

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA
November 12, 2013**

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

Mayor Tom Cole welcomed everyone to the meeting

INVOCATION / PLEDGE

The Invocation was given by Reverend Garry D. Moore. Vice Mayor Barbara Smith thanked all the Veterans for their service and requested a moment of silence to remember the veterans who have served this country, past and present, for our freedom; followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Minutes of the October 22, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved by motion by Director Ellen Light, seconded by Director Michael Gibson.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

City Manager Ferguson gave the following reports:

- AEP sent the City of Bluefield a contribution of \$3,000 to help pay for electric outlets that are being installed on the utility poles.
- Volunteers in the City are getting ready for the holidays. Julie Hurley, representing the Preservation Society, reported "Blue Holly Day" activities are being planned to coincide with the Christmas Parade in downtown Bluefield, December 14 from 12-5 p.m.
 - Ice Skating Rink: skates will be provided, a small fee will be charged if sponsors cannot be acquired to absorb the rental cost of the ice rink.
 - Pinch the Grinch
 - Craft Beer Crawl
 - Holiday Photo Village
 - Milk & Cookies with Santa @ the Granada Theater

The City Manager thanked the Preservation Society, the Downtown Merchants and all the volunteers who give of their time and energy for the betterment of the City of Bluefield.

- All major paving projects have been completed.
- Public Works has begun leaf pick up and will continue with this service until the end of January. To date fifty-four (54) loads have been picked up.
- The Bland Street sidewalk project will be completed by the December deadline.
- Forty-two (42) blighted properties have been demolished this year.

ACTION ITEMS

Mayor Tom Cole read the following Proclamation in honor of the Bishop Clarence Moore:

Proclamation

Commending the service of Bishop Clarence Moore on his 60th Pastoral Anniversary

WHEREAS, Bishop Clarence Moore, an internationally traveled preacher, teacher, evangelist and pastor of the Greater Mt. Zion Pentecostal Church is celebrating his sixtieth pastoral anniversary.

WHEREAS, Bishop Clarence Moore has served as the assistant treasurer of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World Inc., and served for six years as the chairman of the International Missions Board. He is a member of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc.'s International Board of Bishops and oversees the organization's 52-church Virginia State Council. He further serves as a member of the prestigious Executive Bishops Council, which sets the agenda for the Board of Bishops.

WHEREAS, Bishop Clarence Moore has preached at the national conventions of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Bibleway Worldwide, and of the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith during his ministry. He has ministered around the world—in Germany, India, Mexico, the West Indies, England, and several African nations— as well as to congregations throughout the United States.

WHEREAS, Bishop Clarence Moore developed *The Emmanuel's Ministers & Leaders Conference*, a two-day series of symposium-style sessions for ministers and church leaders from around the region and the United States, from a pastors' roundtable, with open discussions about issues relating to day-to-day ministries. His sermon "The Nature of Acceptable Worship," delivered at the 1981 Pentecostal Assemblies of the World Convention, was published in the winter 2005 issue of *The African American Pulpit* – the nation's premier journal for African-American ministers. Several of Bishop Moore's sermons are also included in a collection on Pentecostal preachers at the Smithsonian Institution.

WHEREAS, Greater Mt. Zion Pentecostal Church, under the leadership of Bishop Clarence Moore, hosts an annual luncheon for the City of Bluefield law enforcement and city officials during National Police Appreciation Week. Bishop Moore's ministry includes monthly fellowship with the Men's Breakfast group at Graham United Methodist Church and regularly visits local hospitals to visit and pray for the infirmed.

NOW THERE FORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Bluefield Board of Directors commends Bishop Clarence Moore on his sixtieth pastoral anniversary, his service to the community through his works, and care for the residents of the City of Bluefield and the greater area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk present a copy of this resolution for presentation to Bishop Clarence Moore as an expression of the City of Bluefield's appreciation for this achievement and best wishes in his future endeavors.

Thomas J. Cole, Mayor _____
Barbara Thompson-Smith, Vice Mayor _____
Michael Gibson, Director _____
Ellen P. Light, Director _____
Chuck McGonagle, Director _____

Attest: City Clerk, Bobbi Kersey _____

Mayor Cole congratulated Bishop Moore and thanked him for his work and being a role model in our community.

Director Michael Gibson made a motion for approval of the Mercer County lease agreement in the amount of \$12,960 annually for Magistrate Court office space located at 200 Rogers Street; seconded by Director Ellen Light. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Mayor Cole requested a motion on the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE APPLICATION OF A FLEX-E GRANT

WHEREAS, the City of Bluefield Board of Directors met on November 12, 2013 with a quorum present and passed the following resolution.

WHEREAS, be it resolved that the City of Bluefield Board of Directors hereby authorizes Joshua Cline, Economic Redevelopment Director for the City of Bluefield to apply for Flex-E-Grant funds, for the Commodity Flows Study by the Rahall Appalachian Transportation Institute, on behalf of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia.

WHEREAS, be it also resolved that the City of Bluefield Board of Directors hereby authorizes the certifying official Jim Ferguson, City Manager of the City of Bluefield to act on its behalf to enter into a contractual agreement with the West Virginia Development Office to receive and administer grant funds pursuant to provisions of the Flex-E-Grant Program, if awarded.

WHEREAS, be it further resolved that the governing body of the City of Bluefield pledges matching funds for the project from the economic development budget.

Director Ellen Light made a motion for approval of process to apply for Police and Fire pension drawdowns from the state in the amounts of (police) \$190,232 & (fire) \$194,123 respectively; seconded by Director Chuck McGonagle. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

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WHEREAS, be it resolved that the City of Bluefield Board of Directors hereby authorizes Joshua Cline, Economic Redevelopment Director for the City of Bluefield to apply for Flex-E-Grant funds, for the hiring of a consultant to aid in the development of a comprehensive plan, on behalf of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia.

WHEREAS, be it also resolved that the City of Bluefield Board of Directors hereby authorizes the certifying official Jim Ferguson, City Manager of the City of Bluefield to act on its behalf to enter into a contractual agreement with the West Virginia Development Office to receive and administer grant funds pursuant to provisions of the Flex-E-Grant Program, if awarded.

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WHEREAS, be it resolved that the City of Bluefield Board of Directors hereby authorizes Joshua Cline, Economic Redevelopment Director for the City of Bluefield to apply for Flex-E-Grant funds, for the study of the Bluefield State Research and Development Building, on behalf of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia.

WHEREAS, be it also resolved that the City of Bluefield Board of Directors hereby authorizes the certifying official Jim Ferguson, City Manager of the City of Bluefield to act on its behalf to enter into a contractual agreement with the West Virginia Development Office to receive and administer grant funds pursuant to provisions of the Flex-E-Grant Program, if awarded.

WHEREAS, be it further resolved that the governing body of the City of Bluefield pledges matching funds for the project from the economic development budget.

Given under our hands this the 12th Day of November 2013.

Thomas J. Cole, Mayor
Barbara Thompson-Smith, Vice Mayor
Michael Gibson, Director
Ellen Peters Light, Director
Chuck McGonagle, Director

Director Michael Gibson made a motion to approve the resolution for the City of Bluefield to apply for three (3) Flex E. Grants; seconded by Vice Mayor Barbara Smith. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Vice Mayor Barbara Smith made a motion to approve final payment to AAA Paving in the amount of \$256,833.02 for street paving projects; seconded by Director Ellen Light. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Vice Mayor Barbara Smith made a motion for authorization for the City of Bluefield to execute a Residential Lease of Real Property to Bobbie Wright; seconded by Director Michael Gibson. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Director Ellen Light made a motion for authorization for the City of Bluefield to accept a Deed of Gift of a certain parcel of Real Estate from Betty Jo Cooper; seconded by Director Michael Gibson. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Director Chuck McGonagle made a motion to appoint Justin Hamm and Ellen Light to the Planning Commission for a three (3) term-November 12, 2013-2016. Seconded by Director Michael Gibson. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARD AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Director Michael Gibson stated he was happy to be back. Director Gibson thanked everyone for their cards, calls and support during his absence. He is looking forward to getting back to work for the citizens of Bluefield.

Vice Mayor Barbara Smith stated she had spoken to Bishop Moore prior to his 60th anniversary. Bishop Moore voiced his concern that he had not accomplished much in sixty years and that he had started some things but hadn't finished things. Vice Mayor Smith said Bishop Moore was leaving a legacy evident in the lives of those whom he has touched through their accomplishments. Vice Mayor Smith thanked Bishop Moore for his dedication to the community and City of Bluefield. Vice Mayor Smith thanked the veterans and stating, "You are not and will not be forgotten."

Director Ellen Light expressed her admiration to Bishop Moore for his sixty years of ministry. Director Light reminded everyone that we need to thank veterans every day for their service

and told the veterans present at the meeting "you honor us as do all those who have served our country." Director Light thanked the volunteers who work so hard for the betterment of the City of Bluefield. Director Light said the Summit Players will be presenting the musical comedy, "Nuncrackers." The musical dates are December 6-8 & 13-15 and reservations can be made by calling the box office at 304.325.8000.

Director Chuck McGonagle stated he was concerned about a recent letter, written by Mr. Al Hancock in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph about Bluefield not being veteran friendly. Director McGonagle said he took this as a challenge and wants to change that perception and had been working on several ideas that he shared:

Information concerning veterans will be actively updated on the City of Bluefield website.

The Beautification Committee along with Director McGonagle, Josh Cline, Marie Blackwell, Mr. Hancock and other volunteers are in the beginning stage to design and find a location to build a Veteran's Memorial in the City.

Businesses that are veteran friendly will be encouraged to display a veteran friendly sticker.

There will be Veteran's Day parade next year and the East River Band will return back to the city for the Veterans Concert.

There will be a mobile health clinic that will be parking at the youth center. Mr. Hancock has been instrumental in the city receiving this mobile clinic.

Gov. Tomblin declared March 30 Vietnam Recognition Day. A special ceremony with the governor is being planned for March 30, 2014.

Bluefield State has information on the GI bills

Mr. Hancock thanked the Board of Directors and citizens of Bluefield. He said the veterans would appreciate any support from the city. Mr. Hancock noted we needed to get the information concerning the mobile clinic out to the community so it will be utilized to its fullest potential. Mr. Hancock said every day should be Veterans Day not just one day out of the year. Mr. Hancock felt the City was heading in the right directions.

Mayor Tom Cole thanked everyone for attending. Mayor Cole said the Board was dedicated to tapping into as many resources as possible in working with our veterans. Mayor Cole said Mr. Jim Bailey, a former council member, had suggested that the Board contact Senator Manchin and offer Bluefield's assistance with the mobile clinic. Josh Cline and Mayor Cole have sent a letter to Senator Manchin, as he was instrumental in getting the mobile clinic. Mayor Cole also said it was wonderful to have Director Gibson at the meeting. Mayor Cole requested citizens call Josh Cline to have Lunch with the Mayor. Mayor Cole reminded citizens that the Board is open to comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bonnie Patterson, representing CASE, reported a new program available for veterans. Ms. Patterson presented a new brochure she had designed detailing supportive services for veterans and their families. This program will assist low-income Veterans families with a range of supportive services to promote housing stability. Based on individual assessment, the program includes aid with obtaining VA benefits, outreach services, case management and other up-to-date resources.

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

The public meeting at Bluefield State was a success. Mr. Riley hopes the Board continues to reach out to the community. He felt that Director Gibson's idea was a good one. Mr. Riley asked the amount of each Flex Grant. Josh Cline stated that each Flex Grant will be for \$8,000 and the City will match the grants with \$2,000.

Mr. Riley reminded everyone of the Christmas parade on December 14 at 1 p.m. Mr. Riley encouraged everyone to participate and get involved in the festivities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER

Halloween will be observed October 31 from 6-8 p.m.

Director Chuck McGonagle moved the meeting be adjourned to executive session, only to return to adjourn; seconded by Director Ellen Light. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

Thomas J. Cole, Mayor