

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA
September 25, 2012**

The Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia met in regular session September 25, 2012 at 6 p.m. in the Municipal Boardroom. Present were Mayor Linda K. Whalen; Directors Mary Frances Brammer, Deb Sarver and Pete Sternloff; City Manager Jim Ferguson; City Attorney Brian Cochran and City Clerk Helen Mitchell. Director Tom Blevins was not in attendance.

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 September 11, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved as presented on a motion by Director Pete Sternloff and seconded by Director Mary Frances Brammer.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mayor Linda Whalen welcomed City Manager Jim Ferguson and stated that it was a pleasure to have him as the new city manager.

City Manager Ferguson thanked everyone for allowing him the opportunity to serve the City of Bluefield. Ferguson stated that he realized that the city faced many challenges, but he was confident that there were not any challenges or problems that could not be overcome if we work together for the betterment of our community. Manager Ferguson asked everyone to keep in mind that our problems didn't happen overnight and cannot be solved overnight. Ferguson stated that he believed that with diligence Bluefield will be a much better place to live and work.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion for approval of the Bluefield High School Homecoming Parade route on October 4, 2012, 5:00 p.m. was made by Director Mary Frances Brammer, seconded by Director Pete Sternloff. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

The board unanimously approved the appointment of Atty. Doug Hayes to the Police Citizens Review Board for a term of three years on a motion by Director Pete Sternloff, seconded by Director Mary Frances Brammer.

A request for approval of the Bluefield State College Homecoming Parade route on October 15, 2012, 6:00 p.m. was unanimously approved on a motion by Director Pete Sternloff, seconded by Director Deb Sarver.

Chief Financial Officer, Claude Crigger asked the Board for authorization to enter into a one (1) year contract with Rossman Collection Services for the collection of police fines. Crigger explained that there is an eighteen percent collection fee, but this fee applies only to monies collected.

Director Sternloff moved to enter into a one (1) year contract with Rossman Collection Services, seconded by Director Sarver. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Chief Financial Officer Claude Crigger requested authorization for Jim Ferguson, Claude Crigger, Angie Foley and Sheila Leggett to be signatories on city bank accounts and to add Transit Director Patrick McKinney as a signatory on the Bluefield Transit bank account.

The board unanimously voted to approve adding the above names as signatories on designated bank accounts on a motion by Director Pete Sternloff, seconded by Director Mary Frances Brammer.

The board voted to approve a lease extension for one month with Wells Fargo Insurance Services, formerly Accordia of WV for property located at 320 Federal Street, Bluefield, WV on a motion made by Director Mary Frances Brammer, seconded by Director Deb Sarver. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Mayor Linda Whalen read into the record the first reading of an ordinance authorizing the City of Bluefield to accept the transfer of real estate from the Department of Highways.

Attorney Brian Cochran explained that this was a small parcel of property on John Nash Blvd. belonging to the Department of Highways that Bluefield Transit needs to maintain their property. The city is purchasing this parcel of property for \$1.00.

A motion to approve the first reading of the ordinance as read was made by Director Sternloff, seconded by Director Brammer. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

The agenda continued with a Resolution authorizing Mayor Linda Whalen to act on behalf of the City of Bluefield to administer grant funds in the amount of \$15,167.63 in concert with Community Action of South Eastern WV (CASE). This grant is an agreement with the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity for the Emergency Shelter Grants Program for the program year 2012-2013.

The resolution was unanimously approved as read on a motion by Director Pete Sternloff, seconded by Director Deb Sarver.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARD AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Director Pete Sternloff commented that it is really great to live in a city like Bluefield where we actually see things that are happening. Director Sternloff said that there are now five restaurants located in downtown Bluefield, and it is important that people realize that there are things going on in Bluefield that needs the support of the community.

Director Sternloff stated that Economic Development Director Greg Shrewsbury has put a lot of effort into issues with grocery stores and trying to find ways to make it more convenient for the people of Bluefield to shop.

Director Mary Frances Brammer thanked everyone for coming to the board meeting. Director Brammer asked that everyone make an effort to say something positive about Bluefield.

Director Brammer urged everyone to support the Bluefield Beavers football team.

Director Deb Sarver thanked Economic Development Director Greg Shrewsbury for all the work that he is doing for the betterment of Bluefield.

Mayor Whalen announced that Mr. Shrewsbury will be reporting monthly at the board meetings on the work he is doing.

Mayor Whalen thanked Transit Director Patrick McKinney and City Attorney Brian Cochran for their service to the city as the Interim City Manager.

Mayor Whalen announced that the city has hired a recreation director that will begin his duties in October and an assistant director that is currently working.

Mayor Whalen thanked Pete Sarver for his work at the Recreation Department whenever he is needed.

Mayor Whalen reminded everyone that the city park will be closed to vehicle traffic beginning October 1st to prepare the park for the annual Holiday of Lights.

Mayor Whalen encouraged citizens to stop by our local schools and see if there is any way that you can help the children of our community.

Mayor Whalen announced that Bluefield Middle School received a whole new set of band instruments made possible by a grant sponsored by the Division of Culture and History, City of Bluefield and the June O. Shott Foundation. Mayor Whalen thanked the June O. Shott Foundation for providing the matching funds necessary for the grant.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Art Riley on behalf of the Downtown Merchants welcomed City Manager Jim Ferguson.

Mr. Riley asked if there had been in progress made on the request from resident Don Gibson at the last city board meeting regarding the vegetation hanging over and growing in the sidewalks in the east end of town.

Mayor Whalen advised that the city would continue to look into the issue.

West Virginia Manor resident Dorene Dimes commented that she did not feel the demolition of the Scott Street Parking Garage was progressing on schedule.

Ms. Dimes also asked the board to consider a walking park in downtown Bluefield for dogs.

City Attorney Brian Cochran personally thanked Pete Sarver for filling in on a temporary basis at the Recreation Department.

Director Mary Frances Brammer welcomed Ms. Vineyard to the city board meeting and thanked her for her consideration in opening a new business in Bluefield.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Helen L. Mitchell, City Clerk

Linda K. Whalen, Mayor