

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

July 12, 2016
NOON

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, Mercer County, West Virginia was held on Tuesday, July 28, 2016, at noon in the Municipal Building Boardroom. Present were Mayor Thomas J. Cole, Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith, 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. Director Chuck McGonagle 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

Director Ellen Light moved that the minutes of the June 28, 2016, Board of Directors meeting be approved as presented, second; unanimously approved and so ordered.

Director Michael Gibson moved that the minutes of the July 5, 2016, Public Hearing be approved as presented, second; unanimously approved and so ordered.

Director Michael Gibson moved that the minutes of the July 5, 2016, Public Meeting be approved as presented, second; unanimously approved and so ordered.

CITY MANAGER REPORT: DANE RIDEOUT

Public Works employees Mike Underwood, William Bennett, Matt Steele, Adam Goodman, JJ Holey and Junior Beggs were recognized for their excellent work ethic and dedication. These men were instrumental in priming, painting, and cleaning the old garbage truck.

Midway Culvert was closed to traffic July 5th and 6th due to heavy rainfall. The Bluefield Fire Department did a water rescue due to the high water in the tunnel. A car became trapped in over three feet of water. Crews also cleaned up and hauled away approximately 25 tons of rock and mud from the area.

Parks and Recreation hired Athletic Director Rodney Kasey. Mr. Kasey has a Bachelor of Science: Sport Management and a Master of Science: Sports Administration from Liberty University. Mr. Kasey is currently the assistant basketball coach/director of basketball for the men's basketball team at Bluefield College. Mr. Kasey will begin work on July 18th.

City Engineer Tony Wagner is working with CASE to repair their sidewalk in front of the Law and Commerce Building. CASE is using the City sidewalk incentive program.

Code Enforcement /building contractor was delayed due to AEP temporarily needing to drop a service (power lines) for a demolition. They will continue forward and should be finished this week.

Bluefield Fire Department will give a presentation at the July 26th, Board Meeting, on flood relief efforts and support.

Bluefield Police Department has seized a total of over \$35,000.00 of narcotics. Monthly statistics for K-9 are as follows: misdemeanor arrests (29), felony arrests (11), vehicles searched (32), paraphernalia seized (32 items) and U.S. currency seized over \$18,000.

Frederick Street resident Kathy Neese spoke last meeting concerning traffic issues and requested speed humps. Ms. Neese obtained donations, by going door to door, to raise funds towards the purchase of the speed humps. Three speed humps will be placed on Fredrick Street and speed humps purchased by individuals/business owners will be placed on Jefferson Street.

Dog Runs have been repaired at the Mercer County Humane Society.

Budgeted Bathroom Renovation money for City Hall will now be used to purchase a new air conditioning unit. The old unit is 20 years old and no longer working properly.

Business Licenses should be in the mail by the end July. Code Enforcement is aware that there will be a short time frame before everyone receives their license.

Community and Economic Development Director Jim Spencer

- The City of Bluefield filed the pre-application for the 2016 POWER Initiative Grant for the Bluefield Commercialization Station Project. Additional information has been requested which Director Spencer believes is a good sign. In developing the Commercialization Station, we have brought in many strategic partners. One partner is VT KnowledgeWorks a subsidiary of the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center. VT KnowledgeWorks encourages entrepreneurship by focusing on: clear understanding of fundamental business principles; access to timely, relevant information; and meaningful personal and corporate relationships. VT KnowledgeWorks will host an entrepreneur workshop training on August 4th. The workshop is open to everyone in the region. More information is be available at www.cityofbluefield.com

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

ACTION ITEMS:

City Treasurer Kelly Davis stated at the close of June 2016, the last month of the fiscal year, revenue collected totaled \$10,774,887 (105.92%) of the projected amount of \$10,172,451. Expenditures total \$10,369,654 (89.51) of the projected budget of \$11,584,400. City Treasurer Davis requested approval of the June 2016 monthly financial report. Director Ellen Light made a motion to approve the June 2016 monthly financial report, unanimously approved and so ordered.

Mayor Cole read the **second reading of AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD TO PURCHASE A PARCEL OF REAL ESTATE SITUATED IN THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD, MERCER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA FOR A PRICE OF \$2,3000.00.** City Attorney Brian Cochran stated these are multiple parcels on Carolina Avenue, some donated to the City and some that the City wanted to purchased. **Director Michael Gibson moved the second reading of AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD TO PURCHASE A PARCEL OF REAL ESTATE SITUATED IN THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD, MERCER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA FOR A PRICE OF \$2,3000.00, second; unanimously approved and so ordered.**

Mayor Cole read the **second reading of AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND RESERVING SECTIONS 26-2, 26-3, 26-4, 26-5, AND 26-6 OF ARTICLE I, CHAPTER 26, PART II OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD.** Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith moved to table the ordinance until the July 26th meeting, giving the Fine Arts Commission more time to meet, **second; unanimously approved and so ordered.**

Mayor Cole read the **second reading of AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 38, SECTION 38-24(a)(6)(b) OF PART II OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD.** City Attorney Brian Cochran stated this was the ordinance concerning yard sales. The ordinance would provide for three yard sales per calendar year, no longer than 72 hours per sale, cannot occur less than ten days after any previous sale. Permit holders may apply to the City Manager for one additional special permit. **Director Ellen Light moved to approve the second reading of AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 38, SECTION 38-24(a)(6)(b) OF PART II OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD, second; unanimously approved and so ordered.**

Mayor Cole read an authorization to **Petition the Mercer County Commission to permit the following Charter revision language be placed on the November 2016 General Election Ballot as a Special Election for the City of Bluefield:**

PROPOSITION TO AMEND PART I, THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD. The purpose of the amendments is to revise Sections 6, 7, 18, 19, and 95 of Part I, the Charter of the City of Bluefield, by providing staggered elections so that no more than three of the five members of the Board of Directors may be elected at the same election. In order to accomplish the transition to staggered terms, the two at-large members elected at the June, 2017 election will serve a two-year term and then at-large elections will revert back to every four years thereafter, beginning with the June, 2019 at-large election. **Director Michael Gibson moved to approve authorization to Petition the Mercer County Commission to permit the following Charter revision language be placed on the November 2016 General Election Ballot as a Special Election for the City of Bluefield, second; unanimously approved and so ordered.** Mayor Cole reminded everyone this request allows citizens to vote on their preference concerning a staggered election in November.

Mayor Cole read the first reading of an **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD TO PURCHASE CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL ESTATE SITUATED IN THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD, MERCER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA FROM STOVALL REAL ESTATE, LLC., FOR A PRICE OF \$60,000.00.** City Attorney Brian Cochran stated this property is located on Thorn Street that butts up against the Bluefield City Park. City Manager Dane Rideout said acquiring this property will double the size of the park on the West Virginia side, offers timber, and allows for flexible possibilities for future development. **Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith moved to approve the first reading of an ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD TO PURCHASE CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL ESTATE, SITUATED IN THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD, MERCER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA FROM STOVALL REAL ESTATE, LLC., FOR A PRICE OF \$60,000.00, second; unanimously approved and so ordered.**

Mayor Cole requested a motion to reappoint Dan Shortridge to the Zoning Board of Adjustments for a three (3) year term (7/12/2017 – 7/12/2020). **Director Ellen Light moved to reappoint Dan Shortridge to the Zoning Board of Adjustments for a three-year term (7/12/2017- 7/12/2020) then amended the motion to reflect the correct dates 7/12/2016- 7/12/2019, second, unanimously approved and so ordered. There was a typographical error.**

OTHER:

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

Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

Thomas J. Cole, Mayor