

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA
May 22, 2012**

The Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia met in regular session May 22, 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 Director Mary Frances Brammer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Linda Whalen welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES

Minutes of the Special Called Meeting on April 17, 2012 to Lay the Levy were unanimously approved on a motion by Director Pete Sternloff and seconded by Director Mary Frances Brammer; Minutes of the April 24, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved as presented on a motion by Director Tom Blevins and seconded by Director Pete Sternloff.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

City Manager Andy Merriman discussed that a request had been received from Tom Cole for a public hearing to be set for the closing of Pine Street. Manager Merriman asked the Board to set the public hearing to discuss the closing of Pine Street for 11:30 a. m. on June 12, 2012.

Director Pete Sternloff moved to set a Public Hearing for 11:30 a. m. on June 12, 2012 for the closing of Pine Street, seconded by Director Deb Sarver. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Manager Merriman discussed the demolition and subsequent reconstruction of the retaining wall and parking lot of the Scott Street Parking Garage. City Manager Merriman advised that the low bidder for the job was Swope Construction and requested that the Board approve the notice of award for Swope Construction and to begin the negotiations for subsequent contractors.

Director Pete Sternloff moved to approve the notice of award for Swope Construction, seconded by Director Tom Blevins.

Manager Merriman also discussed that the city also had a few options on how to finance the demolition project. City Manager Merriman recommended that the demolition be paid for with the proceeds from the sale of the hospital.

After discussion, the motion was unanimously approved and so ordered.

The flea market was discussed by City Manager Merriman who announced that the Wade Center had agreed to house the flea market once the demolition of the Princeton Avenue Parking Garage begins the week of June 4. Merriman said that the City has been working with the Wade Center on the best way to accommodate the vendors, and he feels it will also

be an opportunity for the Wade Center to generate revenue. Merriman discussed that fliers will be passed out to vendors and customers advising that the flea market will be moved to the Wade Center.

ACTION ITEMS

City Manager Merriman read into the record a resolution to enter into a contractual agreement with the West Virginia Development Office to administer grant funds in the amount of \$10,000. Merriman explained that the grant money will be used to repair structural issues at the city's fire department.

City Manager Merriman said this is a Community Participation Grant and thanked Delegate Marty Gearheart for his work in securing this funding.

Director Tom Blevins made a motion to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Director Mary Frances Brammer. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD
May 22, 2012

The Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield met on May 22, 2012 with a quorum present and passed the following resolution as set forth below:

WHEREAS, the City of Bluefield has received a grant award in the amount of \$10,000.00 from the West Virginia Development Office, and

WHEREAS, a Grant Program Contract between the West Virginia Development Office and the City of Bluefield is required to be executed prior to the City receiving the award.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield hereby authorizes Mayor Linda Whalen to enter into a contractual agreement with the West Virginia Development Office and to act on behalf of the City of Bluefield to administer grant funds in the amount of \$10,000.00.

This resolution was duly passed by a majority of membership present. Therefore, I Helen Mitchell, City Clerk, hereby certify that the said resolution passed and is of record in the minutes of the City of Bluefield's Board of Directors meeting of May 22, 2012.

Linda Whalen, Mayor

Date

Helen Mitchell, City Clerk

Date

The agenda continued with the appointment of Craig Hammond to fill the unexpired term of Clarence Mitchell on the Housing Authority of the City of Bluefield. The term will expire on October 1, 2013.

Director Pete Sternloff moved to appoint Craig Hammond to fill the unexpired of Clarence Mitchell on the Housing Authority of the City of Bluefield, seconded by Director Tom Blevins. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

City Manager Merriman asked for authorization for the City to enter into a lease agreement with Mint Motors to rent and renovate the freight station on Bluefield Avenue. Merriman advised that Mint Motors is a tire company that has agreed to lease this space for \$400.00 a month and will upgrade the building to their needs in the amount of \$10,000.

Director Pete Sternloff moved to authorize entering into a lease agreement with Mint Motors to rent and renovate the freight station, seconded by Director Tom Blevins. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

City Manager Merriman asked for authorization for the City to enter into a lease agreement with B & K Trucking for a property owned by the City on Route 52. Merriman explained that the company will be paying \$600.00 a month for the property to store their tractor-trailers.

Director Tom Blevins moved to approve the authorization to enter into a lease agreement with B & K Trucking, seconded by Director Pete Sternloff. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Finance Director Claude Crigger submitted to the board for approval a resolution and a request for a revision to the budget. Director Crigger explained that this revision is to conform to state standards and will take the city from a cash budget to an accrual budget.

Director Pete Sternloff moved to adopt the resolution for budget revisions as stated, seconded by Director Tom Blevins. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

City Manager Andy Merriman introduced Captain Glen Sutphin who was appointed interim Fire Chief for the Bluefield Fire Department. Merriman said Sutphin is a very qualified firefighter, a good leader and will do a fine job in the position.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARD AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Director Pete Sternloff commented on "All Together Arts Week" which was celebrated this past week in Mercer County. Director Sternloff said there were many events held throughout the Bluefield and Princeton area.

Director Mary Frances Brammer thanked everyone for coming to the board meeting on such a rainy evening. Director Brammer asked that everyone check on elderly neighbors.

Director Tom Blevins congratulated the tennis and golf teams at Bluefield State College.

Mayor Linda Whalen advised that the city demolished seven houses this past month and that progress was being made.

Mayor Linda Whalen asked for the Board to retire into Executive Session following the meeting to discuss personnel matters, and may or may not return to regular session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Art Riley questioned how much of the freight station would be leased. Manager Merriman advised that about 6000 square feet would be leased.

Mr. Riley discussed with the Board the annexation of Route 52 and the interchange at John Nash Blvd.

Art Riley asked questions regarding the city's demolition of unoccupied homes in the East end of the City on Route 19.

Mr. Riley commented that the Bluefield High School Band would kick off the "Concerts in the Square" at noon on Friday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER

- East River Mountain Town Band - Chicory Square - May 25, 2012 - 6 p.m.
- Mountain Festival – May 22-28
- Collegians Concert - Bluefield Recreation - Friday, May 25, 2012 - 8 p.m.

Mayor Whalen announced that Four Pals Production of "Hitsville USA" would be performed at the Train Depot in Bramwell, WV free to the public.

Director Pete Sternloff moved that the Board adjourn into Executive Session and may or may not be returning to regular session, seconded by Director Mary Frances Brammer. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

The Board returned to regular session to adjourn only with no further announcement being made to the public.

Helen L. Mitchell, City Clerk

Linda K. Whalen, Mayor