

**Board of Directors
Bluefield, West Virginia
March 25, 2014
6:00 p.m.**

The Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia met in regular session, March 25, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Boardroom. Present were Mayor Thomas Cole, Vice-Mayor Barbara Thompson-Smith, Directors Chuck McGonagle, Ellen Light and Michael Gibson; also attending were Interim City Manager Dennis Dillow, City Attorney Brian Cochran, Chief Financial Officer Ken Mulkey and City Clerk Bobbi Kersey.

Mayor Thomas Cole welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Invocation and Pledge

The invocation was given by Reverend Susan Rector, pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in Bluefield, West Virginia. Vice-Mayor Barbara Thompson-Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

The minutes from the March 11, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved, after a date correction, with a motion by Director Ellen Light and seconded by Director Michael Gibson.

Discussion Items

Interim City Manager Dennis Dillow gave the following reports:

- Congratulations to the Bluefield High School Boy's Basketball Team for winning the West Virginia Class AA State Championship.
- Clean Sweep for the City of Bluefield will begin April 21. More information will be published in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph and on the cityofbluefield.com website concerning dates and zones
- The public is invited to a Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day ceremony. The event will be held Sunday, March 30 at 3:00 p.m at the Vietnam Memorial, WV Tourist Information Center, Exit 9, in Princeton, WV. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held at the Memorial Building, 1500 W. Main Street, Princeton, WV (across from the Mercer County Courthouse).
- Bluefield State College will have tours of the new radiology lab at Dickason Hall on April 4 starting at 5:00 p.m. with a ribbon cutting at 5:30 p.m. Afterwards, a Business after Hours sponsored by the City of Bluefield and hosted by the Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce at the Arts Center. Admission is \$5 and a business card.
- The Abel Center will be holding an open house to celebrate its 20th anniversary of serving the community. The open house will be on March 28 from noon to 3:00 p.m.
- The new code enforcement officer is Mr. Eddie Locket. Mr. Locket will begin on April 8.

Action Items

Director Ellen Light made a motion to approve the public hearing date set for the Small Cities Block Grant for March 25 at 5:30; second by Director Michael Gibson. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Mayor Thomas Cole read a resolution to resubmit an application to the West Virginia HUD Small Cities Block Grant Program.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the City of Bluefield wishes to resubmit an application to the State of West Virginia HUD Small Cities Block Grant Program to request funding for a demolition project within the City of Bluefield, and

Whereas, the City of Bluefield must give assurances that the Small Cities Block Grant and Program Regulations related to grant administration, civil rights and other applicable State and Federal Laws will be followed, and;

Whereas, the City of Bluefield must designate an official representative to act in connection with the application and execute all necessary program documents:

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved That:

1. The City of Bluefield authorized the resubmission of an application with the State of West Virginia HUD Small Cities Program for a demolition project within the City of Bluefield.
2. The City of Bluefield will comply with all laws and regulations pertaining to the program.
3. Thomas J. Cole, Mayor, is designated as the authorized official to act in connection with the application.

Given under our hands this the 25th Day of March, 2014

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 application to the West Virginia HUD Small Cities Block Grant Program; second by Director Ellen Light. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Mayor Thomas Cole read a resolution of support for the 2014 Region I Planning and Development Council Annual Project Prioritization.

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE 2014 REGION I PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ANNUAL PROJECT PRIORITIZATION

WHEREAS, the City of Bluefield Board of Directors met on March 25, 2014 with a quorum present and passed the following resolution.

WHEREAS, be it resolved that the City of Bluefield Board of Directors hereby approves and authorizes the Mayor to submit a list of approved projects for Region I Planning and Development Council for the 2014-2015 year.

WHEREAS, be it further resolved that the governing body of the City of Bluefield will present a letter from the Mayor and a copy of this resolution as proof of approval from this governing body to Region I Planning and Development Council.

Given under our hands this the 25th Day of March, 2014.

Thomas J. Cole, Mayor

Barbara Thompson-Smith, Vice Mayor

Michael Gibson, Director

Ellen Peters Light, Director

Chuck McGonagle, Director

Director Ellen Light made a motion to approve the application for the 2014 Region I Planning and Development Council Annual Project Prioritization; seconded by Director Michael Gibson. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Standing Committees

Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith congratulated Bluefield State College Women's Basketball team for winning the ECAC Division II Women's Basketball Championship. Congratulations were extended to Bluefield High School Boy's Basketball team for winning the second straight Class AA State Championship. Vice Mayor Smith thanked the city crew for all of their hard work this winter and stated they should receive a "gold star".

Director Michael Gibson echoed Vice Mayor Smith in congratulating both the teams for a winning season and the terrific job done by our street crew.

Director Chuck McGonagle stated his congratulations to both of the winning championship teams. Director McGonagle recognized Mr. Craig Hammond and his staff at the Union Mission for all of their hard and dedicated work in our community.

Director Ellen Light stated that Bluefield has a "glorious" history in sports and as a charitable community. Director Light hopes everyone will participate in clean sweep. Director Light congratulated the winning championship teams.

Mayor Thomas Cole congratulated our local basketball teams on their championships. Mayor Cole shared the following:

- A public hearing for the proposed Municipal Home Rule Pilot Program will be April 1 at 5:30 p.m. Bluefield could be one of the sixteen municipalities selected to participate in the program. Mayor Cole urged the public to attend and learn more about the program.
- Development of a dog park is in the planning process. Parks and Recreational Director Dwight Godwin is working on the proposed dog park that will be located at the old Fairview Junior High School.
- The next Town Hall meeting will be held April 9 at the Bluefield Recreational Center. At that time, we will recognize the Bluefield High School Basketball team. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Marie Blackwell, Executive Director of the Mercer County Convention & Visitors Bureau, invited the public to a Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day ceremony. The event will be held Sunday, March 30 at 3:00 p.m. at the Vietnam Memorial, WV Tourist Information Center, Exit 9, in Princeton, WV. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held at the Memorial Building, 1500 W. Main Street, Princeton, WV (across from the Mercer County Courthouse).

Richelle Davis discussed the following issues (1) an ad that was placed in the February 2014~USA Today: Black History Month Special Edition, (2) recreational activities/facilities for special needs children. Vice Mayor Smith, Lori Mills and other city officials are going to meet with Ms. Davis.

Fred Powers invited the public to the Mercer County Heritage Festival, September 5-7th, sponsored by the Mercer County Historical Society. For more information, call 304.910.1857 or mercercountyhistoricalsociety@yahoo.com.

Art Riley, representing the Downtown Merchants Association, shared the following:

- Mr. Riley said he will attend the Heritage Festival and hopes the event is published so the public is made aware because it is a fun festival for the family.
- The Bluefield Lion's Club will be having their pancake breakfast March 28 & 29th at the Herb Sims Youth Center on Stadium Drive.
- Mr. Riley thanked the city employees for the sweeping/removal of the gravel. Gravel on the sidewalk is a hazard and can be a safety issue.
- The Ridge Runner will open for its fourth season by mid April. There will be new crossing signals in June or July and a new retaining wall. This winter the motor and transmission was rebuilt. Approximately 42,500 people have ridden the train in the past three years. The Ridge Runner will be 50 years old this year. The train is handicapped accessible.

Announcements

April 8th will be Student Government Day with students from Bluefield High School. The Board of Directors meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m.

The City Board will be meeting every Tuesday in the month of April.

Mayor Cole reminded everyone of "Lunch with the Mayor". Mayor Cole stated this is an informal way for the citizens to discuss issues within the city. The meeting is typically on Monday and more information can be found on the city website.

Executive Session

Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson-Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Director Ellen Light. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

Thomas J. Cole, Mayor