

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA
February 28, 2012**

The Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia met in regular session February 28, 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 February 14, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved as presented on a motion by Director Tom Blevins and seconded by Director Mary Frances Brammer.

ACTION ITEMS

The only agenda item was the appointment of Art Riley to represent downtown merchants on the Historic Landmarks Commission. The appointment is for a three-year term expiring in 2015.

A motion to appoint Art Riley for a three-year term on the Historic Landmarks Commission was made by Director Pete Sternloff, seconded by Director Tom Blevins. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARD AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Director Mary Frances Brammer wished the Bluefield Beavers good luck in the sectional finals.

Director Deb Sarver recognized Bluefield native Elizabeth Sudduth for being honored as one of the State Journal's 40 under 40 up and coming young professionals. Ms. Sudduth is the Client Services Administrator for First Century Bank.

Mayor Whalen congratulated Charlie Carter, DLH Insurance for receiving the high ethics in business award from the Rotary Club.

Mayor Whalen announced to Bluefield residents that a prescription drug discount card offered through the National League of Cities was now available. The card can be picked up at City Hall or can be printed from the City of Bluefield website.

Mayor Whalen commented that city officials participated in Mercer County Day in Charleston, WV, and had the opportunity to meet with Governor Tomblin regarding being able to use Small Cities Block Grant funds for demolition work.

City Manager Merriman commented that a public hearing was held by the board at 5:30 pm. for the Small Cities Block Grant Program. Manager Merriman explained during the hearing that 120 structures had been demolished since the program began and that 126 structures remain to be demolished. Merriman said that city crew's average demolishing four to five structures a month.

Manager Merriman advised that a pre-bid meeting with contractors concerning the demolition of the Scott Street Parking Garage will be held Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. to discuss bid specifications.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Art Riley thanked the board for the appointment to the Historic Landmark's Commission.

Cy Gadd addressed the Board regarding a dog biting a meter reader on Union Street and the action of the Animal Control Officer returning the dog to its owner.

Mr. Gadd asked if the leash law was going to be enforced.

Manager Merriman advised that the police department and the animal control officer have control over these situations.

Director Sternloff congratulated the Bluefield Beautification Commission on the success of their Winter Warmer event and advised that the commission was already working on a similar event for next year.

Mayor Whalen advised that the proceeds of this event will go towards new Christmas decorations for downtown.

Mayor Whalen explained that the displays of state flags on Cumberland and Bland Road were paid for by a personal donation from a Bluefield Beautification Commission member.

Mayor Linda Whalen asked for a motion to retire into executive session.

Director Pete Sternloff made a motion for the Board to retire into executive session to discuss personnel/contractual matters, seconded by Director Mary Frances Brammer. Unanimously approved and so ordered. The Board advised they may or may not return to regular session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER

- WV Blazers vs. Fayetteville – Home - March 3, 7:30 p.m.
- Fine Arts Commission Meeting - March 13, 6 p.m. – City Hall

The Board returned from executive session to the regular session board meeting and took the following action.

A motion was made by Director Pete Sternloff to extend the contract of City Manager Andy Merriman for two (2) years under the same terms as the existing contract, seconded by Director Tom Blevins. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Helen L. Mitchell, City Clerk

Linda K. Whalen, Mayor