

A Public Hearing was held at 12 p.m. in the Municipal Boardroom, for the purpose of public comment on the proposed BOND ORDINANCE for the Sanitary Board for the City of Bluefield. Mayor Linda Whalen called the Public Hearing to order for the purpose of public comment on the Ordinance for the Sanitary Board for the City of Bluefield. Attorney Brian Cochran read the proposed BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF ITS SEWER REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2013 A AND SEWER REVENUE BONDS, SERIES B (COLLECTIVELY, THE "BONDS").

Art Riley said he was not against the proposed Bond Ordinance but wanted to clarify that the bonds were going to be "self paid" and there would be no rate increase to the citizens of Bluefield. Shannon Bailey, Executive Director of the Bluefield Sanitary Board, stated that was correct there would be no rate increase. A monthly payment will be made on the \$1.6 million at 0% interest with a 0.5% administration fee. The actual amounts will be lower than this after DEP approval since the bids came in lower.

There was not anyone else wishing to speak for or against the proposed ordinance. A motion was made by Director Pete Sternloff to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Director Deb Sarver. Motion carried.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA
May 14, 2013**

The Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia met in regular session May 14, 2013, at 12 p.m. in the Municipal Boardroom. Present were Mayor Linda K. Whalen; Directors Mary Frances Brammer, Deb Sarver, Pete Sternloff and Tom Blevins; City Manager Jim Ferguson; City Attorney Brian Cochran; City Treasurer Ken Mulkey and City Clerk Bobbi Kersey.

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 April 23, 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 gave the following reports:

- Jeffery Alex Ellison was introduced as the new Parking Enforcement Officer. Jeff will be a full time officer and started work May 13, 2013.
- Clean Sweep was upgraded this year to include curbside service. Two zones have been completed and the City of Bluefield has collected 140 tons of garbage, lawn debris and brush. Mr. Ferguson commended the City Crews for their hard work.
- The Interpretative Walkway Groundbreaking will take place on May 24. A press release will go out on Thursday. The public is welcome to attend. This is a significant event for the city.

- The Colonial Intermodal Naming Contest ended May 15. A handout with a list of over a 100 submitted names was given to board members. Board members will choose the new name and may reveal the name at the Interpretative Walkway Groundbreaking.
- The City is in partnership with the Bluefield Beavers for the 8k run to take place during the Mountain Festival. Proceeds will go towards the "Blessings in a Back Pack" established by the Trinity United Methodist Church. This run will begin at Bluefield High School and finish at Mitchell Stadium. Coinciding with the 8k run will be a "Fun Run" to raise money for Project Graduation. Bluefield High School will have a day care center at the school to take care of children while parents are participating in the 8k run.
- Portabella's Italian Restaurant to be located in the Old Southern Office Supply Building on Bluefield Avenue is planning to open in July. There will be a parking lot next to the building.
- K & M Automotive located on Spruce Street have announced it is going to erect a new building on Bluefield Avenue.
- McDonald's has done significant renovations to the restaurant building located on Bluefield Ave. Hardees's did a remodel several months ago.
- The Kidney Dialysis Building, on Bluefield Avenue, is getting closer to completion and K-Mart on Cumberland Road has applied for a \$40 thousand building permit for improvements to their building.
- The Scott Street Open Air Parking Center is closer to completion. Paving will occur upon completion of the pervious concrete project. The decorative railings are almost complete, the guardrails are completed and fire hydrants have been installed as well as the landscaping beams. Weather permitting; it should be open by the end of May.
- Congratulations to Fire Chief Jeff Warden and the Department for acquiring an AFG Grant in the amount of \$71,986.00
- Dwight Godwin, Director of Parks and Recreation, presented plans and activities for the summer months. This summer the Recreation Department will offer several one week theme camps beginning June 17-Aug. 2, for a half day. For more information, citizens may call the Recreation Center. Director Godwin hopes to have all the area playgrounds ready by the middle of June.

ACTION ITEMS

Mayor Linda Whalen presented the Third Reading of an Ordinance Authorizing Sewer Revenue Bonds:

THIRD READING OF BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONS, BETTERMENTS, AND IMPROVEMENTS, TO THE EXISTING SEWERAGE SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD AND THE FINANCING OF THE COST THEREOF, NOT OTHERWISE PROVIDED, THROUGH THE ISSUANCE BY THE CITY OF NOT MORE THAN \$1,600,000 IN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL OF SEWER REVENUE BONDS. SERIES 2013 A (WEST VIRGINIA SRF PROGRAM); AND NOT MORE THAN \$350,000 IN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF SEWER REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2013 B (WEST VIRGINIA SRF PROGRAM/GREEN) PROVIDING FOR THE RIGHTS AND REMEDIES OF A SECURITY FOR THE REGISTERED OWNERS OF SUCH BONDS, AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF ALL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS; APPROVING, RATIFYING AND CONFIRMING A BOND PURCHASE AGREEMENT RELATING TO SUCH BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE SALE AND PROVIDING FOR THE TERMS AND PROVISIONS OF SUCH BONDS AND ADOPTING OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING THERETO.

First Reading: April 9, 2013
Second Reading: April 23, 2013
Public Hearing and Third Reading: May 14, 2013

Attest:

Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

Linda K. Whalen, Mayor

Mayor Whalen presented a request for approval for payment for the Scott Street Parking Building Replacement Project in the amount of \$115,704.48. Director Pete Sternloff moved to approve the request; Director Mary Frances Brammer seconded the motion. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Mayor Whalen presented a request for approval for payment for the Herb Sims Recreation Center restroom renovations in the amount of \$24,500.00. This money is part of the grant provided by the Hugh Shott Foundation. Director Tom Blevins moved to approve the request; Director Mary Frances Brammer seconded the motion. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Director Tom Blevins stated he had been part of a discussion earlier concerning the purchase of a new sign at the Herb Sims Recreation Center. Director Blevins requested the Board investigate what the new sign would look like and how the sign would fit into the new renovations at the Recreation Center

Fire Chief Jeff Warden congratulated and was very appreciative of his men and the many hours they worked in order to receive the AFG Grant. The quote request was for a 10hp 14 cubic feet per minute breathing air compressor and a four cylinder fill station. He received three quotes from three different vendors. ABC Fire Services LLC provided a quote for a SCOTT Breathing Air Compressor and Fill Center at a cost of \$31,700. SCOTT also is the manufacturer of the department's self-contained breathing apparatus. These compressors are assembled in Greensboro, NC. Of that \$31,700.00, the City of Bluefield has a matching bid of 5% or \$1,500.

Mayor Whalen presented a request for approval for the purchase of a Breathing Air Compressor for the City of Bluefield of Fire Department, using allocated grant funds, from ABC fire Services LLC in the amount of \$31,700.00. Director Pete Sternloff moved to approve the request; Director Deb Sarver seconded the motion. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

City Manager Jim Ferguson reported that it is time to order equipment for the playgrounds to be ready for summer. The money would come from the June O. Shott Foundation. The equipment would go to East River Playground and Wayne Street Playground. The City has a set of swings and is working to address the needs of all six-area playgrounds.

Mayor Whalen made a request for approval to purchase equipment in the following amounts: Playground I- \$18,359.65, Playground II- \$19,716.00, and Playground III- \$1,907.91. Director Mary Frances Brammer moved to approve the request; Director Pete Sternloff seconded. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Mayor Whalen read a recommendation from the Bluefield Planning Commission:
**AN ORDINANCE SUBDIVIDING LOT 1, SECTION 814, PARCEL 10,
LOCATED ON JEFFERSON AND STOWER STREETS, WITHIN**

THE MUNICIPAL LIMITS OF THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD

Attorney Cochran stated this is a private lot that has a house and a duplex. The owner of the property has requested the Bluefield Planning Commission to approve a subdivision of that lot. Each structure would then be considered on a separate lot. The Bluefield Planning Commission approved the request.

Attorney Cochran presented the following proposed ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUBDIVIDING OF A PARCEL OF REAL ESTATE IN THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD FROM ONE PARCEL TO TWO PARCELS AS SHOWN ON THE EXHIBIT HERETO ATTACHED AND DECLARED TO BE A PART OF THIS ORDINANCE AS IF THE SAME WAS FULLY SET FORTH HEREIN

WHEREAS, Kathryn Riffle petitioned the Bluefield Planning Commission for the subdivision of Parcel 10, Tax Map 33, Lot 1, Section 814, located on Jefferson Street for the purpose of providing two parcels of land; and

WHEREAS, this property is bounded on the North by Stowers Street, bounded on the East by Jefferson Street, bounded on the South by Tax Map 33, Parcel 11, Lot 2, Section 814 Jefferson, owned by Herbert L. and Susan Graham, 1604 Jefferson Street, and bounded on the West by a 10’ Right of Way.

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, May 8, 2013, the Planning Commission of the City of Bluefield, sitting as the Zoning Commission of said City, held public hearing upon and thereafter made its recommendation to the Board of Directors of said City that this property be divided into Two Parcels.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD, MERCER COUNTY West Virginia, IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED AS FOLLOWS:

Parcel 10, Tax Map 33, Lot 1, Section 814, located on Jefferson Street, as shown on the attached map is hereby divided into Two Parcels, consisting of Tract "B" Part Lot 1, and Tract "A," Remainder Lot 1.

FIRST READING:

SECOND READING AND ADOPTION:

FILED:

RECORDED:

Mayor

City Clerk

A motion to appoint, Kelly Knowles, 117 Oakhurst Avenue, Bluefield, WV 24701, to a 5-year term on the Fine Arts Commission was made by Director Pete Sternloff, seconded by Director Tom Blevins. Unanimously approved and so ordered. (Term expiring May 14, 2018)

Mayor Whalen read into the record a Proclamation from the West Virginia Community Educational Outreach Service (CEOS).

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the West Virginia Community Educational Outreach Services (CEOS) and Mercer County CEOS are volunteers with a Mission to broaden SERVICE in our COMMUNITY, continues lifelong EDUCATION to strengthen individuals and families, and provide an OUTREACH for leadership.

WHEREAS, in partnership with West Virginia University Extension Service, the CESO pledges that its purpose of Education will assist us in meeting the needs of a changing and diverse society.

WHEREAS, for the significant service and contribution to the well-being of family and community.

BE IT KNOWN that the Bluefield City Board hereby proclaims May 19 – 25 as

COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH SERVICE WEEK

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, given under our hand and seal.

Linda K. Whalen, Mayor

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARD AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Mayor Whalen reported the City of Bluefield has an opportunity to apply for the "home rule" program. Mayor Whalen requested City Manager Jim Ferguson, City Attorney Brian Cochran and Redevelopment & Planning Director Joshua Cline to determine how to proceed with the application.

Director Tom Blevins stated for the record that he was not able to attend the April 23 meeting but he would have opposed the pit bull ban. He said he felt the city had a "very strong ordinance" already in place and this issue has caused a distraction for the City of Bluefield. The city needs to enforce the ordinances already in place. Director Blevins commented that he felt the city is doing many positive things, but the city has "gotten off message by spending our political capital needlessly here." He went on to say the issue of a grocery store was one way the city has gotten off target. He would like to see the city back on track and talking about economic development.

Mayor Whalen said she respectfully disagreed with Director Blevins's assessment. Mayor Whalen said that Director Blevins had been out of town for several meetings and perhaps was "out of touch" with the many positive things happening around our city. Mayor Whalen said, "Because the media chose to give pit bulls so much attention, one might think that was the only thing going on in this city.

When looking at the local media and social media web sites, a person would think the city dealt with one situation or problem at a time. While the pit bull situation did garner a lot of media, mostly in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph, there were other things happening in Bluefield. There is a lot of momentum with economic development. We have had numerous meetings and updates on every phase of our economic development and it is all very positive. Work is underway on buildings along Commerce Street. The city is working with the Development Authority of Mercer County to identify business possibilities for the city's

property along John Nash Boulevard. The City Manager hosts a monthly Breakfast to help local business people share ideas among themselves and the city. The city is also working with Bluefield State College on economic development." Mayor Whalen stated she sees things as "positive," when speaking of Bluefield.

Director Mary Frances Brammer wanted to thank everyone for taking time from their busy schedule to come to the meeting. Director Brammer told of a summer program that will take place at the Wade Center called "Energy Express." The program is for student's kindergarten to fourth grade. This program is a bridge between the end of school and the start of school next fall. The program will begin in June, is sponsored by West Virginia University and is free of charge to students. Call the Wade Center for more information.

Director Pete Sternloff said he would like to echo Mayor Whalen about the economic development in the city. He stated the City Board has been very active. In the fall, Bluefield State may begin holding classes' downtown along with their art/cultural events. The City of Bluefield has hired a redevelopment director. Director Sternloff said he has met new members of the Downtown Merchants, the CAT team from Frontier – Community Action Team, CASE- volunteers who are working with the Fine Arts Commission, and various other interested citizens who are working in community.

Mayor Whalen mentioned the Bluefield Preservation Society is planning a Lemonade Festival the last weekend in August. This event will coincide with the Bluefield High School vs Graham High School Football game. A full day of activities is scheduled including a parade and two bands. It is going to be a huge event for Bluefield and the public is invited to get involved.

Mayor Whalen announced West Virginia Living has a new magazine called "EXPLORE" for the Summit, the Boy Scout Camp and Bluefield has four pages in the magazine. She invited everyone to pick up a copy. The City is proud to be a part of the magazine.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Art Riley, representing Downtown Merchants, reported the 15th year of concerts will kick off May 24. The Downtown Merchants partner with the Bluefield Daily Telegraph to put on these free concerts.

The Annual Street Fair will be August 2 and 3rd in downtown Bluefield. There will be two concerts, a dog show, a downhill derby, a charity auction and many other activities. The Downtown Merchants Association will partner with the Fine Arts Commission for this event. People who say there is nothing to do in Bluefield are just not paying attention.

Craig Nash, owner of the old Southern Office Supply Building, thanked the Board for coming down to tour the new restaurant. He expressed how easy it had been, through the help of the City, in opening a new business.

Mr. Dillon expressed his concern about the need for a grocery store and questioned the homes being built by CASE. Director Sternloff and Mayor Whalen assured Mr. Dillon the new homes that are to be built by CASE are going to be very nice housing. The Bluefield Beautification Commission is working to make that a site that will welcome people into the city.

Mr. Charles Myles questioned why citizens are paying B&O taxes. Mayor Whalen assured Mr. Myles that only businesses pay the B&O tax. Citizens of Bluefield pay a city fee for garbage, fire and street.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER

- East River Mountain Town Band, Pipestem Resort State Park Amphitheater, May 25 at 8 pm (ALL CONCERTS ARE FREE)
- Region I has requested citizens and businesses of the City of Bluefield to test their internet speed. Please follow these directions:

- 1) Go to www.regiononepdc.org
- 2) Click on the "Other" tab on the left-hand side
- 3) Scroll down to the bottom of the page and see "To take the WV Broadband Mapping Program internet speed test click [here](#)."
- 4) Click the here button to take the speed test.

Director Pete Sternloff moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Director Deb Sarver. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Hearing no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Bobbi H. Kersey, City Clerk

Linda K. Whalen, Mayor