

**REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
BLUEFIELD, MERCER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT DAY  
April 25, 2017  
NOON**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, Mercer County, West Virginia was held on Tuesday, April 25, 2017, 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, 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 Student Vice Mayor Jia Coppola 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 welcomed the senior students from Bluefield High School and invited each one to get involved in the community.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Director Ellen Light moved that the minutes of the April 11, 2017 Public Hearing/ Sewer Revenue Bonds be approved, unanimously approved and so ordered.

Director Chuck McGonagle moved that the minutes of the April 11, 2017, Board of Directors meeting be approved, unanimously approved and so ordered.

Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson – Smith moved that the minutes of the April 18, 2017, Special Called meeting / Lay the Levy be approved, unanimously approved and so ordered.

**PRESENTATION**

Mayor Cole presented Attorney Brian Cochran with a framed print of *The Fog Bank Rolling Over East River Mountain in Bluefield* by photographer Mel Grubb. Mayor Cole said Attorney Cochran began working for the City of Bluefield in August 2008. Attorney Cochran has twice served the city as Interim City Manager and resigned as City Attorney in February 2017. Mayor Cole thanked Attorney Cochran for his leadership, dedication and professionalism. Attorney Cochran said he was humbled and honored to represent the City of Bluefield as the City Attorney the last nine years. He stated he would miss the people he has worked with, worked for and the people in the community that he has gotten to know in the position.

**RESOLUTION**

Mayor Cole introduced Student Mayor Cody Fuller who read a resolution for Arbor Day.

**RESOLUTION  
RESOLUTION TO OBSERVE ARBOR DAY 2017**

**WHEREAS**, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and this holiday, called Arbor Day was first observed with the planting of more than one million trees in Nebraska, and

**WHEREAS**, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world because trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife, and

**WHEREAS**, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires, and countless other wood products, and trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and are a source of joy and spiritual renewal, and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bluefield has been named a Tree City USA designee for many years with responsible care of its natural landscape,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the City of Bluefield Board of Directors, do encourage all citizens to observe Arbor Day 2017 on Friday, April 28, 2017 and urge them to care for, maintain, and when able, plant trees on their property.

**Given under our hands this the 25<sup>th</sup> day of April 2017.**

**Under the direction of Director Michael Gibson, Student Director Elizabeth Warner moved to approve the Resolution to Observe Arbor Day 2017, unanimously approved and so ordered.**

Forester Andy Sheets presented an Arbor Tree Flag to the City. The Arbor Day Foundation has recognized the City of Bluefield for being a Tree City for sixteen years. A tree city takes care of its trees and recognizes the importance to the public infrastructure because they provide numerous environmental, social and economic benefits. Students from Bluefield High School planted a Dogwood tree earlier in the day.

#### **CITY MANAGER DANE RIDEOUT**

**City Manager Rideout** congratulated Jose Gonzalez for achieving his Master Electrician License. Mr. Gonzalez can now perform a broad range of electrical installation and repair work and can inspect the work of electrical contractors. The Board of Directors, administration and staff are very proud of Jose's accomplishment.

**Intern Josef "Seppi" Huber**, working with City Engineer Tony Wagner, has been verifying locations and designing a GIS map on all the city streetlights. The city requested a list of streetlights from Appalachian Power Company so verification could be made on the number of streetlights, rate of billing, and location. We have found several of the streetlights were not in the city limits and AEP has been billing the city for new poles set that were requested by homeowners. The city was also being billed for streetlights that were placed in wooded areas. Some streetlights will be eliminated and the city will become more efficient. The next phase is to take the information to the DEP, which sets the rates, and convert the lights to LED. This will be a cost savings piece for the city.

**Skip Crane, Bluewell resident** requested at the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting that the city help with some cleanup efforts. May 8, volunteers will collaborate with Mr. Crane and his volunteers to clean up the area starting at Bluefield State to Airport Road. Clean up will also take place at the Overlook, neighborhood playgrounds, and Grassy Branch. Volunteers can meet at the East River Overlook or above Bluefield State College at 8:30 a.m.

**Treasury Department** has moved downstairs. IT Specialist Billy Hester is in the process of ordering signage. This move is a convenience for citizens as they can now pay all city fees, sanitary and stormwater, sheriff department bills, and code enforcement/permits all on one floor.

**Code Enforcement Specialist Lori Mills and Public Works** is bringing in a new electronic system. The new system, iWork, has is a database that allows the tracking of work orders, streamline of processes, provides a system of records and finds data.

**Parks and Recreation Charles Ridlehuber, Code Enforcement Department and Public Works Department** were thanked for a successful Spring Festival. Due to the rainy weather, forty vendors and activities were moved inside the auditorium. It was a great way to showcase the improvements to the Herb Sims Youth Center. Special thanks to Bluefield State College for their support. The new field turf at Mitchell Stadium is now being installed. Summer camps registration is now open.

**Bluefield Police Department** Patrolman Danieleley is in North Carolina starting his K-9 training and will be gone for six weeks. This will be the city's third K-9 and the hope is to add one more K-9, one for each shift. Police Chief Dillow explained the department runs in shifts, one day and one night, for twenty four/seven coverage. The K-9's were purchased through donations.

**Fire Chief Rick Cary** has completed the final inspection on the new fire engine. The new fire engine is now en route to Virginia for detail work, such as city decals. The department will go through training on usage and the fire engine should be presented at a 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration.

**Community and Economic Development Director Jim Spencer's Student Devon Goins** gave the following report:

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).

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**City Treasurer Kelly Davis** requested approval to refer April collections in the amount of \$123,917.18. **Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson-Smith moved to approve referral of April Collections as presented, unanimously approved and so ordered.**

Mayor Cole requested approval of **a USDA Resolution setting forth grant conditions and authorizing the City Manager to execute all forms necessary to obtain the grant. (\$50,000 USDA grant for police vehicles).** Mayor Cole read the following resolution.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**

1. That the City of Bluefield accepts the condition set forth in a Letter of Conditions dated April 19, 2017.
2. That the City approves the budget as shown on Form RD 442-7- Operating Budget.
3. That the City Manager be authorized to execute all forms necessary to obtain a grant from Rural Development.

**Director Michael Gibson moved to approve the USDA Resolution as presented, unanimously approved and so ordered.** City Manager Rideout stated this was the second time the City has applied for the grant. This grant has been awarded and the resolution finishes the process. The grant allows the City to purchase police cars. The city received a \$100,000 donation from another organization that allows the City to purchase a total of five police cars. The City plans to apply for this grant next year.

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

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

Student Mayor Cody Fuller, under the direction of Mayor Tom 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