

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

**August 9, 2016  
NOON**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, Mercer County, West Virginia was held on Tuesday, August 9, 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, 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.

**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 July 26, 2016, Board of Directors meeting be approved as presented, unanimously approved and so ordered.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT: DANE RIDEOUT**

**Dirt Removal** has begun behind the Bluefield City Park tennis courts in preparation for bleachers. The June Shott Foundation donated money several years ago for this project but zoning regulations had to be confirmed by the Town of Bluefield, Virginia. City Engineer Tony Wagner is spearheading the project.

**Corner of Hardy Street and Orange Street** eroding curve is a concern. The City will contact engineers/contractors for an evaluation as to the best way to rectify the situation.

**Paving** is behind due to the rainy weather but should be completed by the end of the month. Calhoun Street is on the list to be paved.

**Pot holes** are still a major focus. Two hundred ninety-five (295) tons of asphalt has been used to make repairs.

**Mitchell Stadium** cleanup was rescheduled for August 8<sup>th</sup>, due to bad weather on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. John and Kathy Shott, Four Seasons Recovery, and many volunteers made the day a success.

**Main water line** broke last week under the parking lot in front of the Parks and Recreation building. The water line has been fixed and the water should be back on. The City appreciated the understanding from the Genoa class reunion during the inconvenience.

**Parks and Recreation** is still registering for the Two Virginias 5K on Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. The race is a partnership between Bluefield, WV and Bluefield, VA. Parks and Recreation Director Charles Ridlehuber reported several challenges (city manager vs city manager/ top 5/ employee participation/ fireman and police) that are being added to the event. Approximately 200 people are expected to participate in the 5K.

**Code Enforcement** still working on blighted houses and demolition. A house on Rockbridge is scheduled to be taken down this week. Contractors will be removing the old playground equipment at the old Fairview Jr.

High site.

**Human Resource** Director Angie Foley is working on updating/revamping the employee handbook.

**Police Department** had twenty-eight applications for entry level police. There were one thousand one hundred thirty-five (1,135) calls for service. Four hundred eighty-one citations written with two hundred ninety-five of those as warnings. The K9 continue to amaze us all with approximately \$4,850.00 (street value) drugs seized.

**Fire Department** responded to 139 Balsam Street early this morning. The structure was destroyed but the neighboring structure was saved due to the quick actions of the firemen. Only four (4) feet separated the burning structure and the house next door. The Bluewell and Green Valley Fire Departments were thanked for their assistance. Captain Hodge and his men are to be commended. Minor injury to one Bluewell fireman.

### **Community and Economic Development Director Jim Spencer**

- Congressman Evan Jenkins will visit the Commercialization Station at 1:30 p.m.
- ARC and EDA are still receiving information for the power grant. David Cole and Mr. Spencer will have a conference call at 2:00 p.m. today.
- Thirty-six existing business owners or new start up entrepreneurs attended an interactive workshop, August 28<sup>th</sup>. The workshop offered information and various presentations from Jim Flowers, executive director of VT Knowledge Works, a subsidiary of the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center. Citizens are encouraged to view the video, [1millioncups.com](http://1millioncups.com). Developed by the Kauffman Foundation, 1 Million Cups is a free, national program designed to educate, engage, and connect entrepreneurs. He would also like to get local school systems engaged in teaching entrepreneurship.
- The next opportunity for the City could be as an incubation headquarters. Several businesses are already designed as an incubation business: Blue Spoon - restaurant, Blue Mountain Mercantile – retail and the Commercialization Station – manufacturing and technology. Eighty-four percent of businesses that go through a successful incubation period process stay in the area. This may be a way to start growing our own economy.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Art Riley, representing the Downtown Merchants Association**, stated the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Downtown Merchants Street Fair on Friday, July 29 and Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup> was a huge success. Mr. Riley thanked the citizens and City for their support. Mr. Riley stated the City needs to get the word out concerning what Bluefield has to offer to those outside our area. There are many ways to get the word out: TV, radio, digital and technology. It was suggested that Community and Economic Development Director Spencer contact Mark Warner to present a 101 marketing class. The class would include different ways to market a business. Bluefield State College has been approached and they are encouraged to become more involved in this networking process.

**Alfonzo Dowell, Bluefield resident**, voiced concerns regarding illegal dumping, more police surveillance in his neighborhood and the condition of Charleston Terrace and other streets. Mr. Dowell stated a lot of the illegal dumping comes from people who come across the state line. He has taken the license plate numbers but feels police presence would help greatly. Director Michael Gibson suggested a neighborhood watch. City Manager Rideout stated he was aware of the situation and is working to acquire surveillance equipment. City Manager Rideout was also concerned about

issues on High Street and stated it may be necessary to close the road.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

**City Treasurer Kelly Davis** reported at the close of July 2016, the 1<sup>st</sup> month of the new fiscal year, revenue collected totaled \$1,224,822 (13.82%) of the projected amount of \$8,863,208. Expenditures total \$1,070,909 (9.83%) of the projected budget of \$10,889,627. City Treasurer Davis requested approval of the July financial report. **Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith moved to approve the July financial report as presented, second; unanimously approved and so ordered.**

**City Treasurer Kelly Davis** requested approval to submit ninety (90) accounts for collection in the amount of \$70,633.84. **Director Michael Gibson moved to approve the ninety accounts in the amount of \$70,633.84 be sent to collections, second; unanimously approved and so ordered.**

Mayor Cole requested approval of the second reading of a **Resolution Authorizing the City of Bluefield to Enter into a Lease Agreement with Jason McLeod.** City Manager Rideout stated this is a house owned by the City behind the Bluefield Area Transit. **Director Ellen Light moved to approve the second reading of a Resolution Authorizing the City of Bluefield to Enter into a Lease Agreement with Jason McLeod, unanimously approved and so ordered.**

Mayor Cole requested approval to appoint Carl Carter to the Bluefield Building Commission as the health representative. State Code requires a representative from the Health Department. **Director Chuck McGonagle moved to approve the appointment of Carl Carter to serve as the health representative on the Bluefield Buildings Commission, unanimously approved and so ordered.**

Mayor Cole read the first reading of an **ORDINANCE enacting Chapter 3, Section 3-9, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bluefield, and to amend Chapter 24, Article II, Sections 24-69 and 24-74 for the purpose of allowing certain Alcoholic Beverage Control Administration Class "A" license holders to begin serving alcohol at ten o'clock on Sundays.** **Director Ellen Light moved to table the reading.** City Manager Rideout stated he was out of town last week and several board members were attending the Municipal League Conference. City Manager Rideout would like the opportunity to discuss the ordinance. **Unanimously approved and so ordered.**

Mayor Cole requested the approval of the second reading of **AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ZONING RECLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL ESTATE IN THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD FROM (R-2) SINGLE FAMILY DISTRICT TO (RMF) MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT BY AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD AS SHOWN ON THE EXHIBIT HERETO ATTACHED AND DECLARED TO BE APART OF THIS ORDINANCE AS IF THE SAME WAS FULLY SET FORTH THEREIN.** City Attorney Brian Cochran stated Mr. Robert Deeb petitioned the Planning Commission for rezoning. The Planning Commission approved the request and has made a recommendation in favor of rezoning from single family to multifamily residence. **Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith moved to approve the second reading of AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ZONING RECLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL ESTATE IN THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD FROM (R-2) SINGLE FAMILY DISTRICT TO (RMF) MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT BY AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD AS SHOWN ON THE EXHIBIT HERETO ATTACHED AND DECLARED TO BE APART OF THIS ORDINANCE AS IF THE SAME WAS FULLY SET FORTH THEREIN, unanimously approved and so ordered.**

Mayor Cole requested approval of the second reading of **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PART II, CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD, CHAPTER 6, BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS; ARTICLE II. CODES, AS SET OUT HEREINAFTER BY THE AMENDMENT TO SECTION 6-31, STATE BUILDING CODE ADOPTED.**

City Manager Rideout stated the State approved new codes therefore it is necessary for the City to make changes to our ordinances to be in compliance. **Director Ellen Light moved to approve the second reading of AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PART II, CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD, CHAPTER 6, BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS; ARTICLE II. CODES, AS SET OUT HEREINAFTER BY THE AMENDMENT TO SECTION 6-31, STATE BUILDING CODE ADOPTED, unanimously approved and so ordered.**

Mayor Cole requested approval of the second reading of an **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD TO EXECUTE A QUITCLAIM DEED GRANTING, CONVEYING AND QUITCLAIMING TO THE BLUEFIELD PRESERVATION SOCIETY, INC., GRANTEE, ALL OF ITS INTEREST IN A CERTAIN PARCEL OF REAL ESTATE SITUATED AT RALEIGH AND COMMERCE STREETS, IN THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD, MERCER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, FOR \$2,746.00.** Assistant City Manager Josh Cline stated the City of Bluefield acquired this property through the tax sale process. The Bluefield Preservation Society has incubated the Blue Spoon Café and they are ready to look for a buyer to take over the business. The City of Bluefield is selling its interest in the property to the Preservation Society. Director Michael Gibson stated the City does not own the entire tract of land but only a partial interest. **Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith moved to approve the second reading of an ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD TO EXECUTE A QUITCLAIM DEED GRANTING, CONVEYING AND QUITCLAIMING TO THE BLUEFIELD PRESERVATION SOCIETY, INC., GRANTEE, ALL OF ITS INTEREST IN A CERTAIN PARCEL OF REAL ESTATE SITUATED AT RALEIGH AND COMMERCE STREETS, IN THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD, MERCER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, FOR \$2,746.00, unanimously approved and so ordered.**

**OTHER:**

Mayor Cole moved to adjourn, unanimously approved and so ordered.

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Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

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Thomas J. Cole, Mayor