

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA  
July 9, 2013**

The Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia met in regular session July 9, 2013 at 12 p.m. in the Municipal Boardroom. Present were Mayor Linda Whalen, Directors Pete Sternloff, Mary Frances Brammer, Deb Sarver and Tom Blevins; City Manager Jim Ferguson; City Attorney Brian Cochran; City Treasurer Ken Mulkey and City Clerk Bobbi Kersey.

**INVOCATION / PLEDGE**

The Invocation was given by Director Mary Frances Brammer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES**

Minutes of the June 25, 2013 meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Director Pete Sternloff and seconded by Director Mary Frances Brammer.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Manager Ferguson asked for an update from Mel Saunders, Coordinator of the curbside recycling program. Recycling Coordinator Mel Saunders reported the annual "Go Green" night with the Bluefield Blue Jays will be held on July 18. Mr. Saunders said five hundred (500) rally towels and thirty-five (35) game ready jerseys will be given out as promotional items. The Recycling Program began five and a half years ago on November 1, 2007. The program began with a grant, which is renewed every other year. Mr. Tom Cole leased the first recycle truck to the City of Bluefield for \$1. To date over 17 million tons of recycling material is collected. Over 90 businesses recycle at least once a month and over 900 households are now in the recycling database. Since January, the City of Bluefield has added sixty (60) new residential recyclers. This is a very positive program for the City of Bluefield.
- Bluefield Gas Company has sent a letter to budget customers explaining what happened concerning termination notices received in the mail. Bluefield Gas Company reported they had experienced a computer glitch.
- Manager Ferguson recognized employee, Nancy Bailey, for outstanding performance and dedication in the Treasury Department at City Hall. Nancy is known for her professionalism and industrious work habits. Ms. Bailey was congratulated and given a small token of appreciation.
- Chat and Chew with the City Manager was held on June 18. The topic for discussion: Is the City of Bluefield business friendly? The group consensus was Bluefield is not unfriendly, but there is a perception of the City of Bluefield being unfriendly. City Hall has implemented a See-Smile-Speak, Team Blue Ten Foot Rule. City Manager Ferguson suggested that if someone hears something negative regarding the City of Bluefield to reciprocate with the positive.
- Redevelopment and Planning Director, Josh Cline is working towards making the City of Bluefield business friendly. Mr. Cline feels the Chat and Chew discussions are a great way for businesses to share and network. Mr. Cline is in process of creating a "How To" packet for new business owners. This packet will give step-by-step information concerning business resources. A draft will be presented at the next Chat and Chew on July 29. Also, a new web site is to be launched August 1. The new site will be business and community user friendly. Director Cline would like the

community/business to think of him as a liaison that is willing to work towards positive goals within the City of Bluefield.

- City Manager Ferguson introduced Chief Dillow who spoke about a drive-by shooting that took place July 2. Chief Dillow reported the incident was spurred by an argument that began on Facebook. Police were dispatched to the scene between 2 and 3 a.m. at the dead end of Augusta St. The shooting did not happen in the park. Children are safe at any of the area playgrounds.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Director Pete Sternloff made a motion to approve application for payment #11 for Scott Street Parking Center in the amount of \$36,611.62 to Swope Construction seconded by Director Tom Blevins. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Director Mary Frances Brammer made a motion to approve the revised 2013/2014 Public Work Street budget by \$68,000.00 to cover the expense of two (2) one (1) ton dump trucks, seconded by Director Tom Blevins. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Director Tom Blevins made a motion to authorize the bid of \$105,500.00 to replace the gymnasium floor at Bluefield Auditorium and enter into a contractual agreement with R.M. Huffman Company, seconded by Director Pete Sternloff. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Director Mary Frances Brammer made a motion for approval of a revised Personnel Guidelines and Procedures Manual for the City of Bluefield, seconded by Director Pete Sternloff. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Human Resource Director Angie Foley gave a brief presentation explaining and citing examples of changes made in the manual. Ms. Foley said the manual was basically just "fine-tuned" and brought up to date.

Director Pete Sternloff made a motion to accept the appointment of Doug Hayes to serve as Municipal Judge for the City of Bluefield, seconded by Director Mary Frances Brammer. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

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

Director Pete Sternloff thanked the Police Department for all they do in keeping the citizens safe.

Director Mary Frances Brammer thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Director Brammer reminded everyone to look out for their neighbors.

Director Deb Sarver thanked the Police Department for all of their hard work and dedication to the City.

Director Tom Blevins stated this would be his last Board meeting. He thanked the sitting Board of Directors for their hard work and dedication as leaders in the community. Director Blevins congratulated the newly elected Board of Directors.

Mayor Linda Whalen asked when the landscaping would begin at Scott Street Parking Center. City Manager Ferguson said the weather had not been cooperating but planting will begin as soon as possible.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Art Riley, representing the Downtown Merchants, reported the following:

1. Confirmed the total cost on Scott Street Parking was approximately \$ 2. 5 million and this figure did not include landscaping.
2. Music in Chicory Square, downtown Bluefield – Friday’s 12 noon. Free and open to the public.
3. Street Fair will be August 2 and 3. Events will include food, music, beauty pageant, dog show, downhill derby and much more. Public Welcome
4. On behalf of the Downtown Merchants, Mr. Riley thanked the sitting Board of Directors for all of their hard work and dedication to the City of Bluefield.

Mr. Richard Lawson stated that his street, off Lyndell Street, needs to be paved. City Manager Ferguson said he would meet with Mr. Lawson.

Mr. Cy Gadd discussed his disagreement with the handicap parking arrangements made during the Second Chance Learning Concert. Attorney Cochran said the agreement accepted by the City of Bluefield stated an alternative plan concerning handicap parking, Additional parking was added and a shuttle service was available.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER**

Music in Chicory Square - Downtown Bluefield, WV, Friday's 12 noon. Free and open to the public.

July 18: Appalachian Trails Tour - Participants will hike a five-mile, round trip trail along Dismal Creek on the West Virginia and Virginia border and will view an overnight shelter on the trail. Location: Bluefield State College (Meet in the parking lot of Tierney Conference Center, Dickason Hall), Bluefield, WV. Cost: \$20.00. Instructor: Jason Roberts. Time: 9:00a.m. - 2:00 p.m. For more information: (304) 327-4000 or [www.experiencewv.org](http://www.experiencewv.org).

July 18-20: Blue-Gray Shrine Horse Show - 44<sup>th</sup> Annual horse show at Bluefield City Park, Stadium Drive, Bluefield, WV. Riders from all over the East Coast will participate. Information: (304) 327-2448 or (304) 325-8438.

July 21: Sports in West Virginia workshop will take place at Bowen Baseball Field, Bluefield, WV, home of the Bluefield Blue Jays. Everyone is welcome; participants will meet the manager and baseball players. The workshop will be followed by a ballgame with the Bluefield Blue Jays and the Bristol White Sox. Time: 12:30p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Cost: \$15.00. For more information: (304) 324-1326 or [www.experiencewv.org](http://www.experiencewv.org).

July 23: Firearm Safety Course- Bluefield State College Tierney Conference Center, Dickson Hall, Room 441, Bluefield. WV Instructor Jason Roberts will conduct a four-hour classroom course for safe gun handling. Age: 12 years and up, children must have parental supervision. Time: 1:00p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Cost: \$35.00. For more information: (304) 327-4000 or [www.experiencewv.org](http://www.experiencewv.org).

Director Mary Frances Brammer moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Director Pete Sternloff. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

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.

Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

Linda Whalen, Mayor