

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA
October 23, 2012**

The Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia met in regular session October 23, 2012 at 6 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 Gene Wyatt, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Linda Whalen welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES

Minutes of the October 9, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved as presented on a motion by Director Pete Sternloff and seconded by Director Mary Frances Brammer.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

City Manager Jim Ferguson reminded everyone that the City of Bluefield would observe Halloween on Wednesday, October 31 between the hours of 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Manager Ferguson discussed that the street department is currently picking up leaves throughout the city, and reminded citizens to rake their leaves to the curb and not beyond. Leaf pickup will continue throughout the end of the year and beginning January, the leaves will need to be placed in bags and placed at the curb for pickup.

ACTION ITEMS

The first agenda item was a Resolution of Support and Recognition of the Bluefield Blueprint Community Team.

Community Development Director Greg Shrewsbury explained that Bluefield had applied to be enrolled in a Blueprint Community initiative. Director Shrewsbury said this program will provide community leadership training and will also give the city additional grant opportunities.

The Board recognized the following Blueprint Community Team consisting of Mike Collins, Principal of Bluefield High School; Kevin Morris, SGA President/Student at Bluefield State College; Mary Turner, Economic Development Director at Community Action of Southeastern, West Virginia; Dr. Marsha Krotseng, President of Bluefield State College; Darryl Hudson, Publisher of the Bluefield Daily Telegraph; Ronnie Hypes, Senior Vice-President & Chief Financial Officer of First Century Bank; Mayor Linda K. Whalen, City of Bluefield; Pete Sternloff, Member of the Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield; and Greg Shrewsbury, Economic Development Director for the City of Bluefield.

Director Tom Blevins made a motion to approve the aforementioned names to be a part of the Bluefield Blueprint Community Team, seconded by Director Pete Sternloff. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

The agenda then continued with re-appointments to the Police and Fire Civil Service Commissions.

A motion to re-appoint Tonia Russell, 108 Christie Manor, William Aldridge, 1222 Sunrise Drive and Sgt. Major Baylor, 643 Shenandoah Avenue to 3-year terms on the Policemen's Civil Service Commission was made by Director Sternloff, seconded by Director Blevins. Unanimously approved and so ordered. (Terms expiring October 23, 2015)

A motion to re-appoint Tom Cole, 500 Oakhurst to a 3-year term on the Firemen's Civil Service Commission was made by Director Blevins, seconded by Director Sternloff. Unanimously approved and so ordered. (Term expiring October 23, 2015)

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARD AND STANDING COMMITTEES

City Manager Ferguson reported on the demolition of condemned properties on Boone, Kidd and Yadkin streets and street paving on Rogers St., Copley Ave., Juniper Street, Jackson Street, Ohio Street, Oak Lane and Albemarle Street.

City Manager Ferguson announced the hiring of Firefighter Matthew Pettry, and Parking Enforcement Officer Matt Hatfield.

Manager Ferguson gave updates on the demolition and cleanup of the Scott Street Parking Garage and advised that it was on schedule to be completed by the end of this year weather permitting.

Manager Ferguson advised that a lockbox had been installed outside of the Bluefield Sanitary Board offices to allow citizens to deposit payments for their sanitary board fees as well as quarterly fee payments to the city.

Chief Financial Officer Claude Crigger announced a new payment system that will allow Bluefield residents to have their city fees automatically withdrawn from their bank accounts on a monthly or quarterly basis. Residents interested in the automatic payment system can visit the city offices or call for more information.

Economic Development Director Greg Shrewsbury reported that he and a team of business leaders are working on an economic development plan to be presented to the board in January. Director Shrewsbury said the plan has components to include development for commercial business, industrial business, Bluefield State College, marketing engagement and community engagement. The team members include Frank Wilkinson, Jay Disibbio, Allen Peacock, Art Riley, Vain Colby, Justin Hamm, Claude Crigger, Dr. Marsha Krotseng, Jay Shott, Jerry Crews, Craig Nash, Tony Sabo, Frank Brady, Marc Meachum, Jim Ferguson, Julie Hurley and Dwight Godwin.

Director Shrewsbury announced that five new businesses had opened in the City of Bluefield.

Mayor Linda Whalen read into the record a Resolution of Honor for Public Works Director Dallas Fowler who will be retiring from that position on October 26, 2012 with twenty-eight (28) years of service to the City.

RESOLUTION OF HONOR

Dallas Fowler

WHEREAS, On Friday, October 26, 2012, Dallas Fowler will retire from the City of Bluefield after over 28 years of service to the citizens of Bluefield; and

WHEREAS, Dallas began his career with the City of Bluefield on September 1, 1984; and

WHEREAS, During his 28 years of service to the City, Dallas has been a dedicated and loyal employee in the Street and Sanitation Departments of the City working his way up through the ranks from laborer to the Assistant Superintendent, and then to his current position as Director of Public Works, where he manages, oversees, and supervises 28 employees; and

WHEREAS, Dallas is admired by all of his fellow employees for his integrity, trustworthiness, dependability, and his dedication to his family, and to his community through his many years of public service to the citizens of Bluefield; and

WHEREAS, through his incredible hard work ethic in the Street and Sanitation Departments, Dallas has been an integral part in keeping the City clean, safe, and beautiful; and

WHEREAS, through his ingenuity and creativeness, his work has saved the taxpayers of Bluefield hundreds of thousands of dollars through the years in savings experienced through his work and the work of his subordinates under his direction; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bluefield acknowledges and appreciates Dallas' many contributions through his work in the Street and Sanitation Departments to our City and to the citizens of which he has faithfully served.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield wishes Dallas the best in his retirement and sincerely thanks him for his commitment and service to the citizens of the City of Bluefield; His wisdom, knowledge, supervision, and dedication will be greatly missed.

City Manager Jim Ferguson presented a plaque to Mr. Fowler in recognition of his 28 years of exemplary service, and said that he had the deepest admiration for the job that he has done, and deep respect for him as a person and fellow human being.

A reception for Mr. Fowler was held following the meeting.

Director Sternloff asked everyone to support the local non-corporate restaurants in Bluefield. Director Sternloff thanked Dallas for everything that he has done for the City of Bluefield and congratulated him on his retirement.

Director Brammer thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Director Brammer told Dallas that the City loves him and will miss him.

Director Brammer thanked City Manager Ferguson and Economic Development Greg Shrewsbury for their reports regarding the city.

Director Tom Blevins thanked Dallas for his many years of service to the city. Director Blevins said that he has learned that Dallas has a spool of baling wire and that along with a welding torch is what keeps a lot of city equipment running.

Director Sarver thanked Dallas for his service to the Holiday of Lights. Director Sarver said that Dallas was not only a great leader, but a partner to his men. Director Sarver said Dallas will be greatly missed.

Mayor Whalen thanked Dallas for his service, and said that whatever you called upon Dallas to do, he would always say, "We'll get it done."

Mayor Whalen said that Dallas is truly irreplaceable.

Mayor Whalen reported on the Municipal League Meeting that she attended. Mayor Whalen advised that there was a movement in the Senate to do away with the DMV being able to take away driver's licenses for the nonpayment of fines. Mayor Whalen asked that a letter be written in protest of this movement.

Mayor Whalen also requested that letters be written from the City requesting that Home Rule be passed.

Mayor Whalen thanked the Beautification Commission and city crews for their work on the new entrance sign to the City Park.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Art Riley representing Downtown Merchants thanked Dallas for his service to the merchants of downtown Bluefield.

Mr. Riley discussed downtown parking regulations for Bland and Federal Streets between the hours of midnight and 5:00 a.m.

Mr. Riley reminded residents that the city Planning Commission will be holding a Public Hearing at City Hall on Wednesday, October 24 at 3:30 p.m. regarding rezoning of College Avenue.

Mr. Riley reminded everyone to attend the downtown Christmas Parade on December 8 at 1:00 p.m. and to remember to vote on November 6.

Richard Dillon thanked the Bluefield Police Department for their work in recovering his stolen property.

Cy Gadd asked the board to address shooting incidents that are taking place in the city all hours of the night.

Chief Wilson said the police department checks into all shots fired and many turn out to be fireworks.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER

- Gary Bowling's Psycho Circus - Oct. 26-27 and 31 - Adm. \$6.00
- Halloween Observance - City of Bluefield - Wednesday, October 31, 6-8 p.m.
- East River Mountain Town Band will have two patriotic performances in November honoring veterans - Saturday, November 10, 6 p.m. - Center Court Mercer Mall
- Sunday November 11 - Bluefield Performing Arts Center - 3 p.m.
- Rising Star 21 - Southern West Virginia's First Science Fiction Convention - Oct. 26-27, 2012
- Harris-Jefferson Student Center - Bluefield State College
- Railfest - November 10-11 - Bluefield Recreation Center

Helen L. Mitchell, City Clerk

Linda K. Whalen, Mayor