

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA  
July 23, 2013**

The Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia met in regular session July 23, 2013 at 6 p.m. in the Municipal Boardroom. Present were Mayor Linda Whalen; Directors Pete Sternloff, Mary Frances Brammer and Deb Sarver; City Manager Jim Ferguson; City Attorney Brian Cochran; City Treasurer Ken Mulkey and City Clerk Bobbi Kersey. Director Tom Blevins was not in attendance.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE**

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

**MINUTES**

Minutes of the July 9, 2013 meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Director Pete Sternloff, seconded by Mary Frances Brammer.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- City Manager Jim Ferguson asked Police Chief Dillow for an update from the police department. Chief Dillow reported the police department had four promotions last month: Bill Lightfoot to Lieutenant, Josh Brooks and Bobby Hamm to Sergeant, and Aaron Cook to Corporal. Beginning August 2, the downtown area will have a foot patrol officer and a parking officer on duty. Economic and Planning Director Josh Cline is working with the police force to obtain a grant to help secure an officer as a resource person for area schools. Chief Dillow thanked the Shott Foundation and the Highway Safety Division for their continued support of the Bluefield Police Department.
- City Manager Ferguson reported several projects at the Recreation and Parks Department are near completion. Manager Ferguson thanked the Boy Scouts for all their work this past week at the Bluefield City Park. The Scouts weeded, built items, painted and did various other improvements. Their work was appreciated and the improvements will be enjoyed by all citizens. The United Way of the Virginias is sponsoring a Community Day of Action on Saturday, July 27 at the Yakkity-Yak playground in Lotito Park in Bluefield, WV.
- City Manager Ferguson said the new gymnasium floor at the Youth Center is almost complete. Manager Ferguson read historical information about the City of Bluefield purchasing the Auditorium in 1955. City Manager Ferguson presented each Board Member with an engraved piece of the original gym floor.
- Manager Ferguson thanked the Sanitary Department and the Public Works employees for all their work and all the extra duties they provide in making the City of Bluefield look its best for the citizens.

- Manager Ferguson said the opening for the Interpretive Walk is scheduled on Thursday at 1:00 pm if weather permits.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

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

Director Pete Sternloff made a motion to approve a contractual agreement with the Mercer County Board of Education for leasing Mitchell Stadium, seconded by Director Deb Sarver. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Attorney Brian Cochran administered the swearing in of Doug Hayes as an alternate Municipal Judge for the City of Bluefield.

Mayor Linda Whalen read a resolution for Animal Awareness Month in August.

### **RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD RESOLUTION DECLARING AUGUST AS ANIMAL AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the Concerned Citizens for Animals, Second Chance for Cats, the Mercer County Spay Association, and other animal groups have requested the City of Bluefield to declare August as Animal Awareness Month; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of this Resolution is to inform and/or remind the citizens of Bluefield, West Virginia of the animal Ordinances in the City, and to provide the citizens with the information of the various groups who offer assistance regarding the ethical and humane treatment of animals; and

**WHEREAS**, the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bluefield were enacted to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the residents of the city; and

**WHEREAS**, in an effort to reduce the number of stray dogs and cats, which leads to hundreds of dogs and cats being euthanized each year because they are not wanted, the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bluefield provides that no person shall cause or allow any dog or cat owned, harbored or kept within the city to breed without first obtaining a breeding permit; and

**WHEREAS**, it is unlawful to own, possess, or keep in the city any dog or cat over the age of six (6) months that has not spayed or neutered except; when the owner has obtained an unaltered animal permit from the city clerk to keep the pet intact; or a licensed veterinarian states in writing that the animal is medically unfit to undergo the procedure; or the animal is kept in the city for fewer than thirty (30) days in a one year period; and

**WHEREAS**, the owner of any female dog in heat shall keep such dog confined in a building or secure enclosure in such a manner that such female dog cannot come into contact with another dog, except for planned breeding; and

**WHEREAS,** no person shall own, harbor, or permit any dog without first having such dog vaccinated against rabies and without first procuring a dog a city dog license as provided in section 3-22 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bluefield. Such tag shall be fastened securely to the collar of the dog so licensed; and

**WHEREAS,** the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bluefield provides that no household shall keep within the city more than three (3) adult dogs or three (3) adult cats without the owner thereof having received a permit to keep the same from the city clerk and approved by the city manager; and

**WHEREAS,** no person within the city limits shall keep on a leash, tie to a structure, confine to a pen, run, or cage or leave in a vehicle, any dog without adequate protection from direct sunlight or exposure to the weather or without adequate fresh water at all times; and

**WHEREAS,** the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bluefield further provides that no person shall allow any dog owned by him or in his custody to run at large within the city. Running at large shall be defined as allowing a dog to leave the property limits of property owned, leased or occupied by its owner without restraint. Restraint is defined as being secured by a leash or lead, or being under the control of a responsible person and obedient to that person's command; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD WEST VIRGINIA**

The month of August 2013 is hereby declared as Animal Awareness Month in the City of Bluefield, West Virginia.

**Given under our hands this the 23rd Day of July 2013.**

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**Linda K. Whalen, Mayor**

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**Dr. Tom Blevins, Director**

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**Mary Frances Brammer, Director**

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**Deb Sarver, Director**

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**Pete Sternloff, Director**

ATTEST:

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Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

**REPORT OF OFFICERS, BOARD AND STANDING COMMITTEES**

Director Pete Sternloff said it had been an interesting four years and he has enjoyed working with this City Board. Director Sternloff thanked all the amazing volunteers, by name, for their dedication and commitment to the City of Bluefield

Director Mary Frances Brammer thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Director Brammer thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve the City of Bluefield. Director

Brammer wished the newly elected City Board success. Director Brammer reminded everyone of the Blood Mobile tomorrow from 1-6.

Director Deb Sarver said it had been an honor to serve the citizens of her hometown. Director Sarver thanked each employee of the city with a personal comment to their dedication and commitment to the City of Bluefield. Director Sarver said things are in place and she feels Bluefield will thrive.

Mayor Linda Whalen thanked the citizens for the past six years as mayor and two years as vice mayor. Mayor Whalen said she was proud to live in such a wonderful city and felt it was a wonderful place because of its citizens. Mayor Whalen asked the citizens to continue the change by becoming a part of the change. Mayor Whalen felt the foundation is set for change and she firmly believed "we" are doing better. Mayor Whalen thanked those who have been helpful in making Bluefield move forward. Mayor Whalen also thanked the City Board.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

1. Downtown Merchants Fair will be August 2-3. Everyone is invited. Mr. Riley read a list of events.
2. Mr. Riley asked when the new name of the Intermodal Center would be revealed. City Manager Ferguson said on Thursday at the opening.
3. Mr. Riley thanked the Board for everything they had done and stated that he felt the City was better for their accomplishments.

Mr. Craig Hammond thanked the Board for performing a thankless job. The Board had obstacles and has moved forward despite the problems the City has faced. Mr. Hammond stated that he felt the Intermodal project is a good thing for the City.

Lynn and Carl Barnett stated that people are our best resource. They thanked City Manager Jim Ferguson, and Economic and Planning Director Josh Cline for their work and dedication to the City.

Judy Silbaugh reported the Farmers Market is up and running on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. There is still a need for vendors and asked for the citizens' support.

Cy Gadd had questions concerning the handicap parking during the Second Chance Concert. Mayor Whalen suggested that Mr. Gadd participate in the next event planning so the handicap parking could be better addressed.

Bonnie Patterson representing CASE thanked the City Board for their service to the City and for being so supportive to her. Ms. Patterson said they held a special place in her heart and that she enjoyed working with the Board.

City Manager Jim Ferguson gave each of the female Board Members Ladies a bouquet of flowers and a book of Bluefield photographs to Director Pete Sternloff in appreciation of their dedication to the City of Bluefield.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER**

Lemonade Festival will be August 27. The City will have a parade and many other events are scheduled. The public is invited to attend.

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

Hearing no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

Linda Whalen, Mayor