

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

March 28, 2017

NOON

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, Mercer County, West Virginia was held on Tuesday March 28, 2017, at noon in the Municipal Building Boardroom. Present were Mayor Thomas J. Cole, Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson-Smith, Assistant City Manager Joshua Cline, Director Ellen Light, Director Michael Gibson, City Manager Dane Rideout, City Treasurer Kelly Davis, and City Clerk Bobbi Kersey. Director Chuck McGonagle and Community and Economic Development Director Jim Spencer were absent.

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. Mayor Cole requested citizens keep Director Chuck McGonagle in their thoughts and prayers as he had back surgery this morning.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Director Ellen Light moved that the minutes of the March 14, 2017, Board of Directors meeting be approved, unanimously approved and so ordered.

CITY MANAGER DANE RIDEOUT

Prayers and Condolences to Community Economic and Development Director Jim Spencer and his family in the death of his uncle.

Pot Hole repair will begin as soon as the asphalt plant opens.

Public Works and Parks and Recreation ground crews have worked hard doing some much-needed repairs/renovations to City Playgrounds. These include Pulaski Street, Hardy Street, Genoa, East River and Yakkity Yak was mulched. Water will be turned on at the park on April 1.

Mid Way Tunnel sidewalk has been removed upon the approval of the Department of Highways and railroad. The removal has helped in widening the road for our new fire truck.

Bollards are being placed from the Recreation Center into the City Park. The Beautification Commission paid for the bollards.

Treasury Department has moved to the second floor. City payments, permits, sanitary/stormwater fees can all be made at one location. A payment box is available for city payments and sanitary/ stormwater after regular business hours.

Code Enforcement Officers are out on the weekend. Citizens are reminded, if applicable, to get proper permits for weekend activities during regular business hours at City Hall.

Code Enforcement Specialist Lori Mills is working with CASE to repair damage at the Law and Commerce Building that occurred during a recent windstorm. Some of the decorative pieces were blown off the building and CASE is working with the Historic Landmarks Commission.

Parks and Recreation received their fully accredited childcare license from the State Department. They can take up to 100 children, ages five through thirteen. Parks and Recreation Director Charles Ridlehuber stated this is a two-year license. They are planning a second tier program and the reimbursement will increase. There is very strict criteria for staff involved and is a difficult license to obtain and maintain. Congratulations to all involved in this much-needed program.

Police Department Mike Pertee and K-9 Ace have returned to full duty. Officer Danieley and our new K-9 will start their four week K-9 training in North Carolina, April 17. K-9 Thor had an article in the paper last week and is doing great things. Our K-9's are purchased through private donations to the City. Our goal is to have four K-9 dogs so there is one for each shift. The K-9's are having an impact in the City.

Community and Economic Development Director Jim Spencer report, given by City Manager Rideout.

- The incubator consultant has started the planning and execution of the administration plan (March 15 and 17) to begin the Commercialization Station.
- The Cool and Connected was a huge success (March 21 and 22). The effect of bringing broadband to the area was discussed. Broadband is a way to revitalize downtown areas, bringing a new work force, attracting new businesses, increasing visitors and tourist traffic and generate goals for the future. Thank you to all the businesses and citizens that participated.
- We are taking a hard look at Fantastic Friday. Some citizens have expressed an interest in doing the market on Saturday. Community and Economic Development Director Spencer will be reaching out on social media for input.

Mayor Cole asked Playground Specialist Lori Mills to give an update concerning handicap playground equipment. Ms. Mills stated the swing should arrive in the next two weeks. The specialty swing will be located in Yakkity Yak. The Ridge Runner was to open but has some mechanical issues and the train is in the shop. She hopes that the train will be up and running the following weekend.

Director Michael Gibson asked for an update concerning a dormitory at Bluefield State College. City Manager Rideout stated the City had submitted to the college, at their request, information regarding soil at a certain site to determine the compaction for the proposed dormitory. City Engineer Tony Wagner has been working with Thompson and Litton.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Art Riley, representing the Downtown Merchants Association, stated the merchants are having an April 1st, sale. Everyone will have discounts on their products. J's Prowl Around is a new business located in the Research and Development Center and will hold a grand opening Monday. It is centered on old model cars and small antiques. Mr. Riley asked if the Board had a discussion on his appeal concerning the billboards he spoke of at the last meeting. He has not received any feedback. They are having a Downtown Merchants meeting tonight and plan to pursue the purchase of the billboard.

ACTION ITEMS:

City Treasurer Kelly Davis requested approval to submit seventy-six (76) accounts for collection for \$46,641.13 for the month of March. Director Michael Gibson **moved to approve seventy-six (76) accounts for collection for \$46,641.13 for the month of March, unanimously approved and so ordered.**

Mayor Cole stated the next agenda item was a **RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE 2017 – 2018 REGION I PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ANNUAL PROJECT PRIORITIZATION**. A public hearing was held at 11:30 a.m. to discuss the prioritization list. **Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith moved to approve the RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE 2017 – 2018 REGION I PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ANNUAL PROJECT PRIORITIZATION, unanimously approved and so ordered.**

Mayor Cole read a **Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month and Children's Memorial Flag Day** on April 28, 2017. Regional Director Joanne Boileau accepted a copy of the proclamation and presented the City with a Children's Memorial Flag. Ms. Boileau gave a brief description of the


flag's symbols and urged all citizens to memorialize the thousands of children across the country who die violently each year. She requested that all citizens "Say Something, Do Something for Kids". The Children's Memorial Flag will be flown at the Bluefield City Park.

Mayor Cole requested approval of Consideration for Approval on Second Reading of an Ordinance authorizing the issuance by The City of Bluefield of not to exceed \$2,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of Sewer Revenue Bonds, Series 2017 A, to permanently finance certain betterments, additions and improvements for the sanitary sewerage collection and treatment system of the City. **Director Michael Gibson moved to approve the Second Reading of an Ordinance authorizing the issuance by The City of Bluefield of not to exceed \$2,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of Sewer Revenue Bonds, Series 2017 A, to permanently finance certain betterments, additions and improvements for the sanitary sewerage collection and treatment system of the City, unanimously approved and so ordered**

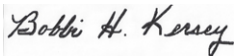
Mayor Cole requested approval of Consideration for Approval on First Reading of an Ordinance authorizing the issuance by The City of Bluefield of not to exceed \$2,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of Sewer Surplus Revenue Notes, Series 2017 A, to temporarily finance certain betterments, additions and improvements for the sanitary sewerage collection and treatment system of the City. **Director Michael Gibson moved to approve Second Reading of an Ordinance authorizing the issuance by The City of Bluefield of not to exceed \$2,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of Sewer Surplus Revenue Notes, Series 2017 A, to temporarily finance certain betterments, additions and improvements for the sanitary sewerage collection and treatment system of the City, unanimously approved and so ordered.**

Mayor Cole request approval of Marie Blackwell and Billy Hester as Ballot Commissioners for the June 6, 2017 Municipal Election. **Director Ellen Light moved to approve Marie Blackwell and Billy Hester as Ballot Commissioners for the June 6, 2017 Municipal Election, unanimously approved and so ordered.** City Clerk Bobbi Kersey stated the Ballot Commissioners would be present April 11 at 9:00 a.m. for drawing of ballot placement.

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



MAYOR
CITY OF BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA



Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk