

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA
May 28, 2013**

The Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia met in regular session May 28, 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; City Treasurer Ken Mulkey and City Clerk Bobbi Kersey.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE

The Invocation was given by Gene Wyatt followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Linda Whalen welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES

Minutes of the May 14, 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 city wide updates:

- The City of Bluefield participated in the first Lemonade Day West Virginia. Bill Thompson, representative of West Virginia Workforce, explained the origins and educational value of students participating in this national program. Mr. Thompson presented awards/ participation certificates to Bluefield Intermediate School, Bluewell Elementary School, and Lashmeet Elementary School.
- The Railroad and Coal Heritage Interpretive Walkway groundbreaking ceremony was held on Friday, May 24th. The ceremony is the beginning of numerous revitalization projects planned for the downtown area this summer.
- The Scott Street Open Air Parking Center ribbon cutting ceremony was Tuesday, May 28th.
- Bluefield Fire Department and Bluefield Sanitary Board demonstrated the storm water management system. This "green" system is the first of its kind in Southern West Virginia. Scott Street Parking is reserved parking and a "hand full" of spaces is still available. This will free up 143 spaces for free street parking.
- The Bluefield Preservation Society has plans for interior renovations for several buildings in downtown Bluefield. The plans include façade and streetscape projects. The public is invited to Lemonade Day Festival on August 31st.
- The City Board will vote on the first reading of an ordinance providing for traffic pattern changes on Raleigh and Commerce Streets to create more parking and enhance the view of the depot district.
- The City of Bluefield is working with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection to rid Mercer County of old tires. June 8, at the Bluefield City Park from 8 am to 4 pm citizens can dispose of up to 10 tires and rims. Only tires 16 inches or less will be accepted. Citizens are required to live in Mercer County and must have a valid West Virginia Drivers ID. No haulers or businesses are allowed to participate.
- The Bluefield Sanitation Department schedule for the following holidays:
Flag Day – June 14th – normal garbage day
West Virginia Day– June 20th – Thursday's regular garbage will be collected on Wed., June 19th
Fourth of July – Thursday's regular garbage will be collected on Wed. July 3rd
- Two homes on Yadkin Street have been demolished.
- Josh Cline, Redevelopment and Planning Director, reported on the success of the City's partnership with Bluefield High School's 8k run during the Mountain Festival. Proceeds will

go toward the "Blessings in a Back Pack" and Project Graduation. Betsy Shaw and Michael Collins were commended for organizing the event.

- The West Virginia Mountaineer visited Cumberland Heights Early Learning Center and Whitethorn Primary School as part of the West Virginia Coaches Caravan. The Mountaineer read to the students and did push ups. Pictures were passed out to the City Board.
- The Colonial Intermodal Naming Contest Winner will be announced at the opening of the Interpretative Walkway. Over 130 possible names have been submitted.
- The Mayor of Norfolk, Marcus Wilkes, approached City Manager Ferguson concerning the Clark Hill section of Norfolk. Several residents had clogged sewer lines. Norfolk could not find anyone who had the equipment to repair the problem. Shannon Bailey, Bluefield Sanitary Board Director, offered assistance and repaired the problem. Mayor Wilkes expressed great appreciation for the City's assistance.
- The work of the Sanitation Department during project Clean Sweep was praised. Two hundred and sixty tons of household garbage was collected. This amount was one hundred tons more than collected in 2011.
- Chat and Chew with the City Manager has moved to a new time and date, Monday at 5:30 pm. There are three scheduled for the summer months: June 17, July 27 and September 23. Chat and Chew is an opportunity for local business people to meet with the City Manager.
- K and M Automotive Center have committed to stay in Bluefield, relocate and build a new building. Groundbreaking should be the week of June 3. The location will be across from the T and T Pontiac.
- The Warlick Building will be getting some cosmetic enhancements to the exterior including window tinting and posters.
- Work continues on the Portabello Italian Restaurant on Princeton Avenue and it is expected to open this summer.
- Work on the West Bridge new home development continues. Eight to nine new housing facilities are being built by CASE.
- The City of Bluefield expects to bid out work, for a gymnasium floor, in the City Auditorium within the next few weeks. Mayor Whalen stated that the City of Bluefield has received many compliments about the new restrooms and improvements.
- Other infrastructures improvements are being made by the City including AEP and the West Virginia American Water Company.

ACTION ITEMS

Attorney Brian Cochran presented and reviewed the First Reading of an Ordinance Authorizing the City of Bluefield to Enter into the Lease Amendment No. 2 with Citizens Telecommunications of West Virginia. Director Tom Blevins made a motion to approve the First Reading of the ordinance, seconded by Director Pete Sternloff. Unanimously approved and so moved.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD TO ENTER INTO THE LEASE AMENDMENT NO.2 WITH CITIZENS TELECOMMUNICATIONS OF WEST VIRGINIA

WHEREAS, the City of Bluefield and with Citizens Telecommunications of West Virginia previously entered into a Lease dated May 18, 2011 in which the City leased to the Tenant two parking lots described in the original Lease as the Leased Premises; and

WHEREAS, City and Tenant entered into Lease Amendment Number One, dated July 1, 2012, and agreed to a one-year renewal and 3% increase in "Rent"; and

WHEREAS, the City and the Tenant desire to renew the Lease and amend certain terms in that agreement; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the City of Bluefield is the duly elected Board of Directors thereof.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Bluefield is hereby authorized to enter into Lease Amendment Number 2 with Citizens Telecommunications of West Virginia under the terms and conditions described in the attached Lease Amendment No. 2.

Passes and adopted by the Board of Directors, the _____ day of _____, 2013.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

Mayor Linda K. Whalen

1ST. READING _____

2ND READING _____

PUBLIC HEARING _____

Mayor Linda Whalen presented the First Reading of an Ordinance Authorizing Traffic changes in Downtown Bluefield. Director Tom Blevins made a motion to approve the First Reading of the ordinance, seconded by Director Pete Sternloff. Unanimously approved and so moved.

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR TRAFFIC PATTERN CHANGES ON RALEIGH AND COMMERCE STREETS FROM TWO-WAY TO ONE-WAY, FROM FEDERAL STREET TO SCOTT STREET

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 40-11(a)(2) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bluefield, the City Manager of the City of Bluefield recommends and amendment to the Bluefield traffic control map regulating traffic on Raleigh and Commerce streets; and

WHEREAS, the City manager recommends that traffic on Raleigh and Commerce Streets be changed from two-way to one-way, as described on the attached map; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors finds that the City Manager’s recommendation is in the best interests of the City, its residents, and the businesses located in the area affected; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the City of Bluefield is the duly elected Board of Directors thereof.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to West Virginia Code § 8-12-5(4), the Board of Directors hereby amends the traffic control map of the City of Bluefield by changing the traffic patterns of Raleigh and Commerce Streets from Federal Street to Scott Street, from two-way to one-way, as described on the attached map.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Directors, this _____ day of _____, 2013.

Mayor Linda K. Whalen

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

1ST READING _____

2ND READING _____

PUBLIC HEARING _____

Mayor Linda Whalen presented a Second Reading of an Ordinance requesting for the subdivision of a lot located within city limits. Director Pete Sternloff motion to approve the Second Reading; Director Mary Frances Brammer seconded the motion. Unanimously approved and so moved.

AN ORDINANCE SUBDIVIDING LOT 1, SECTION 814, PARCEL 10, LOCATED ON JEFFERSON AND STOWER STREETS, WITHINN THE MUNICIPAL LIMITS OF THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD

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 Rittle 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 8th, 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

Parsons Brinkerhoff Representatives gave a presentation regarding the status of the Intermodal/Interpretative Walkway Project. Visual displays and handouts were made available during the presentation. This is a combined transit and economic project.

Mayor Linda Whalen presented a request for authorization for the City of Bluefield to Execute Task Order No. 4 with Parsons Brinkerhoff, Inc., Pursuant to the June 7, 2010 agreement. Director Pete Sternloff made a motion to authorize the request, seconded by Director Mary Frances Brammer. Unanimously approved and so moved.

Mayor Linda Whalen presented a request for authorization for the City of Bluefield to enter into a one-year Equipment Rental and Propane Purchase Agreement with Highland Propane for the Bluefield Area Transit. Director Pete Sternloff made a motion to authorize the request, seconded by Director Mary Frances Brammer. Unanimously approved and so moved.

Mayor Linda Whalen presented a request for authorization of the transfer of \$517,104.50 from the General Fund to the Stabilization Fund. Director Mary Frances Brammer made a motion to authorize the request, seconded by Director Deb Sarver. Unanimously approved and so moved

Mayor Linda Whalen presented a request for authorization of the transfer of \$74,533.29 from the General Fund to the Mitchell Stadium Field Account. Director Mary Frances Brammer made a motion to authorize the request, seconded by Director Pete Sternloff. Unanimously approved and so moved

Mayor Linda Whalen presented a request for authorization of the transfer of \$105,193.13 from the General Fund to the Street Paving Account. Director Pete Sternloff made a motion to authorize the request, seconded by Director Tom Blevins. Unanimously approved and so moved

Mayor Linda Whalen made a request to schedule a Public Hearing on June 25, at 5:00 pm Appalachian Power Company's Franchise Application. Director Tom Blevins made a motion to accept the time and date as requested; seconded by Director Peter Sternloff. Unanimously approved and so moved

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARD AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Director Deb Sarver commended the work of the Street Department during Clean Sweep.

Director Tom Blevins said the Scott Street Open Air Facility was a beautiful addition and has help to revitalize the downtown area that section of town. He thanked everyone who helped on the project.

Director Pete Sternloff commended the Riley-Vest Post #9 of the American Legion ant their participation in the Memorial Day Activities in Chicory Square. Judge Derek Swope gave an incredible speech.

Director Sternloff suggested that the City pursue an online notification system which could be used to alert citizens about emergency and other municipal activities/events.

Director Mary Frances Brammer thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She stated she was very proud that the city is working with the schools.

Mayor Linda Whalen thanked the Bluefield Chamber of Commerce and the City workers for a successful Mountain Festival.

She praised City Manager Jim Ferguson for his participation in the ribbon cutting ceremony at Scott Street Open Air Parking Facility. The Mayor reviewed the history with the Parking Building and how and why the decision was made to demolish the building and replace it with an open air facility. She assured the citizens that the Board had pursued all potential funding to refurbish the parking garage and there was none available. The decision was then made to replace the building.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Art Riley, representing Downtown Merchants, reported the following

- Complemented the New Parking Facility
- Asked about the status of City Website. Josh Cline reported Website would begin next week
- Expressed concern regarding communication of activities to citizens.

- Reminded Board of upcoming concerts
- Suggested that the Board consider noon meeting be moved back to 6:00 pm
- Reminded all citizens to vote Election Day, June 4

Flora Inscore expressed concerns about her neighborhood including traffic and garbage. City Manager Jim Ferguson said he would look into the problem.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER

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 Kersey, City Clerk

Linda Whalen, Mayor