

A Public Hearing was held at 5:30 p.m. in the Board of Directors Room on the proposed Ordinance to amend Part 1, The Charter of the City of Bluefield, established by 1921 Acts of the WV Legislature. By the Amendments of Sec. 2. Corporate Limits; Sec. 8 Meetings of the Board of Directors; Sec. 10. Salaries and compensation of directors; Sec. 16. Oath; Residence Requirement; Sec. 19 Elections to the Board of Directors; Sec. 20 Removal of Directors, Recall Election; Sec. 58 Power to enact Laws; Sec. 60 Police Court Jurisdiction Generally; Sec. 67 Appeals; Sec. 84 Bribery-Definition; Punishment; Sec. 85 Same-Attempting, Punishment; Sec. 86 Same-Demanding or receiving bribe; Punishment; Sec. 93 General Penalty; and further adopting and enacting a new code for the City of Bluefield, West Virginia; Providing for the repeal of certain ordinances not included therein; Providing a penalty for the violation thereof; Providing for the manner of amending such code; and providing when such code and this ordinance shall become effective.

Art Riley representing the Downtown Merchants spoke in favor of amending the charter and the proposed ordinance changes. Mr. Riley said that as a citizen and a business person, I cheer you on; this is something that is very long overdue. I sincerely hope that we pass this and bring ourselves kicking and screaming into the 21st Century.

There was not anyone else wishing to speak for or against the proposed ordinance, and the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Director Brammer, seconded by Director Sarver. Motion carried.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA
November 27, 2012**

The Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia met in regular session November 27, 2012 at 6 p.m. in the Municipal Boardroom. Present were Mayor Linda K. Whalen; Directors Mary Frances Brammer and Deb Sarver; City Manager Jim Ferguson; City Attorney Brian Cochran and City Clerk Helen Mitchell. Directors Sternloff and Blevins were not in attendance.

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 November 13, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved as presented on a motion by Director Mary Frances Brammer and seconded by Director Deb Sarver.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

City Manager Ferguson introduced Jeff Warden as the new Fire Chief of the City of Bluefield. Manager Ferguson said that Jeff is a nineteen year veteran of the Bluefield Fire Department.

City Manager Ferguson commended Watts Transformer for taking a proactive approach in hiring Empire Salvage to demolish one of their buildings on Roanoke Street. Manager

Ferguson said that anytime a property owner removes a blighted property, it is good news for the City of Bluefield.

City Manager Ferguson announced that Harry Hanley, local contractor has plans to open a fish market on Bland Street in March, 2013.

Manager Ferguson commented that he had visited over forty local businesses since becoming City Manger. The purpose of the visits is to get to know the businesses, their needs and what the city can do to help them.

Manager Ferguson stated that the City was behind in leaf pickup because of four legal holidays falling in the month of November.

Manager Ferguson reported that the Holiday of Lights kicked off with a great start this past weekend with an estimate of approximately 2000 people visiting on Saturday night.

Manager Ferguson reported that the Scott Street Parking Garage demolition and cleanup is now complete. The project's construction phase will begin this week with a wall being built that adjoins First Century Bank and stairs leading to the nearby Federal Building. The construction phase is estimated to be completed by the end of the year, weather permitting.

ACTION ITEMS

City Manager Jim Ferguson read into the record the First Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Part 1, The Charter of the City of Bluefield, established by 1921 Acts of the WV Legislature. By the Amendments of Sec. 2. Corporate Limits; Sec. 8 Meetings of the Board of Directors; Sec. 10. Salaries and compensation of directors; Sec. 16. Oath; Residence Requirement; Sec. 19 Elections to the Board of Directors; Sec. 20 Removal of Directors, Recall Election; Sec. 58 Power to enact Laws; Sec. 60 Police Court Jurisdiction Generally; Sec. 67 Appeals; Sec. 84 Bribery-Definition; Punishment; Sec. 85 Same-Attempting, Punishment; Sec. 86 Same-Demanding or receiving bribe; Punishment; Sec. 93 General Penalty; and further adopting and enacting a new code for the City of Bluefield, West Virginia; Providing for the repeal of certain ordinances not included therein; Providing a penalty for the violation thereof; Providing for the manner of amending such code; and providing when such code and this ordinance shall become effective.

A motion to approve the First Reading of the Ordinance as read was made by Director Mary Frances Brammer, seconded by Director Deb Sarver. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARD AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Director Mary Frances Brammer thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Director Brammer thanked Director Deb Sarver and all volunteers who worked on the "Holiday of Lights" for a great job. Director Brammer thanked City Manager Jim Ferguson for his communications regarding the city.

Mayor Linda Whalen thanked Director Deb Sarver and the volunteers who worked so diligently on the Holiday of Lights. Mayor Whalen said this is a real sacrifice, a tremendous amount of work and truly a work of love.

Mayor Whalen also thanked city workers and the Beautification Commission for their work in getting downtown decorated.

Mayor Whalen asked everyone to shop local as much as possible, and to support our local businesses.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Delegate Marty Gearheart discussed scheduling a date for the newly elected legislators to meet with city officials to discuss issues coming before the legislature.

Mayor Whalen congratulated all of the newly elected legislators and said that the City looks forward to the opportunity of working with them.

Art Riley representing Downtown Merchants said that the parking in downtown had improved tremendously.

Mr. Riley asked if there was an engineering concept of what the Scott Street Parking Garage would look like when completed.

City Manager Ferguson stated there is a website which shows a three dimensional concept and he will provide the information for viewing on the city website.

Mr. Riley encouraged everyone to attend the Downtown Christmas Parade on December 8 at 1 p.m.

Mr. Riley commended the Board and City Attorney Brian Cochran for their work in revamping the ordinances and the charter.

Mayor Whalen also thanked Attorney Cochran for his work on amending the charter and ordinances.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER

- November 22-December 31 - Holiday of Lights Festival at Bluefield City Park - Sun-Thurs 6-9 p.m.; Fri & Sat -6-10 p.m.
- Summit Players Theatre - "Christmas Belles" - November 30, Dec. 1,2,7-9
- East River Mountain Town Band - 16th Annual Christmas Concert - Dec. 4 - Bluefield High School Performing Arts Center - 7:30 p.m.
- December 8, 2012 - Downtown Christmas Parade - 1 p.m.

Hearing no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Helen L. Mitchell, City Clerk

Linda K. Whalen, Mayor