

**Board of Directors
Bluefield, West Virginia
April 8, 2014
12:30 p.m.
Student Government Day**

The Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia met in regular session, April 8, 2014 at 12:30 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, City Clerk Bobbi Kersey and forty two (42) Bluefield High School Seniors participating in Student Government Day.

Mayor Thomas Cole welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Invocation and Pledge

The invocation was given by Vice-Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith. Bluefield High School Senior Vice-Mayor Alex Lewis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

The minutes from the March 25, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Director Ellen Light and second by Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith.

Discussion Items

Interim City Manager Dennis Dillow gave the following reports:

- Welcomed and thanked students from Bluefield High School for their participation.
- As a temporary fix, potholes are being repaired with a "cold patch." The asphalt cannot be purchased until after April 14, weather permitting.
- April is Animal Abuse Awareness Month. Any animal abuse should be reported to the Bluefield Police Department.
- Bluefield High School City Manager Claire Bailey gave an update on the Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day Ceremony. The event was well attended. The City of Bluefield co-sponsored the event. Veterans were thanked for their service and remarks were given by local legislators with keynote addresses given by Governor Tomblin's representative, Senator Manchin's representative and Representative of Nick Rahall.
- City Manager Claire Bailey reported that the City of Bluefield applied for three Flex-E Grants this year. These grants were for a comprehensive plan for the City of Bluefield, a commodity flow study by the Rahall Transportation Institute in Huntington and a mixed-use study of the Bluefield State College Research and Development Corporation Building, located in downtown Bluefield. The city was awarded one grant to study the mixed-use of the R&D Building. This initiative was part of the Blueprint Communities plan. Team members Marsha Krotseng of Bluefield State College, Ronnie Hypes of First Century Bank and Josh Cline of the City of Bluefield will be meeting later this month to set forth the next step in utilizing these funds.
- Clean Sweep will begin on April 21 in Zone 2. The city will advertise in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph information on dates, zones and requirements. For more information check the City of Bluefield website or contact the Public Works Department.
- AEP Presentation on Downtown Upgrades has been rescheduled to the first meeting in June.

Action Items

Mayor Cole presented a Resolution to authorize the amending of the 2013-2014 Budget.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE AMENDING OF THE 2013-2014 BUDGET

WHEREAS, at a regular session of the Board of Director, held April 8, 2014, the following order was made and entered:

WHEREAS, the revision of the Levy Estimate (Budget) of the City of Bluefield. The following resolution was offered:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that subject to approval of the State Auditor as ex-officio chief inspector of public offices the municipal board does hereby direct the budget be revised prior to the expenditure or obligation of funds for which no appropriation or insufficient appropriation currently exists, as shown on budget revision numbers one and two, copies of which are entered as part of this record. The adoption of the foregoing resolution having been moved by Director Chuck McGonagle and duly seconded by Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson-Smith the vote thereon was as follows:

Thomas J. Cole	Yes	or No
Barbara Thompson-Smith	Yes	or No
Michael Gibson	Yes	or No
Ellen Peters Light	Yes	or No
Chuck McGonagle	Yes	or No

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, it is therefore adjudged and ordered that said resolution be, and the same is, hereby adopted as so stated above, and the Treasurer is authorized to fix his signature on the attached "Request for Revision to Approved Budget" to be sent to the State Auditor for approval.

Given under our hands this the 8th day of April 2014.

Thomas J. Cole, Mayor

Barbara Thompson-Smith, Vice Mayor

Michael Gibson, Director

Ellen Peters Light, Director

Chuck McGonagle, Director

Attest:

Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

Director Chuck McGonagle made a motion to accept the RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE AMENDING OF THE 2013-2014 BUDGET, second by Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Mayor Cole requested approval to set a special meeting to "Lay the Levy" at 10:00 a.m. on April 15.

Director Ellen Light made a motion to approve a special meeting to "Lay the Levy at 10:00 a.m. on April 15th, second by Director Michael Gibson. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Mayor Cole requested Bluefield High School Senior Mayor Dakota Smalls to read a resolution for Arbor Day and accept a motion from the Board. Students planted a flowering Dogwood earlier in the day at City Hall in recognition of Arbor Day

RESOLUTION TO OBSERVE ARBOR DAY 2014

WHEREAS, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and this holiday, called Arbor Day was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and

WHEREAS, Arbor Day is now observed though out the nation and the world because trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cutting heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife, and

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires, and countless other wood products, and trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and are a source of joy and spiritual renewal, and

WHEREAS, the City of Bluefield has been named a Tree City USA designee for thirteen years with responsible care of its natural landscape,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the City of Bluefield Board of Directors, do encourage all citizens to observe Arbor Day 2014 and urge them to care, maintain, and when able, plant trees on their property.

Given under our hands this the 8th day of April 2014.

Dakota Smalls
2014 Student Government Day Mayor
Thomas Cole Mayor

Alex Lewis
2014 Student Government Vice-Mayor
Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith

Brandon Lilly
2014 Student Government Day Director
Director Michael Gibson

James Ramsey
2014 Student Government Day Director
Director Chuck McGonagle

Maya Patterson
2014 Student Government Day Director
Director Ellen Light

Attest:

Ashlyn Parker -2014 Student Government Day City Clerk
Bobbi Kersey – City Clerk

Bluefield High School Vice-Mayor Alex Lewis made a motion to accept the Resolution for Arbor Day, second by Bluefield High School Director Maya Patterson. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

City Hall will be closed on May 13 due to the primary election. The Board has met every Tuesday in the month of April. Mayor Tom Cole requested approval to cancel the May 13 Board of Directors Meeting.

Director Michael Gibson made a motion to cancel the May 13 Board of Directors Meeting, second by Director Ellen Light. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Reports of Officers, Board Members and Standing Committees

Director Chuck McGonagle thanked the Bluefield High School Seniors for their participation in Student Government Day.

Director Ellen Light stated she was delighted to have the Bluefield High School Seniors at City Hall. Director Light stated she enjoyed her "protégé," Maya Patterson and felt she had some wonderful ideas.

Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith thanked and introduced Alex Lewis her BHS student. Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith complimented Public Works for their hard and dedicated work keeping the sidewalks and the City of Bluefield clean. Vice Mayor Smith stated the ribbon cutting ceremony at Bluefield State was "excellent" as was the Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day Ceremony.

Director Michael Gibson stated Student Government Day was a learning tool. Director Gibson stated he was proud of the students and congratulated them on how well they represented Bluefield High School.

Mayor Cole reminded everyone of the Town Hall meeting scheduled for April 24, 6:00 p.m. at the Herb Sims Youth Center on Stadium Drive. Board members will be available for interaction/discussion with citizens and the Bluefield High School Boy's Basketball Team and Bluefield State Women's Basketball Team will be recognized at the meeting. The public is invited.

Presentation

Dwight Godwin, Director of Parks and Recreation, presented a proposal for a City of Bluefield Dog Park. Director Godwin discussed the following:

1. Establishing a Dog Park in our Community
2. How does a Dog Park Benefit the City of Bluefield
3. Public concerns of a Dog Park
4. How would a dog park at the former Fairview School site affect your home value?
5. Typical Dog Park design Requirements
6. Proposed Dog Park Site Design
7. General Dog Park Rules and Regulations
8. Dog Park Registration Requirements
9. Park Enforcement Procedures
10. Maintenance

11. Estimated Budget Expenditures

Public Comments

The following citizens voiced concerns on the proposed dog park: Blaine and Teresa Braithwaite, Coach Misko, Will Gordon, Kelly Howell, and Carla Marrs. Concerns voiced included safety, staffing/funding, location, noise and sanitation. Mayor Cole stated this was an introduction to the proposed dog park. All suggestions will be taken into consideration and more opportunities for further discussion will be available.

Richard Dillow complimented the City Board and the City Departments for doing a good job. He requested that all citizens support local business.

Art Riley, representing the Downtown Merchants Association, stated this is the most impressive Student Government Day he has seen in the last twenty years. Mr. Riley asked that all students need to vote and that their vote can make a difference.

Mayor Cole concluded saying the Board appreciated all comments. The Board is interested in and values citizen's opinions. A letter concerning the proposed dog park was sent to citizens who live in close proximity of the proposed site because the Board values their opinion. More work needs to be done and more decisions need to be made. The Board will take everything into consideration.

Announcements

Town Hall Meeting

The next Town Hall meeting is scheduled for April 29 at the Herb Sims Youth Center at 6:00 pm. The Board will recognize the Bluefield High School AA Basketball State Champions of 2014 and the Bluefield State Women's (Lady Blues) ECAC Division II Women's Basketball Champions.

Celebration of Appalachia

Bluefield College will host its annual "Celebration of Appalachia," culminating as always, with the traditional daylong Appalachian Festival, Saturday April 12. Open to the community at-large and featuring local artists, crafters, musicians, cooks, authors, storytellers, outdoorsmen and other vendors and talents, the Appalachian Festival will run from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. For more information: Contact BC's Kristy Stout by e-mail at kstout@bluefield.edu or by phone at 276.326.4246. Vendors may also access an application online at www.bluefieldedu/appalachia

Budgeting: Making the Most of Your Income

Join Rhonda Bishop from Apprisen in Craft Memorial Library at 1:00 p.m. for a workshop on budgeting and learn to make the most of your income. Registration is required. For more information, please call 304.325.3943.

Diabetes Management Class

Join B. Tincher, R.N. and J. Richardson, LPN in Craft Memorial Library at 2:30 p.m. on April 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th to learn how to control your diabetes. Registration is required. For more information, please call 304.325.3943.

Meet the Easter Bunny at Craft Memorial Library

Children of all ages can stop in Craft Memorial Library and meet the Easter Bunny from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 am on April 16 and from 3:00 pm till 4:30 pm on April 18. Cameras are allowed. For more information, please call 304.325.3943.

Lunch with the Mayor

The City Board of Directors is interested in hearing from the residents, business owners, employees and visitors to Bluefield. To hear directly from you in a casual setting, "Lunch with the Mayor" was established by Mayor Tom Cole. Mayor Cole or a City Board of Directors member will meet with four individuals at a local establishment on Mondays at noon for lunch and general conversation. Individuals may request to be added to the list by completing the City website. For additional questions please email or call Joshua Cline at 304.327.5568.

Adjournment

Bluefield High School Director Maya Patterson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Bluefield High School Director Brandon Lilly. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

Thomas J. Cole, Mayor