

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

June 14, 2016

NOON

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, Mercer County, West Virginia was held on Tuesday, June 14, 2016, at noon in the Municipal Building Boardroom. Present were Mayor Thomas J. Cole, Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith, Director Chuck McGonagle, Director Ellen Light, Director Michael Gibson, 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.

INVOCATION – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – CALL TO ORDER

Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith requested a silent prayer to remember the victims of the Orlando shooting and passing of boxing legend Muhammad Ali. Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson-Smith 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

Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith made a motion that the minutes of the May 24, 2016, Board of Directors meeting be approved as presented, second; unanimously approved and so ordered.

PRESENTATION

Mayor Thomas J. Cole presented Jim Russell a certificate of appreciation for his eighteen-year service on the Planning Commission. Mr. Russell has been active in many fraternal, social, civic and professional organizations. He has been a true supporter of Bluefield for his entire adult life. The Board of Directors thanked Mr. Russell for so many years of selfless service to the city.

CITY MANAGER REPORT: DANE RIDEOUT

Happy Birthday Army – 241 years strong and thank you for all those that have served and are serving this nation.

City Manager Rideout and Economic and Community Development Director Spencer traveled to Washington, D.C. last week and met with Congressman Jenkins, Congressman Griffith (VA) and other political dignitaries. The goal was to continue to push forward with where the city needs to go on a state and federal level, gain support and share information. Time was also spent with Scott Hercik, transportation and trade advisor to the Appalachian Regional Commission. The ARC is a regional economic development agency that represents a partnership of federal, state, and local government. Each year the ARC provides funding in the Appalachian Region, in areas such as business development, education and job training, telecommunication, infrastructure, community development, housing and transportation. It was a great opportunity to engage with these partners.

City Engineer Tony Wagner reported the paving contract with Southern West Virginia Paving has

been signed and is being executed. This year approximately three (3) miles of road will be paved. Normally only one (1) mile is paved but the raise in street fees has allowed for more capital improvements. To date one hundred twenty-three (123) tons of asphalt has been used to fill potholes, since the asphalt plant opened for the season.

Speed Humps are being requested by businesses and private citizens. Each speed hump costs one thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$1,250). It is not in the budget for the City to purchase any more speed humps but businesses and private citizens can purchase the speed humps. The city will put them down and take them up, based on weather conditions.

East River Mountain Overlook now has a concession stand open and the parking area has been resurfaced. The concession stand is also being used as a security measure as there has been vandalism.

Parks and Recreation has many programs for adults and children. A detailed schedule is available on the website. (www.cityofbluefield.com or <https://www.facebook.com/bluefieldparksandrecreationcenter>). Citizens are encouraged to get involved in activities being offered by parks and recreation.

Code Enforcement officers are working on a flex schedule. There are four demolitions set for the week of June 20th.

Human Resources Department continues to compile and update employee data.

Police Department has a successfully worked with the DNR and two bears have been removed from Tiffany Manor. In the last month there have been eight hundred sixty (860) calls for service, ninety-three (93) arrests and twenty-two MVC's. The K-9's have participated in many career days throughout Mercer County. Many drugs have been confiscated with a street value of over \$25,000. The K-9's have also assisted the U.S. Marshall Service, WV State Police, Mercer County Sheriff's Dept., Mercer County Probation, Mercer County Home Confinement and Princeton PD.

Fire Department had fifty-six (56) total calls for service, five (5) EMS incidents and twenty-nine (29) fire incidents. They continue to volunteer service, continue training and continue to make sure fire lanes are clear. Firemen distributed two hundred fifty smoke detectors at the Cole Chevy Mountain Festival.

Community and Economic Development Director Jim Spencer

- Community and Economic Development Director Spencer read the following **RECOGNIZING THE SUCCESS OF THE BLUEFIELD STATE COLLEGE ROBOTICS TEAM:**

WHEREAS, Bluefield State College boasts a competitive and academically challenging engineering program that attracts students to the city, and;

WHEREAS, Bluefield State College was a fierce competitor in the 2016 Intelligent Ground Vehicle Competition Autonomous Challenge at Oakland University in Michigan, with a team

consisting of advisor Dr. Bob Riggins and students: William Lambert, Charles Reeves IV, Levi Poff, Michael Goforth, Jesse Haynes, and Ian Fields, and;

WHEREAS, the competition challenged teams to build and operate autonomous robotic vehicles on an outdoor course with defined lanes, detect obstacles, and follow waypoint navigation

WHEREAS, the team of students competed in a four-day competition, as the smallest school and as one of a few institutions without an engineering graduate school, against 34 teams from other bodies of higher learning in the United States as well as India, Canada, Mexico, and Turkey, and;

WHEREAS, the team won the honors of first place in the Basic Course, second place in Design, fourth place in the Advanced Course, and second place overall in the world.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Bluefield Board of Directors offers its congratulations to this outstanding team of students for their achievements and for representing the city in a positive light on a global scale.

Given under our hands this the 14th day of June 2016.

Congratulations to Dr. Bob Riggins, the team's advisor and the Bluefield State College Team.

- The first mentoring meeting took place offering support to entrepreneurs wanting to start a business. This is another incentive offered to citizens.
- Fantastic Friday is doing well. Grants Supermarket is helping with produce until peak season. New events are being offered.
- E.L. Robinson and representative Dave Cole gave an update on the application working on federal funding to renovate the old Freight Station, being marketed as a site for entrepreneurs with space available for manufacturing businesses. A copy of the contract will be presented to City Attorney Brian Cochran for review. Mr. Cole stated they had revisited the facility. They discussed the drainage concerns and have a scope of cost. Mr. Cole will be sending the pre- application in the next two to three weeks.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Al Hancock, citizen congratulated the students from Bluefield State College. Mr. Hancock stated he would like to purchase some speed humps and discussed the playground equipment near his home. Mr. Hancock announced the veteran's mobile clinic now serves close to 1,000 veterans.

Art Riley, representing the Downtown Merchants Association, questioned what would be done with the funds left over after the street paving contract was awarded. City Manager Rideout said the funds would be used for pot hole repair. Mr. Riley discussed signage in the parking lots and was assured they would be put in place. Mr. Riley reminded everyone of the noon concerts and invited everyone to attend.

ACTION ITEMS:

City Treasurer Kelly Davis reported at the close of May 2016, the 11th month of the fiscal year, revenue collected totaled \$9,906,098 (97.38%) of the projected amount of \$10,172,451. Expenditures total \$9,454,077 (81.61%) of the projected budget of \$11,584,400. City Treasurer Davis request approval of the May financial report. Director Chuck McGonagle moved to approve the May financial report as presented, second; unanimously approved and so ordered.

Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith requested approval of the Second Reading of an Ordinance Renewing a Franchise Agreement for Bluefield Gas. City Attorney Brian Cochran stated this is a Franchise Agreement with Bluefield Gas for eight years. We are reverting back to the 2009 agreement that will expire July 2017. Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith moved to approve the First Reading of an Ordinance Renewing a Franchise Agreement for Bluefield Gas, second; unanimously approved and so ordered.

OTHER:

Director Michael Gibson moved to adjourn, second; unanimously approved and so ordered.

Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

Thomas J. Cole, Mayor