

**REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BLUEFIELD, MERCER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA
MARCH 10, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, Mercer County, West Virginia was held on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at noon, in the Municipal Building Boardroom. Present were Mayor Thomas Cole, Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith, Director Ellen Light, Director Chuck McGonagle and Director Michael Gibson; City Manager Dane Rideout, Assistant City Manger Joshua Cline, City Attorney Brian Cochran, City Treasurer Kelly Davis and City Clerk Bobbi Kersey.

INVOCATION – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – CALL TO ORDER

Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith invoked divine guidance for the conduct of the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Mayor Thomas J. Cole called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Upon motion and second the minutes of the Emergency Board of Directors of February 20, 2015 and the minutes of the Regular Board of February 24, 2015 , were approved without correction.

PRESENTATION

Outside Marketing Director Marie Blackwell of the Mercer County Convention and Visitors Bureau extended an invitation to the public to attend the second annual Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day Ceremony on Sunday, March 29, 2015. The ceremony will take place in the Memorial Building located in Princeton, West Virginia at 3:00 p.m. Marketing Director Blackwell stated all Veterans will be honored and recognized for their service to our country. Ms. Blackwell said if unable to attend please take time to reflect on the courage and valor of all the men and women who serve this great country. City Manager Rideout, former garrison commander of West Point and Dreama Denver will serve as the key note speakers.

Ms. Blackwell thanked the city crew and all those involved with the snow removal process during the recent winter weather.

CITY MANAGER

City Manager Dane Rideout advised the board of the following:

Tutors Biscuit World will open on Monday, March 17th at 5:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Town Hall Meeting concerning the construction on the Martin Luther King Bridge will be held at the Mr. Zion Baptist Church on March 31st at 6:00 p.m. with Triton Corporation, Department of Highways District 10 and essential city employees that will be involved with the accelerated bridge project. This is a city bridge but experts will share input regarding the construction, staging, demolition, timelines, and emergency response, as well as discuss any other questions citizens may have regarding the bridge construction. The tentative date to begin construction is June 8th. Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith stated this project will specifically affect District I and urged residents to attend the Town Hall Meeting.

Holiday of Lights storage building bids are being accepted at City Hall. Bids will be opened in a public forum in the Board of Director Room on March 19th at 2:00p.m.

Track Loader advertisement was in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph on March 6 and will be in the paper on March 13th, for bid information. The track loader will be utilized as part of snow clearing and city maintenance.

Bluefield Police Department sent statistics to the state regarding police crime data based reports. There were 980 reported incidents in 2013 but were down to 582 incidents for 2014. City Manager Rideout commended the hard work and leadership of Chief of Police Dennis Dillow, officers, staff and employees. Mayor Cole said he believed the police department being proactive instead of reactive has proven positive.

Parks and Recreation Director Charles Ridlehuber has planned many new events including:

- Wellness programs
- April 25th - Geocaching "Cache in Trash Out" (CiTo)
- May 16th – Crying Wolf Challenge Mountain Bike Race
- December 5th - 5K Holiday of Lights Challenge

*For more information call 304.327.2449

Utility Meeting was held on March 5th to discuss future construction and plans for College Avenue. City Manager Rideout would like all the utilities to work together in putting together a master plan. A utility meeting will be held bi-monthly.

Dog Park Zoning Public Hearing will be held March 16th at 4:30 p.m. Artists' renditions of proposed dog park are located at City Hall for public viewing.

County Commissioner Greg Puckett has made "trash" cleanup a top priority. Every Wednesday during the month of April will be free trash disposal at the Mercer County Landfill. Events are being planned for Earth Day. The City of Bluefield will focus on East River Overlook. Volunteers are needed and welcome.

PUBLIC IMPUT

Veteran Al Hancock, Bluefield, stated he had taken a letter for publication to the Bluefield Daily Telegraph on February 9th, concerning the Veterans Mobile Clinic. The letter was thanking those who made it possible for the mobile clinic as it is close to celebrating one year of operation. The letter was never printed and the mobile clinic is being moved. Mr. Hancock stated that greyhound dogs receive over twenty nine million dollars, but Veterans can not get necessary funding for much needed projects.

Art Riley, representing the Downtown Merchants Association, Bluefield, thanked the city employees for all their help during the recent snow storm. Mr. Riley asked if the new snow trucks were in. City Manager Rideout said the men were in process of acquiring the necessary equipment while being stewards of the citizens' tax dollars. Mr. Riley asked if there were any new developments towards the ten year comprehensive plan. City Manger Rideout stated he requested

the process be slowed down in order to collect various data, including information regarding Bluefield's infrastructure and finances.

Director Michael Gibson asked Mr. Riley if the Downtown Merchants Association was open to all the merchants in Bluefield. Mr. Riley responded that everyone is welcome to attend. Director Ellen Light suggested the name be changed to the Bluefield Merchants Association.

Diane Landy, Executive Assistant, *Only One Look*, located at 130 Princeton Avenue, discussed some of the American made products currently being sold in the Bluefield store. Several of items are specifically designed for the Bluefield, WV area or West Virginia. The original store was called *Bronze Look II*.

Kristen Pujari, Bluefield, requested the Board of Directors reconsider changing the meeting time from 6:00 p.m. to noon. Ms. Pujari stated she felt having alternative times for the meetings benefit members of the community. Mayor Cole said that the Board has tracked the attendance for some time and more people attend the afternoon meeting. Mayor Cole stated that having Town Hall meetings in the evening throughout the year in one way to reach out to more citizens. The Board of Directors meeting is taped and can be seen on Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. on the community channel (3).

Assistant Manager Joshua Cline

Clean Sweep will begin in Zone 3, April 6th and run through the month of April. Residents are asked to take items to the curb during the week allotted for pick-up in their zone. Items not available for pick up include: hazardous substances, chemicals, batteries, solvents, tires, refrigerator-like appliances, televisions, computers and furniture. A schedule of the different zones can be found on www.cityofbluefield.com. The Bluefield Daily Telegraph will publish the various dates and zones. Residents and business not able to utilize the dates should contact the Public Works Department to schedule a special trash pick up or use the Fix-It App. Citizens can always schedule special trash pick up by calling 304.327.2401.

Dog Park donations are being accepted at the city's website under the Spotlight Event and click the "Go Fund Me" link. There will also be an option to purchase a plate for a pet memorial wall. All donors will be recognized on the city webpage and donations are tax deductible.

TABLED

City Christmas Decorations:

City Manger Dane Rideout would like to begin upgrading city Christmas lights. The present decorations are extremely heavy and are not energy efficient. If ordered before the end of March the city would receive a discount. The funds would come out of the General Fund. **Director Ellen Light made a motion for approval to spend \$10,000 on City Christmas decorations. The motion carried unanimously.**

ACTION ITEMS

Financial

City Treasurer Kelly Davis stated she provided documentation for the February financial report

during the morning work session. In summary, this is the eighth month of the fiscal year. Revenues stand collected are at 81% and expenditures total a little over 6 million dollars or 61% of the budget. At the end of February, the total funds available in the general fund were \$2.2 million. Year to date the City of Bluefield is in the black. **Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith made a motion to approve the February Financial Report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

City Treasurer Kelly Davis provided the Board of Directors a list of fifty four city accounts that she is requesting be sent to collections. **Director Ellen Light made a motion to approve the requested accounts presented be turned over to collections. The motion carried unanimously.**

Parsons Brinckerhoff

Assistant City Manager Joshua Cline stated that the city had received the final invoice and designs from Parsons Brinckerhoff for the Roadhouse Intermodal Project in the amount of \$27,500. Those funds will be drawn down from the FTA grant. Project Manager David Hafley will present the final designs in March. Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith suggested final payment is delayed until Mr. Hafley made his presentation. Assistant City Manager Cline stated this invoice is for services already rendered and Mayor Cole stated to withhold payment may cause issues because funding was from a grant.

Director Michael Gibson made a motion to approve final payment to Parsons Brinckerhoff in the amount of \$27,500. The motion carried unanimously.

Region I

Assistant City Manager Joshua Cline stated that every year the City of Bluefield submits to Region I a priority revision list of projects. Assistant City Manager Cline submitted this list to the Board during the morning work session and a resolution was adopted by the Board. Mayor Cole read a resolution for Region I Planning.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE 2015 -2016 REGION I PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ANNUAL PROJECT PRIORITIZATION

WHEREAS, the City of Bluefield Board of Directors met on March 10, 2015, with a quorum present, and passed the following resolution.

WHEREAS, be it resolved that the City of Bluefield Board of Directors hereby approves and authorizes Mayor Thomas J. Cole to submit a list of approved projects for Region I Planning and Development Council for the 2015 – 2016 year.

WHEREAS, be it further resolved that the governing body of the City of Bluefield will present a letter from the mayor and a copy of this resolution as proof of approval from this governing body to Region I Planning and Development Council.

Director Michael Gibson made a motion to approve the 2015 -2016 Region I Planning and Development Council Annual Project Prioritization. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Meeting Time Change:

Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith made a motion to table an **ORDINANCE TO AMEND PART II, CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD, CHAPTER 2**

**ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE II. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, DIVISION 2
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SECTION 2-59, REGULAR MEETINGS; SPECIAL
MEETINGS; COMPENSATION OF DIRECTORS, AS SET OUT HEREINAFTER BY
THE AMENDMENT OF SUBSECTION (a).** The ordinance, if passed, will become effective
after the second reading, effective April 1, 2015. **The motion carried unanimously.**

OTHER

Director Michael Gibson stated the Board of Directors is reviewing the necessity of various boards and commissions. Director Gibson said the Board will consider the function and membership of each board and commission. Director Gibson would like board and commission openings advertised, allowing interested citizens to participate.

Director Ellen Light added there are boards and commission members that are not residents of the City of Bluefield. The topic of board and commissions will be on the agenda, March 24th, for discussion.

Director Michael Gibson suggested that citizens write Senator Joe Manchin and Congressman Evan Jenkins to express interest in having the Veterans Medical Facility located in the City of Bluefield. Director Gibson said Veteran Al Hancock could be sited as reporting over 600 veterans utilized the Veterans' Mobile Clinic

Director Michael Gibson made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

Thomas J. Cole, Mayor