

**REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BLUEFIELD, MERCER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA
November 7, 2016
NOON**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, Mercer County, West Virginia was held on Monday, November 7, 2016, at noon in the Municipal Building Boardroom. Present were Mayor Thomas J. Cole, Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith, Director Ellen Light, Director Chuck McGonagle, Director Michael Gibson, City Manager Dane Rideout, City Attorney Brian Cochran, City Treasurer Kelly Davis, and City Clerk Bobbi Kersey. Assistant City Manager Josh Cline and Community and Economic Development Director Jim Spencer were 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

Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith moved that the minutes of the October 25, 2016, Board of Director meeting be approved as presented, unanimously approved and so ordered.

Director Chuck McGonagle moved that the minutes of the October 25, 2016, Town Hall meeting be approved as presented, unanimously approved and so ordered.

PRESENTATION

Mayor Cole congratulated the Big Blues Men’s Golf Team and coaches for winning the first ever national championship. The following resolution was read.

RECOGNIZING THE BLUEFIELD STATE COLLEGE GOLF TEAM

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

WHEREAS, the Bluefield State College Golf Team traveled to State College, Pennsylvania to compete against seventeen other teams in the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) Golf National Championship at Penn State University’s Blue Course, and;

WHEREAS, the team was Kirk Collins, Caleb Cox, Blake Hash, J.T. Lester, Justin Mariotti, Karson Terry, and David Woodrum, and was coached by Todd Fong and Cole Sulmonetti, and;

WHEREAS, Bluefield State College led the eighteen team field after day one with a score of 301, sixteen strokes ahead of the second place team, and this score was a top five score in USCAA National Golf Tournament history, and;

WHEREAS, Bluefield State College held the lead in day two shooting a 311 score finishing the tournament with a combined score of 612, eleven shots ahead of the second place finisher, and;

WHEREAS, this championship was Bluefield State College's first national championship since 1927-1928 when the Big Blues Football Team won the National African American Football Championship, and;

WHEREAS, four members of the team made the All-American list: Blake Hash, who finished fourth overall, and Kirk Collins, who finished sixth overall made the First Team All-American and J.T. Lester and David Woodrum made the Second Team All-American, and;

WHEREAS, senior Kirk Collins received the team's only Academic All-American for the 2016 season.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Bluefield Board of Directors congratulates the Bluefield State College Golf Team on its National Championship and wishes them the best in their academic endeavors.

Director Ellen Light moved to approve the RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE BLUEFIELD STATE COLLEGE GOLF TEAM, second; unanimously approved and so ordered.

CITY MANAGER REPORT: DANE RIDEOUT

Trash collection schedule:

Election Day - Tuesday, November 8th collection will be Monday, November 7th.

Veterans Day – Friday, November 11th collection will be Monday, November 14th.

Thanksgiving Break – City Hall will be closed on November 24th and 25th.

Trash will be collected for **both** days on Monday, November 28th

Veterans Community Luncheon will be held Thursday, November 10th at the Bluefield Auditorium from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. The City invites local area veterans, members of the armed forces, and their families to a free luncheon to honor their service to our nation. Retired, U.S. Army Major General Michael S. Repass will be the guest speaker. Major General Repass is the Chief Executive Officer for Able Global Solution, LLC which he founded in 2013. Major General Repass was born at the old Bluefield Sanitarium. For more information contact Marie Blackwell at marie.blackwell@cityofbluefield.com .

City Engineer Tony Wagner has been working with AEP to get lights working at Mitchell Stadium and working with AEP upgrading their vaults on Bluefield Avenue at the intersection of Locust Street. A new handicap ramp has been poured at the Sanitary Board entrance.

Public Works is in the final weeks of asphalt. If a citizen needs to report a pothole or repair they need to post information on the Fix It Bluefield website. Leaf removal continues not only during the week but on weekends.

Holiday of Lights is ahead of schedule setting up displays and will open Thanksgiving night. Volunteers are needed to work the gate. If interested contact City Hall. To date 900,070 lights will be on display for the Holiday of Lights.

Time Capsule is back in the ground. City officials are working with an organization to get the marker back on the top of the capsule.

Parks and Recreation reports a successful Trunk or Treat. Thank you to all the businesses that support the event. The Youth Football League Championship led to a victory in each division.

Fire Department responded to a fire on Highland Avenue. Firefighter Brian Carr luckily was not injured when the floor collapsed beneath him. These men, as well as our policemen, continue to put their lives on the line for our safety. The department also responded to a chemical spill at Bluefield State College last weekend. The City is lucky to have such a professional, educated, and informed team that can respond in the event of an emergency situation.

Community and Economic Development Director Jim Spencer was absent. City Manager Rideout reminded citizens the City of Bluefield will have the second American Express Small Business Appreciation Day on Saturday, November 26th. For more information contact jspencer@cityofbluefield.com. Several of the businesses have been meeting, for some time, putting together their plans and opportunities in supporting small businesses. Thursday, November 10th at 8:00 a.m. there will be a meeting open to the public for small businesses. The meeting will be at the Corner Coffee Shop on Cherry Street. The City is in partnership with Bluefield College.

American Legion Riley – Vest Post 9 has selected Marie Blackwell as Citizen of the Year. The ceremony begins at 11:00 a.m. on November 9th at the Bluefield City Auditorium. The guest speaker will be American Legion State Commander Sherman Baxa. Congratulations to Marie for everything you do for our City and Veterans.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Art Riley, representing the Downtown Merchants Association, thanked Community and Economic Development Director Jim Spencer and Erica Farrington for their hard work and support towards Small Business Saturday. Mr. Riley also invited everyone to the Corner Coffee Shop. The Christmas Parade will be December 10th at 1:00 p.m. They are looking for parade entries and interested persons can contact the City or Landmark Antiques for more information. Everyone is invited to be a part of the festivities.

Ms. J. Buford, Bluefield citizens, thanked to Board for the placement of stop signs in her neighborhood. Ms. Buford stated her street, West Ridge Street, has not been paved in over twenty-five years. Ms. Buford requested her street be added to the paving list next year.

ACTION ITEMS:

City Treasurer Kelly Davis requested approval of the October Financial Summary. At the close of October 2016, the 4th month of the fiscal year, revenue collected totaled \$4,670,773 (52.70%) of the projected amount of \$8,863,208. Expenditures totaled \$3,586,394 (32.93%) of the projected amount of \$10,889,627. There will be a budget revision in December due to various contributions. **Director Ellen Light moved to approve the October Financial Summary, second; unanimously approved and so ordered.**

Mayor Cole read the **First Reading of AN ORDINANCE VACATING, ABANDONING, ANNULING AND DISCONTINUING A PORTION OF THAT CERTAIN TRACTS OR PARCELS OF LAND, BEING A PORTION OF HIGH STREET, CONSISTING OF AN APPROXIMATE FIFTEEN (15) FOOT WIDE AND APPROXIMATE FIVE-HUNDRED AND TWENTY (520) FOOT LONG SECTION, BEGINNING AT THE INTERSECTION OF A THIRTY (30) FOOT RIGHT OF WAY AND THE FIFTEEN (15) FOOT RIGHT OF WAY ON HIGH STREET, AND FURTHER BEING THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF TAX MAP 18, PARCEL 106, RUNNING EAST ALONG HIGH STREET TO THE TWENTY (20) FOOT UNOPENED RIGHT OF WAY, STEWART STREET, ALL SITUATED IN THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD, MERCER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA.** City Manager Rideout stated this section of High Street that runs beside the Speak Easy and is a concrete road. There are no houses and the road is impassable for firetrucks and other emergency vehicles. Letters have been mailed to residents that are impacted and City Engineer Tony Wagner has gone door to door and spoken with most residents. Following the Code of Ordinances this is the first reading and there will be a public hearing before the second reading. Director Chuck McGonagle moved to approve the **First Reading of AN ORDINANCE VACATING, ABANDONING, ANNULING AND DISCONTINUING A PORTION OF THAT CERTAIN TRACTS OR PARCELS OF LAND, BEING A PORTION OF HIGH STREET, CONSISTING OF AN APPROXIMATE FIFTEEN (15) FOOT WIDE AND APPROXIMATE FIVE-HUNDRED AND TWENTY (520) FOOT LONG SECTION, BEGINNING AT THE INTERSECTION OF A THIRTY (30) FOOT RIGHT OF WAY AND THE FIFTEEN (15) FOOT RIGHT OF WAY ON HIGH STREET, AND FURTHER BEING THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF TAX MAP 18, PARCEL 106, RUNNING EAST ALONG HIGH STREET TO THE TWENTY (20) FOOT UNOPENED RIGHT OF WAY, STEWART STREET, ALL SITUATED IN THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD, MERCER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, second; unanimously approved and so ordered.**

Mayor Cole requested approval to reappoint Rick Taylor to the Bluefield Sanitary Board for a three-year term (December 1, 2016 – December 2, 2019). **Director Ellen Light moved to reappoint Rick Taylor to the Bluefield Sanitary Board for a three-year term (December 1, 2016 – December 2, 2019), second; unanimously approved and so ordered.**

OTHER:

- City Offices will be close on Veteran’s Day (November 11th) and November 24th and 25th in observance of Thanksgiving.
- Next Board of Directors meeting will be November 22nd with a Public Hearing starting at 11:30 a.m.
- December 13th, Board of Directors meeting at noon. There will only be one meeting in December.
- Congratulations to the Graham Cheerleaders for capturing the “spirit of cheerleading” as state champions. The team was named the 2A State Cheer Champions after competing in Richmond over the weekend. They are also the 2A West Region Champions.
- Please vote on November 8th.
- The video playback for the November 22nd Board meeting will be aired on Wednesday, November 23rd instead of the regular scheduled Thursday night.

- Summit Players will present “My Three Angels” the first and second weekend in December.

The Board of Directors, administration, and staff congratulates Marie Blackwell for being named Citizen of the Year!

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

Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

Thomas J. Cole, Mayor