

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

**April 11, 2017**

**NOON**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, Mercer County, West Virginia was held on Tuesday, April 11, 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, Director Chuck McGonagle, City Manager Dane Rideout, City Treasurer Kelly Davis, Community and Economic Development Director Jim Spencer and City Clerk Bobbi Kersey.

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 March 28, 2017 Public Hearing/ Region One Planning be approved, unanimously approved and so ordered.**

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

**RESOLUTION**

Mayor Cole read a resolution for Marc Meachum, President and CEO Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce.

**RESOLUTION  
COMMENDING THE SERVICE OF  
MARCUS T. MEACHUM, JR.**

**WHEREAS**, Marcus "Marc" T. Meachum, Jr. retired as president and chief executive officer of the Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce on March 31, 2017, after twenty years of service and leadership, and;

**WHEREAS**, a native of Bluefield, West Virginia, he is a graduate of Bluefield High School's Class of 1969 and Wake Forest University and;

**WHEREAS**, Marc followed in his father's footsteps as a businessman, operating a family chain of shoe stores from the late 1970s to the early 1990s. He later worked in sales for a small cellular phone company that became a part of AT&T from 1995 to April 1, 1997, when he began working at the Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce, and;

**WHEREAS**, as president and chief executive officer of the Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce, Marc served the City of Bluefield and greater community and developed strong partnerships with local, state, and national organizations to better serve the residents and businesses of Bluefield, and;

**WHEREAS**, founded in 1904, the Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce is one of the oldest businesses in the area, and Marc has achieved one of the longest tenures as its president and chief executive officer, and;

**WHEREAS**, Marc credits his success to the hard work and dedication of the staff and volunteers of the Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce frequently pointing toward Sherry Anderson's quote, "Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless" as a motto.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the City of Bluefield Board of Directors commends Marcus T. Meachum, Jr. on the occasion of his retirement, thanks him for his many years of service to the City of Bluefield and the greater region, and offers best wishes for this next chapter of life with his wife of forty-four years, Patricia, children Scott and Kelly, and his many grandchildren.

**Given under our hands this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of April 2017.**

**Mayor Cole spoke about Mr. Meachum being a special kind of person. He said he has never heard an unkind word about Marc and has never heard Marc speak an unkind word about others. The City Board wishes Marc and Patricia the best in their future endeavors.**

**Director Chuck McGonagle moved to approve a RESOLUTION FOR MARCUS T. MEACHUM, JR., unanimously approved and so ordered.**

Mayor Cole read a resolution concerning the Lynn Street Stormwater Rehabilitation project.

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bluefield wishes to submit an application to the State of West Virginia HUD Small Cities Block Grant Program to request funding for the City of Bluefield: Lynn Street Stormwater Rehabilitation Project, and;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bluefield must give assurances that the Small Cities Block Grant and Program Regulations related to grant administration, civil rights and other applicable State and Federal Laws will be followed, and;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bluefield must designate an official representative to act in connection with the application and execute all necessary program documents:

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

The City of Bluefield authorized the submission of an application with the State of West Virginia HUD Small Cities Program for the City of Bluefield: Lynn Street Stormwater Rehabilitation Project.

The City of Bluefield will comply with all laws and regulations pertaining to the program.

Thomas J. Cole, Mayor, is designated as the authorized official to act in connection with the application.

**Director Ellen Light moved to approve the Resolution for Lynn Street, unanimously approved and so ordered.**

## **CITY MANAGER DANE RIDEOUT**

**Assistant City Manager Josh Cline** has accepted the position of CEO/President of the Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce. City Manager Rideout said he would miss his wingman, Assistant City Manager Cline. City Manager Rideout stated Cline is a true professional and the communication they have shared has been phenomenal. Assistant City Manager Cline will continue doing well for the City of Bluefield and Southern West Virginia. Assistant City Manager Cline was presented with a commemorative photograph of the clock in downtown Bluefield that stands near the chamber office. Assistant City Manager Cline thanked everyone for their continued support during the past four years. He expressed his excitement in continuing his role in the growth of Bluefield and requested all to visit him at the Chamber. The City Board of Directors and the staff at City Hall congratulate Josh and wish him the best in his new position.

**Public Works Director Jr. Biggs, Parks and Recreation Director Charles Ridlehuber and Grounds Crew Supervisor Nick Harrison** were thanked for helping coordinate the cleanup at Thorn Street. Forty-three tons of trash and over five hundred tires was collected. Four Seasons Recovery Center participated and were invaluable in the cleanup effort. Trail Committee volunteer Mickey Pellillo was also present. Plans are to extend the trails on the property acquired on the West Virginia side of the park. This area is being monitored and the county is involved. Fines for illegal dumping are \$25,000.

**Code Enforcement Specialist Lori Mills** received a letter stating the positive impact code enforcement has made on property values and making them better property owners. Code Enforcement Specialist Mills reported she had entered a vacant house and had captured an abandoned alligator.

**A Spring Festival** will be held at Parks and Recreation on April 22, from 10:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. This is a family event with various activities provided by organizations. There will be free rides on the Ridge Runner from 10:00 a.m. thru noon. Everyone is welcome. For more information visit [www.cityofbluefield.com](http://www.cityofbluefield.com).

**Asphalt Plants** are now open and pothole repair will soon begin. The City will be coordinating with the State concerning state roads within the city. Please drive safely and be aware of public crews that are working on our roads. Speed humps will be put out in about two weeks. Please slow down.

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

- The City applied for a Flex-E-Grant for \$3,825 and received a letter stating the application was approved for the full amount. Funding will be used to develop a business resource guide for the Mercer County region that identifies the entrepreneurial and business support systems in the area. The finished guide will be posted online and made available in hard copy.
- A Create Opportunity Round Table event to help grow your business will be held on April 26 @ 2:00 p.m. This is through the West Virginia University Industrial Extension Growth Services and Foundational Services and is free to the public. For more information, contact David Carrick at [david.carrick@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:david.carrick@mail.wvu.edu). The meeting will be held at the Training Center of Bluefield Area Transit located at 3208 John Nash (Exit 1 off I-77).
- Help Bluefield City Park win a National Competition. Bluefield has been nominated for a \$20,000 grant from the National Recreation and Park service for our City Park. Go to [NRPA.org/Beinspired](http://NRPA.org/Beinspired) and enter Bluefield as your nominated city and West Virginia as your nominated state to vote. You can vote once a day. The city that receives the most votes wins.

- Fantastic Friday will be from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm. beginning in May. Other events include:  
 May 5 – Gardening 101 with Jodi Richmond/ starting at 5 pm  
 Craft Memorial Library- May the Force be with you Characters  
 May 12 – Community Garden Night with Lori McKinney and John Velke/starting at 5 pm  
 May 19 - Live Music/ starting at 5 pm  
 Craft Memorial Library – Glitter Tattoos  
 May 26 – Movie Night at Craft Memorial Library – 8:30 pm (Bring your own lawn chairs / family friendly/ No charge).
- Bluefield on the MAP stands for the new Millennial Ambassador Program. Members of MAP will share social media content generated by the CED with their network and members will be encouraged to generate their own content highlighting the positive things in the City and region. They will use hashtags to help tell the story, which include #MyBluefield, #BluefieldWV and #BluefieldOnTheMap. They will also link their posts to the CED social media account and website using Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Bluefield website. To become a MAP member or for older individuals (digital ambassadors) go to <https://form.jotform.us/70993906484167> to apply. All ambassadors will be listed on the [www.mybluefield.org](http://www.mybluefield.org) web site and are eligible to win contests. Community and Economic Development Director Spencer recognized the MAP member attending the board meeting. The young people were thanked for being involved.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Art Riley, representing the Downtown Merchants Association,** reported 80,000 people have now ridden the Ridge Runner and 785 people rode this weekend. He asked for the amount on the Lynn Street project and when the grant will be awarded. City Manager Rideout did not have the figures with him but requested Mr. Riley come by his office. The grants will be awarded sometime in October and the figure was based on some significant stormwater issued in that area. Mr. Riley asked about the Commercialization Station start date, end date and are the funds are available. City Manager Rideout said the funds are available but will be distributed based on need. In the next ninety days, there should be some activity. The city has to assess the electric, water, and various other issues. The Board has been briefed and is in the process of hiring a firm to formulate a plan.

**Mildred Hoskey,** a Bluefield resident, stated this would be her first city election and was confused about the Districts. City Clerk Bobbi Kersey stated there are three maps at City Hall showing the different precincts that were determined by the County. A map will be placed on the website. Notices were mailed to all registered voters concerning changes in voting places. The polling places were not in the correct areas and there is a difference in polling places for a municipal election verses a Federal election. More information will be available in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph, Craig Hammond is updating election news daily on his radio show, WVVA will be announcing information, general information is available at [cityofbluefield.com](http://cityofbluefield.com). ,and citizens can call the city clerk at 304.327. 2401 ext. 2407 during office hours.

**Catherine Harrison, Four Seasons Recovery Center,** thanked officials for their support and wished Assistant City Manager Josh Cline the best in his new position.

**Skip Crane, Ambassador of Bluewell,** requested assistance cleaning area from Bluefield State to top of the hill. Mr. Crane invited everyone to Bluefield High School on April 28 and April 30 to see *High School Musical* in the Mary Ruth Bartlett Auditorium.

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

**City Treasurer Kelly Davis** stated that at the close of March 2017, the 9<sup>th</sup> month of the fiscal year, revenue collected totaled \$8,394,098 (86.70%) of the projected amount of \$9,681,405. Expenditures total \$8,105,442 (69.23%) of the projected budget of \$11,707,645. City Treasurer Davis discussed some of the noteworthy expenditures in March. **Director Chuck McGonagle moved to approve the March financial statement as presented, unanimously approved and so ordered.**

Mayor Cole stated the next two agenda items dealt with the temporary and permanent funding by ordinance for sewer revenue bonds. A public hearing was held earlier today at 11:45 for public comment. This was the third reading of each ordinance.

Mayor Cole read the third 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.** Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson-Smith moved to approve the Third 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 read the third 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 Ellen Light moved to approve the Third Reading of 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 requested approval for West Virginia American Water Company to upgrade an existing booster station, in the city right away, on Nash Street. City Manager Dane Rideout stated this area is inside the city and the water company would be making improvements. City Manager Rideout recommended approval. **Director Michael Gibson moved approval for West Virginia American Water Company to upgrade an existing booster station, in the city right away, on Nash Street, unanimously approved and so ordered.**

## **Reports of Officers, Boards and Commissions:**

Each Director congratulated Assistant City Manager Cline on his new position as President of the Bluefield Chamber. Assistant City Manager Cline was instrumental in the Home Rule process, gathered information for all Town Hall and Annual Reports. Assistant City Manager is a great talent in the City and everyone is excited that he will remain a local citizen. Good Luck and Congratulations from the Board of Directors, administration and staff.

May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> the City of Bluefield will host the West Virginia Municipal League for its Executive Board meeting.

Approximately forty-five members and spouses will be in Bluefield. If interested in being a sponsor, contact Marie Blackwell at [marie.blackwell@cityofbluefield.com](mailto:marie.blackwell@cityofbluefield.com).

Early voting will begin at City Hall on May 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson-Smith moved to adjourn, unanimously approved and so ordered.

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Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

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Thomas J. Cole, Mayor