

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA
January 24, 2012**

The Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia met in regular session January 24, 2012 at 6 p.m. in the Municipal Boardroom. Present were Mayor Linda K. Whalen; Directors Mary Frances Brammer, Tom Blevins, Deb Sarver and Pete Sternloff; City Manager Andy Merriman; City Attorney Brian Cochran and City Clerk Helen L. Mitchell.

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 January 10, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved as presented on a motion by Director Tom Blevins and seconded by Director Pete Sternloff.

ACTION ITEMS

City Manager Andy Merriman asked the Board for consideration and approval for the Mayor, City Manager or Chief Financial Officer to enter into a Local Government Purchasing Card Participation Agreement with the WV State Auditor's Office.

Manager Merriman explained that this purchasing card would allow tighter controls on what is spent, by whom, how much and where, and there would be a component where the city would receive some cash back.

Merriman said this card is approved by the WV State Auditor's Office.

Director Pete Sternloff moved to approve the Local Government Purchasing Card Agreement as presented, seconded by Director Mary Frances Brammer. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

City Manager Merriman read into the record the First Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Part II, Code of Ordinances of the City of Bluefield, Chapter I Administration, Article II, Boards and Commission, Division 2 Board of Directors, Section 2-20, Regular Meeting; Special Meetings; Compensation of Directors, as set out Hereinafter by the Amendment of Subsection (a).

Manager Merriman explained that this ordinance was a request from a board member to consider changing the meeting time of the first meeting in the month.

Director Pete Sternloff moved to change the meeting time of the first meeting in the month from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m., seconded by Director Tom Blevins. Motion was defeated by a 3-2 vote in favor of not changing the board meeting time.

Mayor Linda Whalen cast the tie-breaking vote and asked that a record be kept of the attendance at the 12:00 noon meeting and the 6:00 p.m. meeting for the next three months with the ordinance to be revisited at that time.

City Manager Merriman asked for Board approval of the Stormwater Management Plan. Merriman advised that the city must approve this plan annually and advise the Department

of Environmental Protection that the city is managing its storm water as required by state and city codes.

Director Tom Blevins moved to approve the Stormwater Management Plan as presented, seconded by Director Mary Frances Brammer. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Manager Merriman read into the record the Second Reading of an Ordinance Establishing and Fixing Rates, Fees, and Charges for Service to Customers of the Sewerage System of the City of Bluefield.

Manager Merriman stated that the Sanitary Board had requested that this agenda item be removed from the agenda and not be considered.

Director Mary Frances Brammer made a motion to remove this item from the agenda and not consider, seconded by Director Pete Sternloff. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

City Manager Andy Merriman read into the record the First Reading of an Ordinance Vacating, Abandoning and Annuling a Portion of that Certain Tract or Parcels of Land, being a 20 Ft. x 300 Ft. Alley between Pine and Spruce Streets; and a Portion of an Alley being an Approximate 20 Ft. Wide and approximately 209.93 Ft. long on the North side of the Alley, and approximately 207.08 Ft. long on the South side of the Alley, and being part of the Alley running from Pine Street to Cherry Street, all situated in the City of Bluefield, Mercer County, West Virginia, and being more particularly described below.

Manager Merriman explained this was a request from Tom Cole and that a public hearing was held on January 10, 2012 to close Pine Street and the alley that runs between Bluefield Avenue and Highland Avenue.

Merriman advised that Mr. Cole had made a modification to his original request and Pine Street will now remain open and only the alley will be closed.

Attorney Cochran stated that the earlier legal publication that was published would meet the legal requirements of what is being requested.

A motion to approve the ordinance as read was made by Director Tom Blevins, seconded by Director Pete Sternloff. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARD AND STANDING COMMITTEES

City Manager Merriman advised the Board that for the second year in a row the City had received an unqualified audit, which means the best audit possible. Manager Merriman thanked Chief Financial Officer Claude Crigger and staff, Court Clerk Crystal Hulsey and everyone that worked so diligently to make this unqualified audit possible.

Director Mary Frances Brammer thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Director Tom Blevins invited citizens who had attended the public hearing and the board meeting to please come back when the Sanitary Board rate increase is again on the agenda.

Director Deb Sarver asked citizens to donate any used doghouses for the use of animals in the City that does not have shelter. Director Sarver advised if you would like to donate a doghouse, please call the number on Television, Channel 55 and someone would pick it up.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Art Riley representing downtown merchants asked for updates on the Bluefield Transit Building and the Intermodal Project.

Bluefield Daily Telegraph Editor Samantha Perry and Publisher Darryl Hudson addressed the Board and presented photographs of roosting crows in the trees at the Bluefield Daily Telegraph.

Ms. Perry explained that thousands of crows roosting nightly at the Telegraph were destroying all of the capital improvements that had recently been done at their facility. Ms. Perry stated the sidewalk and parking lot were covered with droppings, and their employees had to walk through this on a daily basis.

Mr. Hudson stated that all efforts to remove the crows from the property to date had been exhausted, and if necessary, they would have to remove all of the trees on the property to protect their investment.

City Manager Merriman advised that the City had contacted the USDA for advice, and that he would arrange a meeting with the Town Council of Bluefield, Virginia to discuss with them what can be done to remove the crows from the City and the property of the Bluefield Daily Telegraph.

Mayor Whalen asked for a motion for the Board to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

Director Pete Sternloff moved that the Board retire into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues, only returning to regular session to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Director Mary Frances Brammer. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER

- 2012 Winter Warmer-Sponsored by Bluefield Beautification Commission-Cole Harley Davidson-tickets-\$25.00...For information call (304) 320-2654

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Helen L. Mitchell, City Clerk

Linda K. Whalen, Mayor