

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA  
October 9, 2012**

The Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia met in regular session October 9, 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 Manager Jim Ferguson; City Attorney Brian Cochran; Chief Financial Officer Claude Crigger and City Clerk Helen 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 September 25, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved as presented on a motion by Director Pete Sternloff and seconded by Director Mary Frances Brammer.

**ACTION ITEMS**

City Manager Jim Ferguson read into the record the second reading of an Ordinance authorizing the City of Bluefield to accept the Transfer of Real Estate from the WV Department of Transportation.

City Attorney Brian Cochran explained that this was a small parcel of property located by the new proposed Bluefield Transit Authority on John Nash Boulevard.

The second reading of the ordinance to approve the transfer of real estate was unanimously approved as presented on a motion by Director Tom Blevins and seconded by Director Pete Sternloff.

The next agenda item was to set notice for a Public Hearing for an Ordinance to Amend Charter and enact a new code for the City of Bluefield.

City Attorney Cochran explained that a date must be set for a public hearing to bring to the public the revised Charter and Code of Ordinances for the City of Bluefield. This hearing will allow the public to review and comment prior to the first reading of the ordinance. Attorney Cochran asked the board to set the public hearing for Tuesday, November 27, 2012, 5:30 p.m.

A motion to approve the public hearing notice as stated was made by Director Pete Sternloff, seconded by Director Tom Blevins. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

City Manager Ferguson asked for board approval of payment application #2 to Swope Construction Company in the amount of \$83,990.30 for the Scott Street Garage Demolition Project.

Approval of payment #2 in the amount of \$83,990.30 to Swope Construction Company for the Scott Street Garage Demolition Project was unanimously approved on a motion by Director Deb Sarver, seconded by Director Pete Sternloff.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

It was discussed that the City of Bluefield will observe Halloween on Wednesday, October 31, between the hours of 6:00-8:00 p.m.

City Attorney Brian Cochran introduced and welcomed new employees Shawn Martin, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director and Dwight Godwin, Recreation Director.

Director Godwin thanked the Board for giving him the opportunity to be the Parks and Recreation director in the City of Bluefield and said that he looked forward to working with Shawn and the staff of the recreation department.

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARD AND STANDING COMMITTEES**

City Manager Ferguson advised that the vegetation overgrowth on the sidewalks in the East End of Bluefield has now been corrected.

City Manager Ferguson commented on the ADA project at Mitchell Stadium and the possibility of adding additional handicap parking spaces near the ramps to make it more accessible for the handicapped.

Manager Ferguson gave updates on the progress of the Scott Street Parking Garage demolition and the replacement of pedestrian sidewalks on Pulaski and Bland Streets.

City Manager Ferguson commended Street Superintendent Dallas Fowler and his department for their work and said they are very under appreciated.

City Manger Ferguson also commended the Fire Department for their work this week fighting five fires in the city.

Director Mary Frances Brammer thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and asked for prayers for the Thompson family who suffered a loss this past week. Director Brammer also thanked everyone for supporting the Bluefield Beavers and asked that you say something good about the city.

Mayor Whalen thanked City Manager Ferguson for his hard work and efforts to date.

Mayor Whalen advised that the City Park closed on September 30th to begin work on the Holiday of Lights.

Mayor Whalen announced that during the 2012 season, there were 13,707 people who rode the Ridge Runner Train and for the 2011-2012 seasons, there were a grand total of 29,024 riders.

Director Deb Sarver commented that the City Park is only closed to traffic.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Art Riley, representing Downtown Merchants, thanked Lori Mills for her work with the Ridge Runner Train.

Mr. Riley asked if the general public would be able to view the changes that were being made to the charter and ordinances.

City Attorney Cochran advised that the revised City Code of Ordinances would be available for review in the City Clerk's office prior to the public hearing. Cochran advised that the Public Notice will contain the proposed new charter sections.

Director Blevins asked if a PDF file of the proposed new charter could be created for review on the city web site.

Attorney Cochran stated that he would talk with the Municode publisher regarding this matter.

Mr. Riley inquired as to the demolition of the property at 125 Wilson Street.

City Manager Ferguson advised that he would follow up on the status of demolition for 125 Wilson Street.

Mr. Riley questioned if all of the residents of College Avenue would receive notice of the public hearing for the rezoning of College Avenue.

Mayor Whalen replied that they would receive notice.

Mr. Riley announced that the annual Christmas Parade would be held on December 8 with a celebration to be held at Chicory Square at the conclusion of the parade.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER**

- Gary Bowling's "Psycho Circus" - Oct. 5-6, 12-13, 19-20, 26-27 and 31 - Adm. - \$6.00
- Mayor Whalen reminded everyone to support their local businesses.
- City Manager Ferguson said that he was asking all city employees, city officials and citizens of Bluefield to unite and form a team called "Team Blue." Ferguson explained that you can do this by supporting the local businesses, taking pride in your properties and being involved in the community.

Helen L. Mitchell, City Clerk

Linda K. Whalen, Mayor