

**Board of Directors
Bluefield, West Virginia
May 27, 2014
6:00 p.m.**

The Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia met in regular session, May 27, 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, Assistant City Manager Josh Cline, City Attorney Brian Cochran, , and City Clerk Bobbi Kersey.

Invocation and Pledge

Rev. Susan Rector, Trinity United Methodist Church gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith.

Mayor Thomas Cole welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes

The minutes from the May 8, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved with a motion by Director Michael Gibson and second by Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith.

Discussion Items

Interim City Manager Dennis Dillow gave the following reports:

- The Bluefield Sanitary Board was recognized by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection with an Environmental Excellence Award for the Sewage Treatment Plant >40,000 GPD category. A ceremony will take place in Charleston, West Virginia on May 28 to receive the award.
- Comcast will begin playback of the Bluefield City Board meetings on channel 6 and channel 125 at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday nights.
- The Cole Chevy Mountain Festival was a success. There were many activities and enjoyed by all who participated.
- The Almost Heaven Farmer's Market began May 20 and will open every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. until sold out. Other days will be added once the growing season increases. The farmers market is located at the Kmart parking lot on Cumberland Road.
- The Yard Sale Ordinance will be strictly enforced. There is a \$5.00 yard sale permit, only six yard sales per household per year can be held, sales must be no longer than 72 hours and signs must be taken down right after the sale. For more information, please call City Hall.
- The 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.

- Retirees, Glen Sutphin and Everett Beggs were recognized for their years of service in the Bluefield Fire Department. Mr. Sutphin and Mr. Beggs were thanked for their years of service and wished the best in future endeavors.

ACTION ITEM

Assistant Manager Josh Cline distributed information presented by John Sorrenti concerning *Robert's Rules of Order Small Board Procedures*. The board presently follows *Robert's Rules*; however, this is a simplified revised version specifically for small boards. Several excerpts were cited for example:

1. Motions need not be seconded.
2. Informal discussion of a subject is permitted while the motion is pending.
3. Public discussion will come before action items

A list of changes can be found on wv.gov/administrative-law/register/Documents/OpenMeetingsHandbook2012.pdf.

Director Ellen Light made a motion to adopt Robert's Rules for Small Boards, second by Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

City Attorney Brian Cochran requested authorization to place a Class II legal ad in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph for the City Manager to accept bids at auction for certain real property containing 3.52 acres, more or less, located along Rt. 52, Beaver Pond District, near Brushfork, West Virginia.

Director Ellen Light made a motion authorizing City Attorney Brian Cochran to place a Class II legal ad in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph for the City Manager to accept bids at auction for certain real property containing 3.52 acres, more or less, located along Rt. 52, Beaver Pond District, near Brushfork, West Virginia. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

City Attorney Brian Cochran requested that the motion be amended to reflect a \$100,000 minimum bid.

Director Ellen Light amended her motion authorizing City Attorney Brian Cochran to place a Class II legal ad in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph for the City Manager to accept \$100,000 minimum bids at auction for certain real property containing 3.52 acres, more or less, located along Rt. 52, Beaver Pond District, near Brushfork, West Virginia. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Mr. Ron Lee presented information with regard to renting the Old Bluefield Daily Telegraph building on Bland Street. Mr. Lee stated he is interested in starting a homeopathic medical business warehouse and using a portion of the building for offices. Mr. Lee said he would work closely with City Building Inspector Gerald Steele and present him with a time line. City Attorney Brian Cochran stated a Class I legal ad for a public hearing needed to be placed in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph concerning renting the building.

Director Chuck McGonagle made a motion to place a Class I legal ad in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph concerning approval of the Old Bluefield Daily Telegraph Building

lease contract and set a public hearing at 11:30 a.m. prior to the June 10th Board of Directors regular scheduled meeting. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Mayor Cole read a proclamation honoring the centennial celebration of Craft Memorial Library.

**PROCLAMATION
HONORING THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
OF CRAFT MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

WHEREAS, in 1912, a motion was made during a meeting of the Bluefield Civic League of Women that the club found a library and in October of that year a vote was passed to create Ladies' Rest Room and Library be established. The civic league earmarked \$50.00 to go towards its creation, and

WHEREAS, the first location of the library was selected to be in a building located on Federal Street and opened on May 5, 1913 with 600 books on its shelves, and in 1922 the City of Bluefield took over responsibility for the library, and

WHEREAS, in 1971, the library was designated the Service Center for Mercer County and in 1973 the current location was built and named Craft Memorial Library after a generous donation by Mr. Jack Craft of 3,000 shares of Holiday Inn of America stock was given for the construction of the building, and

WHEREAS, the library serves as the home of the Eastern Regional Coalfields Archives, an expansive collection of the region's history of the coal industry and its impact, and

WHEREAS, Craft Memorial Library has run a bookmobile throughout Mercer and McDowell Counties since 1974, providing access to the library and its resources to children, seniors, and citizens throughout the counties, and

WHEREAS, Craft Memorial Library continues to grow its access to resources and program offerings by maintaining membership in the Mountain Library Network with 32 other libraries, aiding individuals and non-profit organizations in applying for grants through membership in the Cooperating Collection of the Foundation Center, and as a founding member of the WV-READS – West Virginia Regional Electronic Audiovisual Download Service – Consortium which allows patrons to check out e-books, e-audio books, and e-videos to computers and other devices for free, and

WHEREAS, assistance has been provided throughout the years for the renewal of materials, update of reference materials, and program offerings from the Association of University Women, West Virginia Library Commission, Mr. Jack Craft, the Hugh I. Shott, Jr. Foundation, Friends of Library, and many other organizations,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the City of Bluefield Board of Directors, do commend the board, staff, and patrons of Craft Memorial Library for 100 years of service to the community, and encourage citizens to avail themselves to the programs and services offered by the library staff.

Director Michael Gibson made a motion to accept the proclamation honoring the centennial celebration of Craft Memorial Library. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Mayor Cole discussed a handout presented by City Building Inspector Gerald Steele concerning three bid demolition result packets received in response to an ad in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph. City Building Inspector Gerald Steele recommended Virginian Asphalt and Paving with a bid of \$2,000 per house including debris disposal.

Mayor Cole stated approximately 50 houses were demolished last year, the landfill is full, and it was necessary for third party bids to be accepted.

Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith made a motion to approval for the City Manager to enter into a demolition contract with Virginian Asphalt and Paving for \$2,000 per house and debris disposal. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Public Comments

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

1. The Beautification Commission has done another wonderful job.
2. Questioned if the City of Bluefield is going to pay for demolition will the city file a lien and if so will the owner of the property be notified. City Attorney Brian Cochran stated the city can put a lien on the property, the owner would be notified and it is good for 10 years.

Reports of Officers, Board Members and Standing Committees

Director Chuck McGonagle thanked Glen Sutphin and Everett Beggs for their years of employment with the City of Bluefield. Director McGonagle congratulated Bluefield Daily Telegraph reporter Ann Elgin on her wedding.

Director Ellen Light echoed congratulations to Ann Elgin. Director Light stated the summer was off to a good start with the Cole Chevy Mountain Festival and there are many events this summer. Director Light invited everyone to the wedding of the two Bluefields

Director Michael Gibson stated the Board and citizens of Bluefield are lucky to have Interim City Manager Dennis Dillow. Director Gibson said Chief Dillow is wearing "two hats" and doing a great job at both.

Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith complemented the car/air show event that took place during the Mountain Festival. Mayor Cole and his brother gave approximately 75 children airplane rides. Vice Mayor Smith stated a get-well card had been sent from the Board to Bill Archer as he is recovering from surgery but should be returning June 18. Vice Mayor Smith stated the Bluefield Middle School Band at Chicory Square was wonderful and the Veteran's Memorial Ceremony was inspiring.

Mayor Cole thanked Dennis Dillow, Josh Cline and Brian Cochran for all of their hard work and dedication to the City of Bluefield. Mayor Cole thanked the Beautification Commission for all of their hard work doing a lot with very little. Mayor Cole echoed appreciation to Glen Sutphin and Everett Beggs.

Mayor Cole stated he did not want the article in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph concerning the hiring of a new City Manager to be misunderstood. Mayor Cole said

we are blessed to have time to find the right person and therefore the process does not have to be a rushed decision. The Board is actively seeking to fill the position and is on the right track.

Mayor Cole stated the Home Rule application will be submitted in the morning and he is feeling positive.

Announcements

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.

Second Chance Rocks the Two Virginias

The 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