

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA
April 10, 2012**

The Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia met in regular session April 10, 2012 at 12 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 Director Mary Frances Brammer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Linda Whalen welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES

Minutes of the March 27, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved as presented on a motion by Director Tom Blevins and seconded by Director Deb Sarver.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

City Manager Merriman discussed the offering of concessions at City Park. Manager Merriman said that he was looking for a temporary site for concessions, and is checking the numbers for the expense for plumbing and electrical. City Manager Merriman advised that after he has the numbers, the bid process can begin for the offering of concessions.

ACTION ITEMS

The first agenda item was the authorization for the City of Bluefield to enter into a Contractual Agreement with Empire Salvage & Recycling, Inc. for the demolition of the Princeton Avenue Parking Garage.

City Manager Andy Merriman explained that the City had been approached with the opportunity to bring down the parking garage without any cost to the City. Merriman said that Empire Salvage had offered a performance bond and had requested 180 days to perform this work.

Mayor Whalen asked for a motion for the City to enter into a contractual agreement with Empire Salvage for the demolition of the Princeton Avenue Parking Garage.

The authorization for a contractual agreement with Empire Salvage died for lack of a motion.

City Manager Merriman was requested by the board to seek other options for demolition of the garage.

Manager Merriman referred the agenda item of an employment agreement to Mayor Linda Whalen.

Mayor Whalen advised that the employment agreement was for the position of Economic Development Director for the City of Bluefield.

Mayor Whalen explained that the position had been offered to Mr. Jerry Berry but the Board had been unable to reach an employment agreement him. Mayor Whalen said that Mr. Berry had subsequently withdrawn his application for the position. Mayor Whalen said the Board would immediately re-advertise for the position.

City Manager Merriman discussed "Project Clean Sweep" and recommended to the Board that only natural vegetation be collected. Merriman said this would be a lot less expensive and would get a lot of yard debris from people's yards.

Director Tom Blevins moved that "Project Clean Sweep" would be limited to the collection only of natural vegetation, seconded by Director Mary Frances Brammer. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARD AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Director Mary Frances Brammer welcomed everyone to board meeting. Director Brammer asked everyone to check on elderly citizens who lived alone.

Director Deb Sarver commented on how proud she was of the City Park and the Ridge Runner Train. Director Sarver apologized that the bathrooms were not working this past weekend.

Director Pete Sternloff commented that over 200 passengers rode the Ridge Runner Train on Saturday.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Art Riley asked if the bathrooms would be working this coming weekend, and was advised they were currently operating.

Mark Davidson co-owner of Peddler's in downtown Bluefield addressed the Board with his concerns regarding the demolition of the Princeton Avenue Parking Garage.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER

- East River Arts - Open Mic Night - Every Thursday - Dinner - 5:30 p.m. - "Patient Jazz" - 6:30-8:00 p.m. - Open Mic until 10 p.m. (No Cover)
- "First Fridays" - Gary Bowling's House of Art - First Friday of each month 7-10 p.m.
- 4 Pal's Production's - Presenting "Hitsville, USA - Ramsey School Auditorium - Cost \$30.00 per person - April 12-14 and April 18-20
- "A Night of a Thousand Stars" - Bluefield Beautification Spring Gala featuring "Another Level" - April 21, 2012
- 33rd Annual Better Living Show - April 27-28 - National Guard Armory
- Landau Eugene Murphy, Jr. concert - April 27, 2012 - Benefits going to the "Denver Foundation" - Bluefield City Auditorium

Mayor Whalen asked citizens to support the local businesses.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Helen L. Mitchell, City Clerk

Linda K. Whalen, Mayor