

**REGULAR MEETING - BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BLUEFIELD, MERCER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA
October 27, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, Mercer County, West Virginia was held on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at noon in the Municipal Building Boardroom. Present were Mayor Thomas J. Cole, Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith, Director Ellen Light, and Director Chuck McGonagle; City Manager Dane Rideout, Assistant City Manager Josh Cline, City Attorney Brian Cochran, City Treasurer Kelly Davis, Community and Economic Development Director Jim Spencer and City Clerk Bobbi Kersey. Director Michael Gibson was absent.

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 following minutes were approved without correction:
Minutes of the October 13, 2015 Public Hearing
Minutes of the October 13, 2015 Regular Board of Directors Meeting

CITY MANAGER REPORT: DANE RIDEOUT

Recreation Department had more than 220 runners from around the country at the City Park for the second year to compete in the Appalachian Marathon and Half Marathon Race Series. Eight adult basketball teams from the region competed in the King of Court Basketball Tournament. Team Slaughter House from Bluefield, WV took honors in claiming King of Court. Over twenty (20) organizations have signed up for the first Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 31". The event will be held at the City Park from 3:00 pm -6:00 pm. There will be bounce houses and candy. For more information, contact Katana Mullen at the Recreation Center. Halloween hours will be 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm on October 31st. Residents are reminded to slow down when driving especially on Oakhurst and College Ave. Residents who wish to participate should turn on their porch lights.

Holiday of Lights will be November 26th - December 31". Citizens can still register for the Holiday of Lights 5k run on December 5th 4:30 pm. There will be an award for the best holiday costume.

Human Resources conducted a professional development staff training on How to *Exceed Customer Expectations*. Professional development started with department heads and now mid-level management. The city is trying to invest in the employees and help them be more customer orientated.

Police Department now has a digital fingerprint system which was received with a grant put together by Dean Pennington. The Police Department has raised \$33,000 for our K-9 program. The intent is to purchase two dogs. Both dogs will focus on drugs, and one will also focus on attack capabilities. The Police Department continues to seek donations.

Fire Department has been officially qualified by the state as a combination fire department. For more information about becoming a volunteer fireman citizen should contact the Fire Chief Rick Cary. The fire department will be giving a physical agility test at Mitchell Stadium on November 7th at 11:00 am for full time positions.

Community and Economic Development Director Jim Spencer stated the Blue Mountain Mercantile, proprietor Beth Christopher, located in the old Wells Fargo Building, hopes to open the first of November. Congratulations to Patty Joe's Restaurant, located on Cumberland Road, which had a ribbon cutting ceremony today at 11:00 am. Transit Director Pat McKinney, through a grant, has arranged for fifteen television screens to be placed on buses. As people ride the bus, videos will be playing to market the Bluefield area. Transit Director McKinney applied for another grant and a group out of Charleston is designing three videos. One video will be in a *Did You Know* format. Board Directors and other citizens will ask questions about Bluefield to help market the City. An application to American Express to participate in Small Business Saturday was accepted. Community and Economic Director Jim Spencer stated the City of Bluefield will proclaim November 28th as Business Appreciation Day in the City. There will be a business appreciation breakfast, a passport contest, a scavenger hunt and a selfie contest. American Express is another marketing tool that can be used to help encourage foot traffic into our stores.

Bluefield City Ambassador Marie Blackwell discussed the following events for our Veterans:

- November 7th: The Bluefield WV and Princeton Rotary clubs are partnering to host a Community Veterans Breakfast at the Princeton Church of God on Oakvale Road. The event begins at 9:00 am. The guest speaker will be Col. Dane Rideout. Presentation of colors will be conducted by the Montcalm Jr. ROTC. The event is free of charge and open to all veterans and their families.
- November 8th: Veterans Concert at the Chuck Mathena Center will be performed by the East River Mountain Town Band beginning at 3:00 pm. The event is open to the public and donations will be accepted.
- November 10th: Bluefield State College Veteran's Day Program, Student Union Building, 10:00 a.m. Weather permitting the Vietnam Wall will be on display.
- November 11th: Veteran Day Parade in downtown Princeton. Following the parade at the Memorial Building there will be a dedication ceremony at 1:00 p.m. of 200 additional bricks at the Always Free Veterans Walk of Honor. The Marine Corps League will conduct a flag folding ceremony during the dedication.
- November 13th: The American Legion Riley Vest Post #9 will present this year's Distinguished Citizen Award at the Youth Center on Stadium Drive beginning at 12:00 noon.

These events allow citizens the opportunity to thank veterans for their service, courage and all their sacrifice, some making the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Bluefield High School SADD Club represented by Megan Beggs, Tonya Roberts, and Mattie Kessler requested December 18, 2015 as SADD's "Lights on for Life Day". Lights on for Life is a

day designed to focus attention on impaired driving. Lights on for Life Day will recognize those who have been killed or injured by impaired drivers and remind others that alcohol and mug-related crashes are preventable. On the day of December 18th, citizens are requested to turn on vehicle headlights throughout the day and turn on outdoor lighting to show support them. Bluefield High School campus will light up the front lawn/campus in support from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. All citizens are invited to participate.

Art Riley, representing the Downtown Merchants Association, thanked Community and Economic Director Jim Spencer, City Ambassador Marie Blackwell, Intern Haley Robinson and Intern Ericca Farrington for putting together Business Appreciation Day.

Mr. Riley named the Bluefield Police Department as the Grand Marshall in this year's Christmas Parade. The parade will be December 12th at 1:00 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

Mayor Thomas J. Cole read the SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD TO EXECUTE A DEED TO RICKY \VILLIAMS TO CONVEY A PARCEL OF REAL ESTATE, CONTAINING APPROXIMATE 7500 SQUARE FEET, MORE OR LESS, SITUATED IN THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD, MERCER COUNTY, WEST VIRGIIA KNOWN AS LOT 4, SECTION 681, 2412 PRINCETON AVENUE, FOR A PRICE OF \$6,000.00. City Attorney Brian Cochran reminded the Board that this was a parcel of land that the City purchased in 2010 or 2011, after a city vehicle ran into a structure. The structure was demolished and the property was auctioned. Mr. Williams was the high bid at \$6,000.00. Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith made a motion to approve the SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD TO EXECUTE A DEED TO RICKY WILLIAMS TO CONVEY A PARCEL OF REAL ESTATE, CONTAINING APPROXIMATE 7500 SQUARE FEET, MORE OR LESS, SITUATED IN THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD, MERCER COUNTY, WEST VIRGIIA KNOWN AS LOT 4, SECTION 681, 2412 PRINCETON AVENUE, FOR A PRICE OF \$6,000.00, second; unanimously approved and so ordered.

Mayor Thomas J. Cole read the SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD TO ACCEPT THE TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE. Assistant City Manager Josh Cline stated the Goodwin family sent a letter with remarks concerning the family hist01y, as the property has been in the family for more than 100 years. The donors have not placed any restrictions on this transfer. They have every confidence the City's leaders will make use of the property for the betterment of the community. 111e Goodwin family offered some suggestions for the development of the property. A copy of the letter is available in the City Clerk's office. Director Chuck McGonagle made a motion to approve the SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD TO ACCEPT THE TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE, second; unanimously approved and so ordered.

Mayor Thomas J. Cole stated the City of Bluefield Police Department had applied for a USDA grant for police vehicles and/or equipment. In accordance with applicable regulations, the applicant must publish a Public Notification to inform the Public of filing an application. City Manager Rideout stated if the application is accepted the city would buy 5 police vehicles and the grant could provide up to \$50,000. This was not in the budget and further discussion will be necessary. In order for the

application to be considered the Board must set the date for a public meeting to provide an opportunity for the public to become acquainted with the proposed project and to comment on economic impacts, service area or alternatives. Director Ellen Light made a motion to set the public hearing on a USDA grant application for police vehicles and/or equipment for the City of Bluefield Police Department on November 10, 2015 at 11:30 am, second; unanimously approved and so ordered.

Director Ellen Light made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

Thomas J. Cole, Mayor