

**Board of Directors
Bluefield, West Virginia
April 22, 2014
6:00 p.m.**

The Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia met in regular session, April 22, 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 and Pledge of Allegiance was given by Vice-Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith.

Minutes

The minutes from the April 8, 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:

Project Clean Sweep: Basic Guidelines

- A. The project is open to City residences or businesses, only, which have City garbage service. *The free pickup will be suspended and normal City fees and ordinances will apply to anyone "carrying in" debris from out-of-city locations or who does not subscribe to City garbage pickup.*
- B. Items for pick up must be placed in your regular trash pickup location. Please place all items you want picked up out at the same time, so City crews will not have to make multiple stops at the same location.
- C. Do not place any items out for pickup prior to the Sunday evening of the week designated for your neighborhood. *Items placed for pickup prior to or after the designated days for your neighborhood, will be subject to normal fees and ordinances.*
- D. Loose items and materials need to be secured against wind.
- E. Any item for pickup must be placed outside no later than 8 a.m. on the Thursday of the week designated for your neighborhood.
- F. Do not mix brush, tree trimmings, etc., with other debris. These items will be picked up by different crews, possibly at different times.
- G. Hazardous materials (car batteries, solvents, oil or fuel, etc.) will not be picked up.
- H. Tires or refrigerator type appliances, television or computers will not be picked up.
- I. Construction or demolition debris will not be picked up.
- J. Banned items will not be picked up by the city crews and must be taken care of immediately by the resident. If left on the curb, it could be subject to citation.

Schedule and Boundaries

Zone 1- North side and section of the west end from Chestnut St to Carolina Ave, west along Bluefield Ave to the Virginia line- **May 12 through May 16.**

Zone 2- Along Princeton Ave, and eastside of Bland St to north side of Cumberland Rd., east to and along Grassy Branch Rd .- **April 21st through April 25th.**

Zone 3- South side of Cumberland Rd, along Rt 460 and East Cumberland Heights- **April 28 through May 2.**

Zone 4- South Mercer area, Downtown area, west side of Bland St to West Cumberland Rd, Washington St Ext to RT 460 and west to Virginia line- **May 5 through May 9.**

Anyone with questions can call the Public Works office at 327-2490. If you are physically unable to move an item outside for pickup and are in need of special assistance, please call the number above and the City will attempt to arrange help through local civic groups, garden clubs and neighborhood associations.

- The 35th Better Living Show sponsored by the Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce will be held at the Brushfork National Guard Armory. Over 100 exhibitors will showcase their state-of-the-art products, services and technology promoting better living for all aspects of the home or office. The City of Bluefield will have a booth and business information, city events and city programs will be available. The event begins Friday, April 25 from 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. and concludes on Saturday, April 26, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. A business after hours “sneak peek” is scheduled Thursday, April 24.
- K & M Performance Automotive, LLC has built a new building and had a ribbon cutting ceremony on April 21. The grand opening is scheduled for April 28. K & M Performance Automotive, LLC is owned and operated by a local family, Kenny Stanley and his wife. The new location is 1013 Bluefield Avenue. It was requested that citizens support local businesses.
- The City of Bluefield has been recognized as a 2013 Tree City USA. The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.
- A Special Called Meeting will be held at the Herb Sims Youth Recreational Center on Stadium Drive. Resolutions congratulating the Bluefield High School Boys’ Basketball Team as the 2014 WV State Class AA Basketball Champions and the Bluefield State College Lady Blues Basketball Team as the 2014 Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Champions will be read. The Board will have the Second Reading of ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD TO SUBMIT ITS WRITTEN PLAN TO THE WEST VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL HOME RULE BOARD.
- The East River Mountain Town Band 17th annual Spring Concert will be on Tuesday evening, May 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Bluefield Performing Arts Center at Bluefield High School. The band will also perform at the Pipestem Resort State Park Amphitheater on Saturday, May 24 at 8:00 p.m. Admission is free for all performances. Call 304.952.1792 for more information.
- Chief Dillow thanked his police force for their dedication to the community. They have done an extraordinary job dealing with some tough issues.

ACTION ITEM

CFO Ken Mulkey gave a recap of the fiscal year July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015 budget. Mr. Mulkey stated that the differences between last year’s budget and this budget are minimal.

Director Ellen Light made a motion to approve the 2014 – 2015 budget, second by Director Michael Gibson. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Mayor Cole read an ordinance giving authorization to submit its written plan to the West Virginia Municipal Home Rule Board.

**ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD
TO SUBMIT ITS WRITTEN PLAN TO THE WEST VIRGINIA
MUNICIPAL HOME RULE BOARD**

WHEREAS, the City of Bluefield is a Class II City as defined by West Virginia Code section 8-1-3(2); and

WHEREAS, Bluefield, West Virginia is a border city that competes daily with the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bluefield is sometimes restrained by state statutes, policies, and rules that challenge its ability to effectively carry out its duties; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Home Rule Pilot Program, Phase II, is an extremely vital first step towards Bluefield officials having the necessary tools to improve the quality of life in Bluefield, West Virginia; and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held on this written plan on April 1, 2014, in compliance with West Virginia Code section 8-1-5a(g)(1); and

WHEREAS, the duly elected governing authority of the City of Bluefield is the Board of Directors thereof.

NOW, THEREFORE, WITNESS THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCE

Pursuant to West Virginia Code section 8-1-5a (g) (4), the Board of Directors of City of Bluefield hereby Ordains that the City is authorized to submit its written plan to the Municipal Home Rule Board for consideration.

First Reading: April 22, 2014

Second Reading and Passage: April 29, 2014

Thomas J. Cole, Mayor

Attest:

Bobbi Kersey, Clerk

Director Chuck McGonagle made a motion to approve authorization to submit its written plan to the West Virginia Municipal Home Rule Board, second by Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

City Attorney Brian Cochran stated the second reading of the Home Rule Ordinance will be April 29.

Reports of Officers, Board Members and Standing Committees

Director Chuck McGonagle stated that the Board is working hard. Director McGonagle requested that citizens attend Board meetings and give input and suggestions concerning the community.

Director Ellen Light shared an article from the *Parade* insert Sunday, April 13. Director Light read parts of an article on Pit Bulls.

Director Michael Gibson stated the Board is reviewing all of the City Manager applications. Director Gibson said the quality of the resumes is remarkable. It will be a hard decision as applicants' are very professional, educated and knowledgeable.

Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith stated she had attended three events: Parks and Recreational Easter program, Bluefield State Bash for the Women's Basketball Team, and K & M Automotive ribbon cutting ceremony. The Vice Mayor said she enjoyed them all and encouraged everyone to get out and be active in community events. Vice Mayor Smith thanked Public Works for their efforts in keeping the City of Bluefield clean.

Mayor Cole stated that the City Board Meeting is no longer being shown on Channel 3/Community Channel. Citizens need to contact Comcast and he will give Comcast a call to request the meeting be shown. Bluefield State will have tapes of the meetings. Mayor Cole said members of the Board are not taking the interview process lightly for a new City Manager.

Police Chief Dennis Dillow recognized Sharon Leffel for her thirty-eight years of service to the City of Bluefield. Ms. Leffel was presented a plaque and thanked for her dedication to the City of Bluefield.

Public Comments

Art Riley, representing the Downtown Merchants Association, gave the following reports:

1. At one time, Comcast offered a basic cable (3 channels & 1 event) for a low rate. Mr. Riley would like the Board to consider making a request to Comcast to make that package available.
2. Concert in the Square will begin May 23 with Bluefield Middle School performing.
3. Orphan Window Day will be Friday at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Riley thanked Frontier for their help and members of the Downtown Merchants.

Announcements

Town Hall Meeting/ Special Called 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 State Champions 2014 and the Bluefield State Women's (Lady Blues) ECAC Division II Women's Basketball Champions.

Diabetes Management Class

Join B. Tincher, R.N. and J. Richardson; LPN will make a presentation at Craft Memorial Library at 2:30 p.m. on April 9, 16th, 23rd and 30th to learn how to control your diabetes. Registration is required. 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 a form at the city website. For additional questions please email or call Joshua Cline at 304.327.5568.

Cole Chevy Mountain Festival

The Cole Chevy Mountain Festival will be May 20 –May 26.

Second Chance Rocks the Two Virginias

Second Chance concert will be June 21 at Mitchell Stadium. Gates open at 1:00 p.m. and the concert will begin at 2:15. Tickets are available at Grants Supermarket, Paper and More, Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call 276.970.7810.

Adjournment

Director Michael Gibson made a motion to adjourn, second by Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

Thomas J. Cole, Mayor