

**SIXTH MONTH REVIEW – BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
BLUEFIELD, MERCER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA  
FEBRUARY 16, 2016  
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH – 6:00 P.M.**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, Mercer County, West Virginia was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 6:00 p.m., at First Christian Church. Present were Mayor Thomas J. Cole, Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith, Director Ellen Light, Director Michael Gibson and Director Chuck McGonagle; City Manager Dane Rideout, Assistant City Manager Josh Cline, Community and Economic Development Director Jim Spencer, City Attorney Brian Cochran, City Treasurer Kelly Davis, and City Clerk Bobbi Kersey.

**INVOCATION – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – CALL TO ORDER**

Pastor Douglas W. McDaniel 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. Mayor Cole recognized Representative Kim Gross from Governor Tomlin's office and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mayor Cole thanked Pastor McDaniel for the use of the Fellowship Hall and refreshments.

**PRESENTATION**

City Manager Dane Rideout stated on September 1, 2016 a heavily armed assailant attempted to rob two downtown banks in Bluefield, West Virginia. Upon exiting the second bank, the assailant engaged in gunfire with the police. During the exchange of gunfire, the assailant was killed but no officer or civilians were injured. City Manager Rideout asked the congregation to remember the phrase "fight or flight" because when faced with a dangerous situation we often are not sure which path to take. The individuals recognized put their lives in danger and did "fight" for the safety of each citizen in Bluefield. City Manager Rideout read a color description of the Combat Cross:

- Green: (Police Combat Cross) members who have successfully and intelligently performed an act of extraordinary heroism, while engaged with an armed adversary under circumstances of imminent personal hazard to life.
- Blue: (Valor) acts of outstanding personal bravery intelligently performed in the line of duty at imminent personal hazard to life under circumstances evincing a disregard of personal consequences.
- Gold Star: (integrity) awarded for grave personal danger in the performance of duty.

City Manager Rideout stated it was an honor to recognize each of the officers and Police Chief Dennis Dillow for their acts of extreme heroism. Mayor Cole also stated, on behalf of the Board of Directors, it was an honor to pin the Combat Cross on Police Chief Dennis Dillow. Police Chief Dillow presented the Combat Cross to Lieutenant Dean Pennington, Lieutenant Michael McPherson, Detective Kenneth Adams and Patrolman Michael Pertee. Chief Dillow said he could not have picked four other men to have been with that day that that could have handled things better and thanked each officer for their bravery. The officers' combat cross was approved by the state and will permanently be worn on their uniforms.

**Action Item**

Mayor Cole requested a motion to approve a recreation center bathroom bid from DCI/Shires, Inc. in the amount of \$30,800.00. The money was donated through a local foundation. Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith made a motion to approve a recreation center bathroom bid from DCI /Shires, Inc. in the amount of \$30,800.00, second; unanimously approved and so ordered.

## **CITY MANAGER REPORT: DANE RIDEOUT**

City Manager Rideout presented an over view of the last six-month (July to December 2015). City Manager Rideout stated the administration is constantly analyzing process and procedures to better govern the City of Bluefield. He requested citizens “buck the negativity that exists online and in person” and “champion the good things in our region” by volunteering to create the community you want to live in. The following topics were discussed during a power point presentation:

- **The Financial Picture** – Revenues are outpacing expenditures.
- **A Snapshot of City Work**
  1. Holiday of Lights – Listed as number two for best light display in the West Virginia Department of Tourism, inaugural 5K run, donations were up from previous two years.
  2. Public Works –New equipment, cleanup day at Mitchell Stadium, street repairs, four-day garbage pickup, renovation of first floor of the city-owned Wells Fargo building, and snow removal.
  3. Engineering – Continual upgrades and repairs, streetlights, breaker boxes repaired and rewired, new outdoor steel conduits and data boards to scoreboard at Mitchell Stadium.
  4. Informational Technology – Request by departments using Fix It Bluefield, online forms, upgraded new voice over IP phone system, maintaining and upgrading computers.
  5. Bluefield Area Transit – Community services, growth of Non-Emergency Transportation Program and continued training sessions. Congratulations to Director Patrick McKinney who was named Manager of the year and honors were received for ridership numbers and Best Management Innovation.
  6. Police Department – New K9 units, warning citations, calls for service, arrests, motor vehicle crashes and new substation that is the gateway to the downtown.
  7. Fire Department – Volunteers, “in-house” training, SLICE-RS method, support of community engagement/events, smoke detector drive, and an insurance grant to acquire an arson dog.
  8. Building Inspection and Code Enforcement – Building and renovation projects, demolition, animal control issues, rental inspection, and various code enforcement issues.
  9. Human Resources – On-going reorganization, record retention and audit of employee documentation training on federal and state levels and fine tuning of policies and procedures.
  10. Parks and Recreation – Summer camps, East River Overlook, Herb Sims Youth Center, Lemonade Festival Criterion, Trunk of Treat, Holiday of Lights 5K, and city trails.
  11. Community and Economic Development – Partnership with surrounding communities and events, new website, new businesses, Business Appreciation Breakfast, and partnership with Pipestem State Park.

### **Ongoing Projects:**

- Staggered Elections
- 1% Sales Tax Home Rule Initiative
- Police Substation Opened and Operational
- Herb Sims Scholarship Established
- Arson Dog – it was announced State Farm Insurance is giving a grant to acquire an Arson Dog and it will arrive in April.
- Regional Recycling Center
- Overview of City Code Ordinances

\*\* The above information is detailed in the **Sixth Month Review Booklet** and can be found on the city website ([www.cityofbluefield.com](http://www.cityofbluefield.com)) under the government/education tab or booklets are available at City Hall.

**Public Comment:**

Juanita Gray, Bluefield resident, asked if the City of Bluefield was still an ISO Class 4 rating. City Manager Dane Rideout stated the city is still class 4 and understood the importance due to insurance.

**Closing Comments:**

The Board of Directors congratulated and thanked the Bluefield Police Department, the Department Heads, City Staff and Administration for working together, being professional, and the energy they give towards the future of our City.

Director Ellen Light made a motion to adjourn, second; unanimously approved and so ordered.

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Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

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Thomas J. Cole, Mayor