

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA
September 10, 2013**

The Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia met in regular session September 10, 2013 at 12 p.m. in the Municipal Boardroom. Present were Mayor Tom Cole; Vice Mayor Barbara Smith; Directors Chuck McGonagle and Ellen Light; City Manager Jim Ferguson; City Attorney Brian Cochran; Treasurer Ken Mulkey and City Clerk Bobbi Kersey. Director Michael Gibson was absent.

Mayor Tom Cole welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mayor Cole requested that everyone keep Director Michael Gibson in their thoughts and prayers as he recovers at Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

INVOCATION / PLEDGE

The Invocation was given by Pastor Terry Edwards, from the Immanuel Lutheran Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice Mayor Barbara Smith.

MINUTES

Minutes of the August 27, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Director Chuck McGonagle, seconded by Director Ellen Light.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

City Manager Jim Ferguson recognized city employee Shelia Leggett for her dedication, work ethic and service to the City of Bluefield. Manager Ferguson read a resolution that recognized Ms. Leggett in July 1990 for the William A. "Myers" Communitarian Award Recipient for Public Servant of the Year. Ms. Leggett was given a small token of appreciation.

City Manager Jim Ferguson reported the Mercer County Transit recently extended services into Lashmeet, Matoaka and Montcalm. The Mercer County Transit also has routes into Bluefield, Princeton, Athens, Welch and Bluefield, VA. Approximately twenty thousand citizens per month utilize the transit system including the elderly, disabled and students. Ester Comer, Town Clerk of Matoaka, wrote a letter expressing that the extended service is a "blessing." The price for a monthly pass will be \$25.00.

City Manager asked Patrick McKinney, General Manager of the Bluefield Area Transit, to report on the new facility located on John Nash Boulevard. Mr. McKinney reported the facility is 75% completed and plans are to move the end of October or the first of November. Manager Ferguson commended Mr. McKinney for the services he provides to the citizens.

City Manager Jim Ferguson reported representatives from the Bluefield Regional Medical

Center presented plans for a 3.3 million dollar renovation to the CCU. They will be using several area contractors.

City Manager Jim Ferguson reported the sixty-year-old Bluefield City Auditorium is in need of updates such as new guttering and painting. A balance of \$6,000 is available from the Shott Foundation from past renovations. City Manager Ferguson said this money will be used for the updates. Mayor Cole stated the Shott Foundation has been instrumental in updating the auditorium and thanked the Shott Foundation for their support.

ACTION ITEMS

The first reading of an ordinance Providing for a Traffic Change on Raleigh Street from One Way to Two-Way, from Federal Street to Scott Street was read by Mayor Cole.

An Ordinance Providing for a Traffic Pattern Change on Raleigh Street from One-Way to Two-Way, from Federal Street to Scott Street

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 40-11(a)(2) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bluefield, the City Manager of the City of Bluefield recommends an amendment to the Bluefield traffic control map regulating traffic on Raleigh Street; and

WHEREAS, the City manager recommends that traffic on Raleigh Street be changed from one-way to two-way, as described on the attached map; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors finds that the City Manager’s recommendation is in the best interests of the City, its residents, and the businesses located in the area affected; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the City of Bluefield is the duly elected Board of Directors thereof.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to West Virginia Code § 8-12-5(4), the Board of Directors hereby amends the traffic control map of the City of Bluefield by changing the traffic pattern of Raleigh Street from Federal Street to Scott Street, from one-way to two-way, as described on the attached map.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Directors, this _____ day of _____, 2013.

Mayor Thomas J. Cole

ATTEST:

Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

1st Reading:

2nd Reading:

Director Ellen Light made a motion to approve the first reading of the ordinance, seconded by Director Barbara Smith. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

City Manager Jim Ferguson gave the Board of Directors a list of streets included in the bid package for paving. City Engineer Tony Wagner stated that two sealed bids were received. AAA Paving was recommended with a bid of \$218,684.80.

Vice Mayor Barbara Smith made a motion to approve a contractual agreement for street paving projects, seconded by Director Chuck McGonagle. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

LISTS OF STREETS INCLUDED IN BID PACKAGE

1. Whitethorn Street (From Golf Street to Leatherwood Lane and intersections of Streets) Resurfacing.
2. Oak Grove Avenue and Oakdell Ave. (From Bland Road to Clovis Street, and to a point on Oak Grove Ave. and intersection of Streets) Resurfacing.
3. Maryland Avenue (From a joint on Maryland Ave. to a point on Maryland Ave. and intersections of Streets) Resurfacing and Milling.
4. Virginia Avenue (From Princeton Ave. to the end of Virginia Ave.) Resurfacing.
5. Peck Street (From Pulaski Street to North Mercer Street) Resurfacing and partial Edge Milling.

Director Chuck McGonagle made a motion to table the consideration of a proposed Ordinance Granting an Application for a Planned Unit Development (PUD) at 615 Fredrick Street, Bluefield, West Virginia due to the owner not being available to attend the meeting, seconded by Director Ellen Light. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Director Chuck McGonagle made a motion to appoint Linda K. Whalen to the Historic Landmarks Commission for a three year term (September 2013-September 2016), seconded by Vice Mayor Barbara Smith. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARD AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Director Chuck McGonagle wished Director Michael Gibson a speedy recovery. Director McGonagle thanked the Preservation Society, Jeri Ball, and all the volunteers that helped make the Lemonade Day Festival a success. Director McGonagle also thanked the code enforcement officers for their dedication to the City.

Director Ellen Light thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Director Light spoke about the expansion of the Coal Show going from regional, to national, to international. Director Light reminded everyone of the 9/11 ceremony that will take place at Chicory Square and in the event of rain will be held at the Arts Center. Director Light said the First Responders event held at the Bluefield Elks was wonderful.

Vice Mayor Barbara Smith thanked the Bluefield Fire Department. Vice Mayor Smith said she was so impressed with how rapid the fireman responded, during the First Responders event, when a beeper sounded that a fire was in progress.

Mayor Tom Cole stated he would like to start a "lunch with the mayor" so citizens can talk over issues. Mayor Cole said he felt the City of Bluefield we had a great Board of Directors that wants to do what is best for the city. Mayor Cole thanked all that were in attendance and for their participation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

1. He appreciates and thanked the Preservation Society for everything they do for the City of Bluefield.
2. The Downtown Neighborhood Association will hold a cookout at 1:00 p.m. at Genoa Park. The Board of Directors, police and fire departments are invited to attend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER

Aug. 31: 1st Annual Lemonade Festival - Downtown Bluefield, WV. The Bluefield Preservation Society is excited to present the daylong celebration with several activities, attractions and events. Just a few of those highlights include a farmers' market, a flea market, food court, antique car show and a lemon queen pageant. Also, there will be a lemonMADE cook-off and prizes will be awarded for the best in four categories including a parade and much more...

Concerts will include...

"The Kingsman Quartet" - Performing at Chicory Square, Bluefield, WV. Time: 12 noon. The concert is free of charge to the public.

"Blue Highway" - Granada Theater, Bluefield, WV. Time: 7 p.m. Admission: \$25. Tickets on sale! Concert Sponsored by: Cole Buick-Chevrolet-Cadillac-GMC, Bill Cole Auto Mall, Cole Harley-Davidson.

"Pearls of Wisdom" By 4PALS Productions - Performing at The Ramsey, Bluefield, WV. Time: 2 p.m. Admission: \$15. Tickets available at the door.

For more information and a complete schedule of the events: (304) 589-0239 or www.bluefieldpreservationsociety.com.

Mayor Tom Cole said the Board of Directors would retire into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Director Chuck McGonagle made a motion to retire to executive session, seconded by Director Ellen Light. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

Thomas J. Cole, Mayor