Board Organization format that has been provided to us and that the City Board approve any applications, seconded by Director Pete Sternloff. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

A motion to approve the expenditure to Ingenuity Corporation of Pelham, Alabama for \$10,000 for development and implementation of the City website was made by Director Pete Sternloff, seconded by Director Tom Blevins. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

The agenda continued with unanimous approval for the City of Bluefield to act as applicant for a Jag Grant proposal for the Children's Home Society of West Virginia for the WE Can mentoring program in our community. Motion to approve was made by Director Tom Blevins, seconded by Director Pete Sternloff.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARD AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Director Mary Frances Brammer thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Director Brammer asked for everyone to say something good about the city, and to support the Bluefield Beavers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Art Riley representing Downtown Merchants asked questions regarding the balance of payments on the Scott Street Parking Garage.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER

- "Casino" Night at the Summit - Gary Bowling's House of Art - March 23, 2012 – 6 p.m.-10 p.m. - Adm. \$10.00
- The GBCC 13th Annual Four Seasons Women's Conference - David's at the Club - March 19th 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Sesquicentennial - 150 years of WV Celebration - Bluefield Area Arts hosting a celebration Sat. April 13th -10 a.m.- 4 p.m. – No Admission Fee

Mayor Linda Whalen advised that anyone interested in signing up to be on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board should pick up an application at the Parks & Recreation Department or City Hall and return it to Director Dwight Godwin.

Hearing no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Helen L. Mitchell, City Clerk

Linda K. Whalen, Mayor