

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA
September 24 2013**

The Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia met in regular session September 24, 2013 at 6 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, CFO 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 Vice Mayor Barbara Smith followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Minutes of the September 10, 2013 meeting were approved with corrections on a motion by Director Ellen Light, seconded by Vice Mayor Barbara Smith.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

City Manager Jim Ferguson gave the following reports:

Bluefield City Park will be closed to all vehicular traffic as of October 1st. Foot traffic thru the park will be permissible.

The City of Bluefield and Bluefield Gas Company has scheduled an informational session to discuss public awareness of the need to call 811 before digging on October 23rd. Representatives from the WV Public Service Commission and the VA State Corporation will be in attendance. An invitation was extended to the Board of Directors.

American Electric Power Company has spent three million dollars in improvements to the city's electrical infrastructure.

American Water Company has spent over seven hundred thousand dollars and will exceed one million dollars by the end of the year. The following improvements have been completed or are scheduled:

1. Scott Street from Federal to Princeton Ave. (1900 ft.) – 6' main has been replaced plus valves and hydrants.
2. Bland Street to Federal to Princeton Ave. (1850 ft.) – 8" main has been replaced along with valves and hydrants
3. Princeton Ave. from Monroe to Bland (2800 ft.) – 8" main, valves and hydrants replaced
4. Grassy Branch to Edgewood to Mountain View (4100 ft.) – 8" main, valves and hydrants replaced
5. Fairfield from Edgewood to Heatherwood (1700 ft.) – main, valves and hydrants replaced
6. Albemarle to Pearl to James Street (2500 ft.) main, valves, and hydrants replaced

Remaining projects to replace water main, valves and hydrants are scheduled from Albemarle to Shenandoah to Pearl Street Extension. Pearl Street to Hemlock Hill and Carolina Avenue down to Pine Street to Highland Avenue.

Public Works has completed the sidewalk project from Wilson Street to Genoa and have started replacing the sidewalk from Genoa to Clifford. The target date for completion is November 18th.

The paving contracts with AAA Paving will begin no later than October 19th and be completed by November 18th.

Thirty-five (35) blighted properties have been demolished this year. The number of condemned properties in the city is now under ninety (90) and heading close to eighty (80). This will be the lowest number of condemned properties in several years.

ACTION ITEMS

The second 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: September 10, 2013

2nd Reading: September 24, 2013

Director Chuck McGonagle made a motion to approve the second reading of the ordinance, seconded by Director Ellen Light. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Jeff Clark requested consideration of a Proposed Ordinance Granting an Application for a Planned Unit Development (PUD) at 615 Fredrick Street, Bluefield, West Virginia. Mr. Clark

had presented his application to the Planning Commission at an earlier date but the application was rejected. This property was formerly owned by Dr. Radha Krishnan and used as a doctor's office, home and had two apartments and was zoned R2. Mr. Clark proposed making four (4) single-family unit structures.

Director Ellen Light asked Mr. Clark if this was the same request that was brought forth before the Planning Commission that had been rejected. Mr. Clark said he has changed his request to reflect four (4) single-family unit structures instead of the six (6) units originally proposed.

Mary Jo Babbitt, Deborah Agee and others spoke against the proposed PUD.

City Attorney Brian Cochran stated that the plan Mr. Clark presented to the Planning Commission is not the plan being requested at this time. Mr. Cochran said Mr. Clark needs to resubmit a new application to the Planning Commission.

Mayor Cole asked for a motion to consider the PUD. No motion was made.

Director Ellen Light made a motion to appoint Vice Mayor Barbara Smith to the Civilian Review Panel, seconded by Director Chuck McGonagall. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Vice Mayor Barbara Smith made a motion to approve a Special Meeting at Bluefield State College, October 29th at 6:00p.m., seconded by Director Chuck McGonagle. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Director Chuck McGonagle made a motion to observe Halloween on October 31st from 6-8 p.m., seconded by Director Ellen Light. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARD AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Marie Blackwell, Mercer County CVB, gave the Board her annual report of the bureau's activities. The bureau promotes programs to bring tourists to Mercer County. Between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013, revenue generated by Bluefield, Princeton, Bramwell, and the Mercer County Commission from the local hotel/motel tax increased \$10,000 from the last fiscal year.

Vice Mayor Barbara Smith recognized and thanked Human Resource Director Angie Foley for coordinating the "In Remembrance - 9/11 Patriot Day" at noon in Chicory Square. This is the seventh year Ms. Foley has organized a program to honor those who were lost in the World Trade Center attacks. Ms. Foley was presented a certificate of appreciation for her dedication.

Director Chuck McGonagle stated he and his wife had attended Blessings in a Backpack at Trinity Methodist Church. Director McGonagle commended the many organizers and volunteers who help make this program possible.

Director Ellen Light said the Blessings in Backpack is a great project. Volunteers stuffed 800 backpacks in 35 minutes. Director Light request everyone continue to pray for Director Gibson. Director Light stated that Bluefield has changed and we must become self-reliant and change with the time.

Mayor Cole requested that everyone keep Director Michael Gibson and his family in their thoughts and prayers. Mayor Cole stated "Lunch with the Mayor" will be September 30th at noon at Portabella's Italian Restaurant. The meeting will allow residents, business owners, employees and visitors to speak with him directly in a casual setting. Residents can request to participate by using the City of Bluefield website or can call Economic Redevelopment and Planning Director Josh Cline at 304.327.5568. Mayor Cole stated the Wade Center having a

campaign to raise funding for their school program. Mayor Cole requested citizens open their hearts and support this program by donating \$81.00.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Art Riley, representing the Downtown Merchants, stated the Christmas parade is scheduled for December 14th, Saturday 1:00 p.m. Mr. Riley questioned what would happen to funds left over from the street paving project. City Manager Ferguson answered that streets will be assessed by the Public Works Director and prioritized. Money left over will be used to pave additional streets. Mr. Riley asked if there was a sign for the parking lot on Princeton Avenue. City Manager Ferguson stated a sign is on order.

Charlene Long, a resident of Union Street, told the Board she was concerned about the recent violence on her street, the drug activity and garbage in some yards. Mrs. Long is meeting with Mayor Cole on September 30th.

Cy Gadd presented the Board with pictures he had taken during the Beaver /Graham football game. Mr. Gadd was concerned about the drinking of alcohol in the tailgate zone. City Manager said no alcohol was allowed and if a person had been caught with an open alcohol container, they would have been cited. Chief Dillow said the game was one of the calmest in recent memory. There were no issues with tailgaters.

Mayor Cole read a letter sent by Judy Silbaugh and Kathy Nelson thanking the City of Bluefield for their support with the Almost Heaven Farmers' Market and invited everyone to the Winter Farmer's Market that will be located at the Herb Sims Youth Center.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER

Fond farewell to the Ridge Runner Train event. The City of Bluefield Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting a day of fun, entertainment and activities from 12:00-4:00 p.m. on September 29th to celebrate the conclusion of another successful season of the Ridge Runner train. The Parks and Recreation Department will permit non-profit agencies of the area to sell refreshments and approved crafts at the fall fair. Area entertainers are also invited to participate. For additional information, please contact coordinator Judy Silbaugh at 304.327.7501.

Almost Heaven Farmers' Market, located at K-Mart on Cumberland Road, is from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Items are locally grown from Bland, Tazewell, Mercer, Summers and Monroe counties. For more information, please contact coordinator Judy Silbaugh at 304.327.7501.

HALLOWEEN - Participating households should turn on their porch light during trick-or-treat hours and for everyone's safety we ask trick-or-treaters to only visit these homes or those decorated for Halloween

The Summit Players Theatre presents "Romance in D," a romantic comedy. For tickets, please call 304.325.8000.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

Thomas J. Cole, Mayor