

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA
JUNE 25, 2013**

The Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia met in regular session June 25, 2013 at 6 p.m. in the Municipal Boardroom. Present were Directors Pete Sternloff, Mary Frances Brammer and Deb Sarver; City Manager Jim Ferguson; City Attorney Brian Cochran; City Treasurer Ken Mulkey and City Clerk Bobbi Kersey. Mayor Linda Whalen and Director Tom Blevins were not in attendance.

INVOCATION / PLEDGE

The Invocation was given by Gene Wyatt, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Minutes of the June 11, 2013 meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Director Mary Frances Brammer, seconded by Director Deb Sarver.

Minutes of the June 11, 2013 Public Hearing were approved as presented on a motion by Director Deb Sarver, seconded by Director Mary Frances Brammer.

Minutes of the June 10, 2013 Board of Canvassers were approved as presented on a motion by Director Mary Frances Brammer, seconded by Director Deb Sarver.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Manager Ferguson asked for an update from Parks & Recreation. Director Dwight Godwin reported the 2012 summer camp programs began June 17th with a basketball camp and an art camp. Different camps are scheduled for the next seven weeks. Pre-registration is required and a minimal cost to cover materials. Director Godwin stated the new equipment for the Wayne Street Playground and East River Playground should be installed by next week. Playgrounds should be open by the weekend. Mr. Godwin invited everyone to the Second Chance concert on Saturday June 29, 2013 at Mitchell Stadium. This year's concert will feature music from Justin Moore, Craig Campbell and Shooter Jennings. Plus, special guests Folk Soul Revival and DeeJay Silver. Director Godwin reported the restrooms at the Youth Center are completed and bids for the gym floor will be received until June 28th @ 4:00 p.m.
- Manager Ferguson asked for an update from Bluefield Fire Department. Firefighter David Thompson reported two fighters have purchased helmet cameras. The helmet cams are a valuable tool for educational training, visual tactics and fire investigations. Thompson said the videos can be used to train both incoming firefighters as well as members of the public about fire safety. Thompson said the money used to purchase the cameras come out of the pocket of the firefighters, not from the department's budget. He added the cameras will be a great addition to the "Fire Tool Box."
- Manager Ferguson asked for an update from Bluefield Police Department. Police Chief Dillow reported the Hugh H. Shott Foundation is matching a grant, awarded to the police department, for a total of \$15,562.00 to purchase protective vests and rifle ammunition. Chief Dillow thanked Redevelopment and Planning Director Josh Cline and Mr. Wilkenson for their help and support.
- Regular scheduled trash pickup for July 4 will be moved to Friday, July 5.

- Sixty-eight (68) new building permits have been authorized for improvements in the city in the past month.

ACTION ITEMS

Director Deb Sarver made a motion to bring "off the table" the Second Reading of an ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR TRAFFIC CHANGES ON RALEIGH AND COMMERCE STREET FROM A TWO-WAY TO ONE WAY, FROM FEDERAL STREET OT SCOTT STREET, seconded by Director Mary Frances Brammer. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

City Manager Jim Ferguson stated changing traffic patterns in Downtown Bluefield would allow for more parking spaces, ease of parking and enhance the Depot District. City Manager Ferguson had a display showing the proposed traffic changes. City Manager stated concerns voiced at the public hearing, June 11, had been taken into consideration. A no left turn sign will be placed on Scott Street at the intersection of Commerce Street. Commerce Street and Raleigh Streets would become one-way streets. A "Do Not Enter" sign would be erected at the end of Commerce Street facing Federal Street. Additional signs will be erected as necessary to enforce the new traffic patterns.

Director Eva McGuire, from the Craft Memorial Library, stated this would be an ideal situation and the Book Mobile already uses this route.

City Engineer Tony Wagner stated he had spoken with Vickie Mays and Bob Buzzo representing First Community Bank and both were open to the traffic changes.

With no further discussion, Director Pete Sternloff read the Second Reading of an Ordinance to change traffic patterns in Bluefield,

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

Director Mary Frances Brammer made a motion to approve the Second Reading of the Ordinance, with a thirty-day (30) amendment in order to purchase and erect signs; seconded by Director Deb Sarver. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Director Deb Sarver made a motion to approve the Second Reading of an ORDINANCE GRANTING APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY, D/B/A AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER NON-EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE, seconded by Director Mary Frances Brammer. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

**ORDINANCE GRANTING APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY, D/B/A
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER NON-EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE**

WHEREAS, by an Ordinance adopted by the Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia, on _____, 2013* and approved by the Mayor of the City on _____, 2013, the Franchise for an electric light, heat and power transmission and distribution system in the City of Bluefield, West Virginia, was thereby proposed, the same having been advertised once a week for two consecutive weeks in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph, a newspaper of general circulation in said City, and

WHEREAS, APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY, d/b/a AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER, has made application for such Franchise, and Board of Directors has duly reported recommending the grant of the Franchise, it is., therefore,

RESOLVED, that the following Ordinance be and same is hereby adopted.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, State of West Virginia and it is hereby ordained by the authority of the same that:

SECTION I

Appalachian Power Company, d/b/a American "Electric Power, its successors and assigns (hereinafter called "Grantee") is hereby granted the right, privilege, franchise and authority to acquire, construct, maintain and operate in, above, under, across and along the streets, thoroughfares, alleys, bridges and public places (as the same now exist or may hereinafter be laid out), of the City of Bluefield, County of Mercer, State of West Virginia, lines for the distribution and transmission of electric energy either by means of overhead or underground conductors, with all necessary or desirable appurtenances for the purpose of supplying and distributing electric energy to said City and the inhabitants therefore, and persons or corporations beyond the limits thereof, for light, heat, power or any other purpose or purposes for which electric energy is now or may hereafter be used and for the transmission of the same through or across the City.

SECTION II

Said lines and appurtenances shall be constructed in a manner that shall not unreasonably interfere with the traveling public in its use of the streets, thoroughfares, alleys, bridges and public places (sometimes hereinafter referred to as streets.)

SECTION III

The rights, privileges and franchise hereby granted shall be in force for a period of thirty years from the date of the passage of this Ordinance. This franchise shall automatically renew on each successive anniversary thereafter, unless the Mayor or Grantee shall provide a written termination notice to the other party at least six months prior to the expiration of the then current term. The rights, privileges and franchise hereby granted shall not be construed to be exclusive and the Board of Directors of said City hereby reserves the right to grant similar rights, privileges and franchise to any other person or persons, firm or firms, corporation or corporations.

SECTION IV

The granting of this Franchise is made upon the express condition that the exercise of the same shall be subject to such regulations as may be adopted by the West Virginia Public Service Commission or such other body upon which said State may hereafter confer regulatory powers over like corporations for the purpose of securing efficiency of public service at reasonable rates from said Grantee, its successors and assigns, in said City.

SECTION V

Said Warrantee shall save the City harmless from any and all liability arising in any way from Grantee's negligence in the erection, maintenance or operation of said lines for the distribution of electric energy.

SECTION VI

Whenever said Grantee shall begin the erection of any lines or equipment, it shall promptly and diligently prosecute the work to completion and leave the streets, thoroughfares, alleys, bridges and public places where such work is done in as good condition or repair as before such work was commenced.

SECTION VII

Whenever, in this Ordinance, either City or Grantee is referred to, it shall *be* deemed to include the respective successors or assigns of either; and all rights, privileges, and obligations herein contained by or on behalf of said City or by or on behalf of said Grantee, shall bind and inure to the benefit of the respective successors or assigns of said City or said Grantee, whether so expressed or not.

SECTION VIII

In consideration of the benefits which in the judgment of said City will accrue to it by reason of the construction and operation of said electric light, heat, and power system and as an inducement to said Grantee proposing to construct, maintain and operate said system, the said City hereby agrees with the said Grantee that no franchise or specific pole or wire tax shall be

imposed or charged against said Grantee, its successors or assigns, by said City during the life of this Franchise for the use of the public right of way.

SECTION IX

This Franchise shall be accepted by the Grantee within (60) days from the date of the passage of the same.

Passed by the Board of Directors this _____ day of _____, 2013 on a motion by _____ and seconded by _____.

Linda K. Whalen, Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

City Manager Jim Ferguson stated that the City of Bluefield is in need of a new dump truck. Manager Ferguson stated he checked with the West Virginia Surplus but they did not have any trucks at this time. The City is in need of three (3) trucks. To date one of the City's dump truck is no longer in working condition and the other two (2) are in bad shape. In the near future, the City hopes to purchase one (1) more used truck and one (1) new.

Director Deb Sarver made a motion to approve the purchase of a used 2003, amended from a 2004, one (1) dump truck for \$18,894 for the Public Works Department, seconded by Director Mary Frances Brammer. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Director Deb Sarver made a motion to approve the appointment of Chief Jeff Warden and Captain Stan McKenzie as Assistant City Police Judges, seconded by Director Mary Frances Brammer. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Director Pete Sternloff read into the record a resolution for the Bluefield Preservation for Revitalization Plan in Downtown Bluefield.

Resolution

*Commending the Bluefield Preservation Society and appointing
it project manager for downtown revitalization projects*

WHEREAS, the Bluefield Preservation Society is a 501(c)(3) corporation founded in 2012 for the purpose of restoring economic vitality to the City of Bluefield, West Virginia. Its mission is to protect rich local history while revitalizing the Greater Bluefield community by demonstrating the economic benefits of cultural and social preservation; and

WHEREAS, the Bluefield Preservation Society exists to enhance the quality of life in Bluefield, to breathe life back into every district of the City, to positively affect the local economy, and to make such an impact that former residents will want to move back to the area; and

WHEREAS, the Bluefield Preservation Society has developed a complete revitalization plan for the downtown Bluefield area to meet the objective of jump starting the local economic

growth by facilitating the creation of startup businesses in each of Bluefield's economic districts; and

WHEREAS, the Bluefield Preservation Society seeks to create an arts and culture district within the City of Bluefield. This group plans save the historic Granada Theater in downtown Bluefield with the expressed purpose of new and continued programming. The former AAA building will be converted into a regional museum with rotating exhibits and collections for the people of Southern West Virginia and Southwest Virginia; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield hereby commends the work of the Bluefield Preservation Society, and hereby appoints the Bluefield Preservation Society as project manager for the Downtown Revitalization work set forth in the previously approved Blue Momentum: Economic Development Plan and their presented business plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bluefield Preservation Society be presented a copy of this resolution for presentation as an expression of appreciation by the City Board of Directors for their current successes and future endeavors.

Linda K. Whalen, Mayor

Dr. Tom Blevins, Director

Mary Francis Brammer, Director

Donald "Pete" Sternloff, Director

Deb Sarver, Director

Attest:

Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

The resolution was approved on by Director Mary Frances Brammer and seconded by Director Deb Sarver. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

A copy of the resolution was accepted by Preservation Member Julie Hurley who thanked the City of Bluefield and the City Board.

Director Pete Sternloff read into the record a resolution of appreciation for German Intern Student, Carina Jesch.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
Carina Jesch

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2013, Carina Jesch, an International student from Germany, will successfully complete her internship with the City of Bluefield in service to its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Carina, a model student at Bluefield State College, began her service to Bluefield on January 1, 2013 as an assistant in the Code Enforcement office and quickly demonstrated her value to the City by additionally serving in both the Treasury and Personnel Departments; and

WHEREAS, during her courteous and faithful service to the City, Carina has been a dedicated and loyal colleague, while performing her duties at the highest level of quality and productivity; and

WHEREAS, Carina has been an outstanding role model to all of our employees in regards to work ethic, professionalism, teamwork and initiative.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield sincerely thanks Carina for her commitment and service to the citizens of the City of Bluefield. We join with our employees in wishing her the best in her return home to Germany and are confident that she will be successful in her future endeavors. We further direct that a copy of this Resolution be spread upon the records of this City, and presented to her and her family.

Linda K. Whalen, Mayor

Dr. Tom Blevins, Director

Mary Frances Brammer, Director

Deb Sarver, Director

Pete Sternloff, Director

Attest:

Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

The resolution was approved on a motion made by Director Mary Frances Brammer and seconded by Director Deb Sarver.

Exchange student Carina Jesch thanked the City Board. City Manager Ferguson introduced the new President of Bluefield State College, Dr. Marsha ?

REPORT OF OFFICERS, BOARD AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Director Deb Sarver reported she has been working with Josh Cline, Redevelopment and Planning Director, on the new web page for the city. Director Sarver said the website will have information regarding each department and contact information for the public. Director Sarver thanked Gail Satterfield for all the hard work the Bluefield Beautification Commission had done to make the City of Bluefield beautiful.

Director Pete Sternloff agreed with Director Sarver stating the website was "amazing" and said Mr. Cline was to be commended for his work. Director Sternloff requested City Manager Ferguson to address the issue of "disconnect letters," that were sent to public if enrolled in budget plan, with the Bluefield Gas Company.

Director Mary Frances Brammer thanked everyone for coming to the meeting including some of the newly elected board member present. Director Brammer reported Energy Express is in session at The Wade Center and is a success.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Art Riley, representing the Downtown Merchants, reported the following:

1. Congratulations to the Bluefield Preservation Society and thanked Commission for all their hard work, time and dedication to the City of Bluefield.
2. Music in Chicory Square, downtown Bluefield – Friday’s 12:00 noon. Free and open to the public.
3. Street Fair will be August 2 and 3. Invents will include food, music, beauty show, dog show, downhill derby and much more. “ Lots to do in Bluefield”

Eva McQuire stated that she felt the City of Bluefield is going places and things are looking positive. Ms. McQuire said now was the time for citizens to get involved. Ms. McQuire invited everyone to come to the Craft Memorial Library as many new items are now offered such as free book downloads.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER

June 13, Blue Momentum Economic Development Teams will be convening at City Hall to meet the new Economic Redevelopment and Planning Director, evaluate current progress and set future steps. Blueprint Communities team members will also be present to share their role and learn further how to work with Blue Momentum teams.

June 21, the Website Redevelopment Committee will receive first drafts of the new website. From that point, a site map will be created and content will be collected. Committee members include Deb Sarver, Pete Sternloff, Billy Hester and Joshua Cline. A target date to launch the new website has been set for the end of July.

June 1-27: Appalachian Artist Association Spring Show, Paine Gallery, Bluefield Area Arts Center, Bluefield. Information: [appalart\(@\)gmail.com](mailto:appalart@gmail.com)

June 1- 30: Civil War Exhibit and Currency Show at the Bronze Look II in Bluefield. Also available is the WV 150th Birthday Glass piece created by Hinkle and Blenko Glass. Orders are being taken. Information: (304) 324-2933 or (304)425-5005.

June 17-20: Bluefield State College Men's Basketball Camp, Ned Shott Gymnasium. Camp Fee: \$75.00 per camper. Information: (304) 327-4207.

June 19: "Book Signing" Author, Susan Tekulve will be at Hearthside Books in Bluefield, WV. She will read from her new book, "Garden of Stone," sign copies and answer questions. Garden of Stone is the winner of the South Carolina First Novel Prize. Time: 5:00pm-7:00pm. Information: (304) 325-6896

June 20: West Virginia's 150th Birthday! 150th Celebration of WV's Statehood at the State Capitol in Charleston. Check out wv150.com for a complete schedule of events.

June 24: Summer programs will begin at the Craft Memorial Library. You can sign up in person at the library, online at <http://craftmemorial.lib.wv.us/eventscaienar.htm> or by calling 304-325-3943.

June 24-27: Bluefield State College Women's Basketball Camp. Ned Short Gymnasium. Camp Eligibility: Girls 8-18 years of age (High School Graduates Not Eligible). Registration: \$75.00 per camper. Information: (304) 327-4207.

June 29: Second Chance Rocks the Two Virginia's, Mitchell Stadium, Bluefield, WV. Featuring Justin Moore, Craig Campbell and Shooter Jennings. Doors open at 12:00 noon. Information (877-497-8499). Ticket locations: Second Chance Learning Center, All Grant Supermarket locations, Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce and Black Bear Harley-Davidson.

Director Mary Frances Brammer 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