

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA  
October 22, 2013**

The Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia met in regular session, October 22, 2013 at 6:00 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.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE**

The Invocation was given by Pastor James Palmer of the Mr. Zion Baptist Church; followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice Mayor Barbara Smith.

**MINUTES**

Minutes of the October 8, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved by motion by Vice Mayor Barbara Smith, seconded by Director Ellen Light.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

City Manager Ferguson gave the following reports:

- Congratulations were extended to Corporal Vance and Patrolman Allen of the City Police Department who were blessed with the birth of baby girls one day apart this past week.
- To date, building permits issued reflect improvements through the month of October total \$1,131,224. The City of Bluefield is having one of the best years in recent history with citywide infrastructure, commercial, and residential building improvements.
- Billy Hester accepted the level one Clean Zone Award from JanPak earlier today on behalf of the City of Bluefield. Mr. Hester explained that the city has been in partnership with JanPak for the last few years working towards a healthier work environment. Eighty percent of materials purchased for the city are now environmentally green. Mr. Hester said he looks forward to the City of Bluefield moving on to level two.
- Several street paving projects have been completed:
  - Whitethorn Street, from Golf Street to Leatherwood Lane and intersections of streets have been resurfaced
  - Oak Grove Avenue and Oakdell Avenue, from Bland Road to Clovis Street to a point on Oak Grove Avenue and intersection of streets have been resurfaced. After further assessment the Public Works Director and City Manager

Ferguson determined additional paving could be completed while remaining on budget so, Oak Grove up to Ridgecrest was completed along with additional paving on Clovis Street.

- A portion of Maryland Avenue and intersection of streets have been milled and resurfaced.
- Peck Street has been resurfaced and partially edge milled up to North Mercer.
- All of Virginia Avenue has been resurfaced.

The City Manager assesses the conditions of the paving project with the Public Works Director, Tony Wagner, who is inspecting the work. A DOH official has made positive comments regarding the paving project.

- Public Works has begun leaf pick up and will continue with this service until the end of January. Public Works scout all sections of the city and will pick up leaves accordingly. Citizens are asked to follow these guidelines;
  1. Do not rake leaves onto the street but just up to the curb. Wet leaves on city streets cause slippery conditions.
  2. Do not combine leaves with any other yard or house debris.
  3. Leaves should be bagged when conditions warrant such as site elevation, wind and access for leaf truck.
- In memory of Herb Sims, Parks and Recreation Department Director for fifteen years, a plaque with his name will be placed at the main entrance to the Youth Center. The City plans to replace the main marquee, in the near future, as the Herb Sims Youth Center and Bluefield Auditorium.
- Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, Bluefield State College will be hosting a Town Hall meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Student Union Building. Town Hall meetings are designed to give citizens the opportunity to provide input and offer suggestions. The main topic of the Town Hall meeting will be the Martin Luther King, Jr. Bridge.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

City Manager Ferguson stated the request to purchase a truck for Animal Control was based on the high mileage and the amount of oil being used to keep the current truck running.

Director Ellen Light made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2013 GMC basic pickup truck not exceeding \$21,000 to replace Animal Control vehicle; seconded by Director Chuck McGonagle. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

City Engineer/Public Work Director Tony Wagner stated that the city tries to pave at least one or two alleys. This helps with the maintenance of the trash trucks constant wear and tear from poor road conditions.

Vice Mayor Barbara Smith made a motion to approve a change order for street paving project by AAA Paving in the amount of \$34,917; seconded by Director Ellen Light. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Director Chuck McGonagle made a motion to reappoint Jim Bailey to the Fireman's Civil Service Commission for a four-year term October 22, 2013 - October 22, 2016; seconded by Vice Mayor Barbara Smith. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Vice Mayor Barbara Smith made a motion to table appointments to the Planning Commission; seconded by Director Chuck McGonagle. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

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

Vice Mayor Barbara Smith thanked Lori Mills and others who offered their services in repairing the District I Pulaski Street playground fence and for trimming the tree on the corner. Vice Mayor also thanked those who cleared the overgrown sidewalk on Baldwin Street and Allen Street. Vice-Mayor reminded everyone of the Town Hall Meeting and that this is breast cancer awareness month.

Director Ellen Light thanked Billy Hester for helping the City go "green" and encouraged all citizens to join the recycle program available in Bluefield. Director Light said she is looking forward to the Town Hall meeting and hopes to get many ideas from the citizens of Bluefield.

Director Chuck McGonagle stated the Board is working diligently for the citizens of Bluefield. Director McGonagle said he welcomes input from citizens and hopes they take this opportunity to participate by attending the Town Hall meeting.

Mayor Tom Cole stated again that this City Board cares deeply about the City of Bluefield. They are looking for input from the citizens and hopes everyone will participate.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

1. What would be the forum for the Town Hall meeting? Mayor Cole stated this would not be as formal as the regular meeting. The primary focus of the meeting will be discussion concerning the MLK Bridge. Citizens will be asked for feedback and may ask questions.
2. Is the afternoon board meeting going to be changed back to 6:00 p.m.? Mayor Cole stated from the three months of meetings this board has attended he believed that attendance is greater at the afternoon meeting. Mayor Cole has asked the City Clerk to start keeping a record of the attendance at each meeting.
3. Will the new Animal Truck have a bed (cover) on the back for the animals? Mayor Cole stated the truck does not include a cover and that is possibly something that might be considered if deemed necessary.

Mr. Riley reminded everyone of the Christmas Parade scheduled December 14 at 1:00 pm. The parade will begin at The Maples and turn off at Raleigh Street. The Preservation Society will have an event in conjunction with the parade. There will be more information at a later date. Mayor Cole stated that the citizens of Bluefield owed Mr. Riley a debt of gratitude for keeping the Christmas Parade a part of our history.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER**

Halloween will be observed October 31 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Director Ellen Light moved that the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Vice-Mayor Barbara Smith. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

Thomas J. Cole, Mayor