

**Board of Directors
Bluefield, West Virginia
July 8, 2014
12:00 noon**

The Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia met in a regularly scheduled meeting July 8, 2014 at 12 noon in the Municipal Building Boardroom. Present were Mayor Thomas Cole, Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith, Directors Ellen Light, Michael Gibson and Chuck McGonagle. Also attending were Interim City Manager Dennis Dillow, Assistant City Manager Josh Cline, Attorney Brian Cochran and City Clerk Bobbi Kersey.

Mayor Thomas Cole welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Invocation and Pledge

Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

The minutes from the June 26, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved and so ordered.

Discussion Items

Interim City Manager Dennis Dillow gave the following reports:

1. Parks and Recreation will have several summer programs beginning June 16. Pre-registration is required for all camps, each camp has a maximum of twenty campers. All campers are to bring their own lunch unless otherwise noted. For more information and a list of camps, contact Parks & Recreation Director Dwight Godwin.
2. Chicory Square music concert will begin at noon and Scott Spivey will be performing. Everyone is welcome.
3. The Ridge Runner is celebrating its 50th year. The train is handicap accessible and is open to riders of all ages. Admission is \$1 per rider and is available Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00 noon until 6:00 p.m. The train is also available for special events.
4. The annual Bluefield Horse Show sponsored by the Bluefield Shrine Club will be July 17, 18 and 19th.
5. The Bluefield Blue Jays will be playing for several days and citizens are encouraged to attend. Great family fun!
6. The Almost Farmer's Market is open every Tuesday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until sold out. The market is located at the Kmart parking lot on Cumberland Road. Area non-profits that would like to participate in the extension of the farmers market can contact Judy Silbaugh at 304.327.7501.
7. Citizens are asked to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Two Bluefields beginning Friday, July 11, 2014 at Bowen Field. The game starts at 7:05 p.m. Commemorative items will be available before the game. Fireworks after the game. Festivities on Saturday, July 12 begin at noon until 10:00 p.m. Many activities and entertainment for the public.

Presentations

Gene Jones, a representative of Appalachian Power, stated the company plans to invest another \$600,000 this year in planned downtown electrical upgrades. This upgrade is part of a five-year/\$5 million upgrade to the city's underground electrical grid. Appalachian Power has already invested more than \$1 million in completed work that involves replacement of aging underground electrical vaults. Work later this month will be in the areas of Commerce Street, Federal Street and McCulloch Avenue. Some trees on McCulloch Avenue will be cut. The project should be finished in time for the City to continue with paving plans and summer activities planned in downtown Bluefield.

President of Bluefield State College, Dr. Marsha Krotseng stated the college will continue to work with the city on multiple projects. Dr. Krotseng said the partnership is making a difference for students and is being documented. Several examples given were the internships for exchange students and the celebration of the women's basketball team. The renewed collaborative agreements between the city and the college are a part of the ongoing Blueprint Communities initiative. Assistant City Manager Josh Cline stated two projects the city is working on with the college are evening classes and community based classes to be offered at the Research and Development Building in downtown Bluefield. Mayor Cole stated the college had an economic impact on the city and the Board is supportive and values their presence.

Public Comments

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

1. The Merchants Association 16th Annual Street Fair will be August 1 – August 2. This year the event will be bigger and better than ever with new activities. The June Shott Foundation has contributed with a grant for bouncy houses.
2. Will the West Virginia Development Department be offering classes downtown? Assistant City Manager Josh Cline stated they are working on scheduling issues.

Action Items

Assistant City Manager Josh Cline reviewed and discussed the first reading of a **RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CONTRACT WITH THE WEST VIRGINIA DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CONTRACT WITH WEST VIRGINIA DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

WHEREAS, the City of Bluefield was awarded \$10,000 through the Governor's Community Participation Grant; and

WHEREAS, the award requires the City of Bluefield to enter into a contract with the West Virginia Development Office to receive the award funds; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bluefield Board of Directors agrees to the terms of the contract

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Directors authorizes Mayor Thomas J. Cole to accept the conditions of the contract for the Community Participation Grant award with the West Virginia Development Office.

Director Ellen Light made a motion to approve the first reading of a **RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CONTRACT WITH THE WEST VIRGINIA DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**, unanimously approved and so ordered.

Attorney Brian Cochran reviewed and discussed an **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD TO EXECUTE A DEED GRANTING ABBS VALLEY PIPELINE INC. A PARCEL OF REAL ESTATE, CONTAINING 3.52 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, SITUATED IN BEAVER POND DISTRICT, MERCER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA FOR A PRICE OF \$100,000.00.**

WHEREAS, the City of Bluefield purchased 3.52 acres, more or less, situated in Beaver Pond District, Mercer County, from the Bluefield Area Transit Authority, by deed dated October 14, 2009, and recorded in the office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Mercer County, West Virginia, in Deed Book No. 942, at Page; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bluefield declared this property as surplus, having a value of more than \$1,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bluefield, pursuant to West Virginia Code § 8-12-18(b), conducted a public auction on June 25, 2014, after proper notice of this auction was advertised as required by law; and

WHEREAS, Abbs Valley Pipeline, Inc. submitted the high bid of \$100,000.00 during this auction; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bluefield agrees that the purchase price of \$100,000.00 represents the fair, adequate, and just compensation for the said property; 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 §§ 8-11-3(6) and 8-12-18(b), the City of Bluefield hereby Ordains that the City is authorized to execute a Deed to convey the real property described in the deed attached hereto to Abbs Valley Pipeline, Inc., for the purchase price of \$100,000.00.

First Reading: July 8, 2014

Second Reading and Passage: _____

Thomas J. Cole, Mayor

Attest: _____
Bobbi Kersey, Clerk

Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith made a motion to approve an **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD TO EXECUTE A DEED GRANTING ABBS VALLEY PIPELINE INC. A PARCEL OF REAL ESTATE, CONTAINING 3.52 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, SITUATED IN BEAVER POND DISTRICT, MERCER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA FOR A PRICE OF \$100,000.00.** Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Adjournment

Director Michael Gibson made a motion to adjourn. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

Thomas J. Cole, Mayor