

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA
August 14, 2012**

The Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia met in regular session August 14, 2012 at 12 p.m. in the Municipal Boardroom. Present were Mayor Linda K. Whalen; Directors Tom Blevins, Mary Frances Brammer Deb Sarver and Pete Sternloff; 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 July 24, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved as presented on a motion by Director Pete Sternloff, seconded by Director Mary Frances Brammer.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Interim City Manager Brian Cochran discussed the proposed bronze sculpture to be placed in Loitito Park in memory of Tate Kandas.

Interim Manager Cochran recommended to the Board that the vote be delayed on the approval of this sculpture until some guidelines for future memorials can be established.

After discussion, Mayor Whalen advised that the board will discuss guidelines for future memorials in the park, and once these guidelines are established the memorial for Tate Kandas will be brought back to the Board for action.

ACTION ITEMS

The first action item was the appointment of Claude Morgan, 2222 Fairfield Avenue, Bluefield, WV to a 3-year term on the Bluefield Sanitary Board. (Term expires July 25, 2015)

Director Tom Blevins moved to appoint Claude Morgan to a 3-year term on the Sanitary Board, seconded by Director Pete Sternloff. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Manager Cochran asked the Board for authorization to renew and amend the Lease Agreement with Federal Express Corp.

Interim Manager Cochran advised that this lease will include an increase in the rental amount, and some capital improvements to the facility to be made by the City.

Director Sternloff moved to renew and amend the Lease Agreement for five (5) years with Federal Express Corporation, seconded by Director Tom Blevins. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARD AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Director Pete Sternloff reminded citizens of a meeting that will be held Wednesday August 15, 5:00 p.m. at the Bluefield State College Research and Development Building to organize a farewell event for the 304th Military Police, United States Army Reserve that will leave Bluefield for a yearlong deployment in Afghanistan. Director Sternloff asked citizens and local businesses to rally and support these servicemen and women.

Director Mary Frances Brammer thanked all merchants and citizens who participated in the Downtown Street Fair.

Director Brammer stated that everyone who attended the Genoa and Park Central High School Reunion this past weekend commented on how beautiful the City and Lotito Park looked.

Interim Manager Cochran updated the board on the little league football program. Cochran said there are between 75 and 80 children participating in the football program, which includes the smurf league, peewee and midget leagues, and also cheerleading.

Manager Cochran commented that next weekend there would be four great events at the City Park starting with the Bluefield Blue Jays baseball game on Friday afternoon, Beaver-Graham football game on Friday night, Bluefield College football game Saturday, and the Second Chance Concert on Sunday evening.

Mayor Whalen thanked everyone for their participation in the Downtown Street Fair and Lemonade Days in South Bluefield.

Mayor Whalen commented on the Bluefield Beautification Commission's "Garden Tour" held on Saturday evening. Mayor Whalen stated this was a fundraiser for the commission and it was really a great event.

Mayor Whalen offered congratulations to the Bluefield Transit Authority for the \$523,000 they received in grant funds to purchase seven new vehicles. In addition, Bluefield Operations Manager Roger Shrewsbury was awarded the West Virginia Transit Employee of the Year, and Tammy Bennett received her Certified Community Transit Manager (CCTM) award at the State Transit Authority meeting.

Interim City Manager Cochran gave an update on the parking in downtown Bluefield during the demolition of the Scott Street Parking Garage.

Cochran said the situation is being monitored, and about 20 new spaces have been added on the asphalt strip at the site of the former Matz Hotel and Princeton Avenue Parking Garage, additional parking spaces will be added on Raleigh Street, and also the Cohen lot on Princeton Ave. is available for parking.

Mayor Whalen asked for a motion to retire into Executive Session after public comments for the purpose of discussing personnel issues.

The board voted unanimously to retire into Executive Session after public comments for the purpose of discussing personnel issues on a motion by Director Pete Sternloff and seconded by Director Tom Blevins.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cy Gadd commented on a fight that had transpired in front of his house several weeks ago as a result of a party held behind Bluefield High School involving students from Pikeview High, Bluefield High and Graham High Schools. Mr. Gadd stated that another fight had also taken place earlier the same evening behind the high school that involved a group of gang members named Team Gully and some other gang.

Attorney Cochran commented that the party had been reported as being out of control and was responded to by the Bluefield Police Department.

Mr. Gadd also mentioned an incident of firecrackers being thrown in front of his house recently.

Charlene Long addressed the board asking what streets would be on the paving list and whether or not Union Street would be paved. Ms. Long stated that Union Street had not been paved since 1965.

Attorney Cochran advised Ms. Long that the Public Works Department and Tony Wagner was presently organizing a list of streets to be paved.

Mayor Whalen advised that there is just a very small budget for street paving and that the city typically paves the worst streets in each neighborhood.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER

- Concerts Chicory Square - Noon on Fridays'
- Mayor Whalen announced that the Beaver-Graham football game for the third year is a part of the "Great American Rivalry Series."
- The Board retired into Executive Session and advised they may or may not return to regular session.

Hearing no further business after the Executive Session, the meeting was adjourned.

Helen L. Mitchell, City Clerk

Linda K. Whalen, Mayor