

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

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

Mayor Thomas Cole welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Invocation and Pledge

Reverend W.D Hasty from the First Presbyterian Church gave the invocation. Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

The minutes from the July 22, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved and so ordered.

Discussion Items

Interim City Manager Dennis Dillow gave the following reports:

- Music at Chicory Square – Fridays at noon.
- 4 Pals Production presents: Life, Love, Laughter – Historic Bank Lobby (Commerce Street) – August 15 & 16, 21 – 23. For more information visit cityofbluefield.com website.
- Annual Lemonade Festival – August 30. Downtown Bluefield (Commerce Street), 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The Lemonade Parade will begin at 11a.m. For more information visit www.Beautifulbluefield.com .
- The Almost Heaven Farmer’s Market is in full swing on Tuesday and Saturdays in the K-Mart parking lot. The market opens at 10:00 a.m. For more information, call 304.327.7501.
- Lemonade Night at the Bluefield Blue Jays – August 21 @ 7:05 p.m. Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.
- Lunch with the Mayor – Mondays at noon for lunch and general conversation. Individuals may request a meeting by completing a form at the city website or call Assistant City Manager Joshua Cline at 304.327.5568.
- City Employee’s Picnic – August 21 at noon in the first shelter at the City Park.
- The Mercer County Health Department wrote a thank you note to the City of Bluefield Board of Directors for helping in the 2014 Tire Disposal Campaign. Thirteen trailers of tires were collected, which is equal to approximately 14,000 tires. The 2015 Tire Campaign is scheduled for May.
- The Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce’s Coal Symposium is this afternoon at Bluefield State College starting at 2:30 p.m. The symposium is live on line- www.wvva.com.

Interim City Manager Dillow expressed his thanks to the Board of Directors, City Staff, City Departments, the Police Department and the Citizens of Bluefield for the opportunity to serve as the Interim City Manager.

Parks and Recreation Director Dwight Godwin stated various summer camps were offered this summer. Mr. Godwin thanked all the sponsors for their support, the Bluefield Daily Telegraph and WVVA for their coverage and the parents. Three hundred and fifteen children participated. Director Godwin reminded everyone of the August 28 Bluefield College football game and the August 29 Beaver vs. Graham football game. For more information on events, visit Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/pages/City-of-Bluefield>

Public Comments

Reverend W.D Hasty, President of the Alliance of the Arts, gave an update and requested that the community and board continue to support the Arts. Reverend Hasty discussed several of the community activities and events sponsored by the Alliance of the Arts. Reverend Hasty intends to have regular reports for the Board of Directors.

Art Riley, representing the Downtown Merchant's Association, gave the following reports/questions:

1. The Merchants Association 16th Annual Street Fair on August 1 & August 2 were a success and enjoyed by all who attended. The police department and the citizens were thanked for their support.
2. A request was made for the number of business licenses were obtained last year, this year and how many were renewals. Interim City Manager Dillow stated that he was in the process of obtaining that information from the Treasury Department.
3. Questioned how many buildings have been demolished. Interim City Manager Dillow stated approximately forty three buildings have been demolished leaving approximately 30 buildings left to be demolished by the end of this month. Demolition is going faster than the seeding and weather has played a factor in reseeded the lots.
4. There are three concerts left before the end of the season in Chicory Square. The last concert will be August 29 and the Bluefield Beaver Band will play.

Pete Sternloff encouraged the Board of Directors to support the Alliance of the Arts. Mr. Sternloff stated he firmly believes the City of Bluefield should vote in a positive manner when reviewing the budget/contract for the Alliance of the Arts.

Alliance of the Arts W. D. Hasty introduced Mrs. Betty Brainard as the new executive director for the Arts Center. Mrs. Brainard stated that suggestions are welcome and community involvement is wanted, especially area youth. Mrs. Brainard said the Arts Center will be open on Saturday starting in September. There are many activities planned and many programs are now in progress. A photo display is currently on display in the Bea Paine room featuring local photographer Mel Grubb.

Kristen Pujari said she felt many good things were happening in Bluefield such as the parks, paving and trees being trimmed. Ms. Pujari voiced concerns about prostitution, drug activity and speeding motorcyclists being a problem on College Avenue. Interim City Manager Dennis Dillow urged Ms. Pujari and all citizens to report such complaints to the Bluefield Police Department. Chief Dillow said citizens can call the police department's direct line at 304.327.5800.

Judy Silbaugh asked what was going to happen to the property on Oakhurst Avenue that is to be auctioned, if it is not sold. Code Enforcement Officer Lori Mills stated that the owner of

the property has been cited and has pleaded guilty. Ms. Mills said that she is limited in action that can be taken.

Bill Elrod said he would like to have lunch with the Mayor. Assistant City Manager Josh Cline requested Mr. Elrod meet with him after the meeting to arrange lunch.

Mayor Tom Cole read a **RESOLUTION DECLARING AUGUST AS ANIMAL AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, the Concerned Citizens for Animals, Second Chance for Cats, the Mercer County Spay Association, and other animal groups have requested the City of Bluefield to declare August as Animal Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Resolution is to inform and/or remind the citizens of Bluefield, West Virginia of the animal Ordinances in the City, and to provide the citizens with the information of the various groups who offer assistance regarding the ethical and humane treatment of animals; and

WHEREAS, the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bluefield were enacted to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the residents of the city; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to reduce the number of stray dogs and cats, which leads to hundreds of dogs and cats being euthanized each year because they are not wanted, the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bluefield provides that no person shall cause or allow any dog or cat owned, harbored or kept within the city to breed without first obtaining a breeding permit; and

WHEREAS, it is unlawful to own, possess, or keep in the city any dog or cat over the age of six (6) months that has not spayed or neutered except; when the owner has obtained an unaltered animal permit from the city clerk to keep the pet intact; or a licensed veterinarian states in writing that the animal is medically unfit to undergo the procedure; or the animal is kept in the city for fewer than thirty (30) days in a one year period; and

WHEREAS, the owner of any female dog in heat shall keep such dog confined in a building or secure enclosure in such a manner that such female dog cannot come into contact with another dog, except for planned breeding; and

WHEREAS, no person shall own, harbor, or permit any dog without first having such dog vaccinated against rabies and without first procuring a dog a city dog license as provided in section 3-22 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bluefield. Such tag shall be fastened securely to the

WHEREAS, the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bluefield provides that no household shall keep within the city more than three (3) adult dogs or three (3) adult cats without the owner thereof having received a permit to keep the same from the city clerk and approved by the city manager; and

WHEREAS, no person within the city limits shall keep on a leash, tie to a structure, confine to a pen, run, or cage or leave in a vehicle, any dog without adequate protection from direct sunlight or exposure to the weather or without adequate fresh water at all times; and

WHEREAS, the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bluefield further provides that no person shall allow any dog owned by him or in his custody to run at large within the city. Running

at large shall be defined as allowing a dog to leave the property limits of property owned, leased or occupied by its owner without restraint. Restraint is defined as being secured by a leash or lead, or being under the control of a responsible person and obedient to that person's command; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD WEST VIRGINIA

The Month of August 2014 is hereby declared as Animal Awareness Month in the City of Bluefield, West Virginia.

Given under our hands this the 12th Day of August 2014.

Thomas J. Cole, Mayor

Barbara Thompson Smith, Vice Mayor

Ellen Light, Director

Michael Gibson, Director

Chuck McGonagle, Director

ATTEST:

Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

Mayor Cole presented a copy of the resolution to Judy Silbaugh and Kathy Nelson.

Director Ellen Light made a motion to approve the **RESOLUTION DECLARING AUGUST AS ANIMAL AWARENESS MONTH**, second; unanimously approved so ordered.

Mayor Tomas Cole read a **RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE DIVISION OF JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the City of Bluefield Board of Directors met on August 12, 2014 with a quorum present and passed the following resolution:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Bluefield Board of Directors does hereby authorize Thomas J. Cole, Mayor of the City of Bluefield, to act on its behalf to enter into a contractual agreement with the Division of Justice and Community Services to receive and administer grant funds pursuant to provisions of the Justice Assistance Grant program.

Given under our hands this the 12th day of August 2014.

Thomas J. Cole, Mayor

Barbara Thompson Smith, Vice Mayor

Ellen Light, Director

Michael Gibson, Director

Chuck McGonagle, Director

Mayor Thomas Cole requested approval to enter into an agreement between the City of Bluefield and Bluefield College to rent Mitchell Stadium for athletic events. **Director Michael Gibson made a motion to approve an agreement between the City of Bluefield and Bluefield College to rent Mitchell Stadium for athletic events, second; unanimously approved so ordered.**

Mayor Thomas Cole requested approval to enter into an agreement with Bluefield High School and Graham High School Band Boosters to staff Mitchell Stadium concessions. **Director Ellen Light made a motion to approve an agreement with Bluefield/Graham High School to staff Mitchell Stadium concessions, second; unanimously approved and so ordered.**

Mayor Thomas Cole requested approval of financial support from the City to the Arts and Humanities budget in the amount of \$7,500 per quarter. **Director Michael Gibson made a motion to allocate \$7,500 per quarter to the Alliance of the Arts to provide for building maintenance, second; unanimously approved and so ordered.**

Mayor Thomas Cole requested approval to purchase a leaf truck engine from Capital Engine Company in the amount of \$11,322.32. **Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith made a motion to purchase a leaf truck engine from Capital Engine Company in the amount of \$11,322.32, second; unanimously approved and so ordered.**

Mayor Thomas Cole requested authorization for the City of Bluefield to grant the Mercer County Board of Education an option to purchase a certain parcel of real estate in Beaver Pond District, Mercer County, West Virginia. **Director Ellen Light made a motion to authorize the City of Bluefield to grant the Mercer County Board of Education an option to purchase a certain parcel of real estate in Beaver Pond District, Mercer County, West Virginia, second; 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