

**Board of Directors
Bluefield, West Virginia
January 28, 2014
6:00 p.m.**

The Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia met in regular session, January 28, at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Boardroom. Present were Mayor Thomas Cole, Vice-Mayor Barbara Thompson-Smith, Directors Chuck McGonagle and Ellen Light; also attending were City Manager Jim Ferguson, City Attorney Brian Cochran, Chief Financial Officer Ken Mulkey and City Clerk Bobbi Kersey. Director Michael Gibson was absent.

Mayor Thomas Cole welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson-Smith gave a presentation in recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. Vice Mayor Smith lit a candle and recited a statement from Rev. King that she felt reflected the expectations of this Board: "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward". Vice Mayor Smith stated this Board pledges to move forward.

Invocation and Pledge

The invocation was given by Vice-Mayor Barbara Thompson-Smith, who then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

The minutes from the January 14, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith and seconded by Director Ellen Light.

Discussion Items

City Manager Jim Ferguson gave the following reports:

- The VA Mobile Health Clinic ribbon cutting ceremony will be February 13 at 11:00 a.m. The public is invited to attend and tours of the mobile unit will be given until 1:30p.m. Several dignitaries are expected to attend. City Manager Ferguson stated any veteran can use the mobile clinic **but must be registered or enrolled through the VA office in Beckley**. Once enrolled, appointments can only be made through the VA Medical Center in Beckley. The Mobile Health Clinic will be located at the Herb Sims Auditorium and is open Monday thru Friday from 8:30 a.m. till 4:30 a.m. The unit will be staffed with medical personnel from the Beckley VA Medical Center. Emergency or walk in visits are not permitted. City Manager Ferguson and Mayor Cole encouraged all veterans to take advantage of the medical unit.

Action Items

- Director Ellen Light made a motion to appoint Bill Nabors to the Zoning Commission for a three (3) year term (Jan. 28, 2014 - 2017), seconded by Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

- Director Chuck McGonagle made a motion to approve the application process for Home Rule, seconded by Director Ellen Light. Unanimously approved and so ordered.
- Director Chuck McGonagle made a motion to move into executive session only to return for adjournment, seconded by Director Ellen Light. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Reports of Officers, Boards and Standing Committees

Director Chuck McGonagle thanked the many organizations and employees for their dedication and hard work.

Director Ellen Light thanked the City Employees who have braved the cold weather especially the Street Dept. and Sanitation Dept. They go above and beyond the call of duty. Director Light stated the City of Bluefield provides many activities for its citizens such as the City Park, the Bluefield Baseball (Blue Jays) team, performing arts and so much more. Citizens should be proud of their city.

Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith congratulated Mayor Cole for being recognized by Northwood University with its annual Dealer Education Awards. Mayor Cole was honored for his contributions and efforts to improve education at all levels. Vice Mayor Smith stated the citizens of Bluefield are lucky to have such an individual who cares and gives so much to the children and community. The article on Mayor Cole was in the *Bluefield Daily Telegraph* 1/23/2014.

Mayor Cole said he was humbled by the award and the confidence that the citizens of Bluefield had in this City Board. Mayor Cole also thanked all of the employees for their hard work and dedication.

Public Comment

Mike Hannah, a resident living on Union Street, voiced concern about the ATV's that are being ridden in the street. Mr. Hannah stated this has become a serious safety issue for many of the citizens that live in the area. Mr. Hannah requested the police make random checks for ATV's. Mayor Cole said that it is illegal to ride an ATV in the city limits. Mayor Cole suggested that Mr. Hannah speak with Chief Dillow.

Art Riley, representing the Downtown Merchants Association, made the following points:

1. The City Board used to recognize an Employee of the Month and a Business of the Month or Quarter. Mr. Riley stated that was a great "morale booster" and encourages and promotes pride among employees and businesses. A request was made to consider reinstating these two items.
2. An update on the Martin Luther King Bridge was requested. City Manager Jim Ferguson stated that it was still in the early design stage.
3. The Ridge Runner was added to list of attractions available in our City.

Announcements and Other

Mayor Cole stated that another Town Hall meeting will be in April. The location has yet to be determined.

Mayor Cole stated City Board Meetings will now be broadcasted on channel six (6) at 7:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of the month.

There being no further business to come before the Executive Session, and on motion duly made, seconded and carried, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

Thomas J. Cole, Mayor