

**REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
BLUEFIELD, MERCER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA  
May 9, 2017  
NOON**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, Mercer County, West Virginia was held on Tuesday, May 9, 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.

Layman Tim Havens invoked divine guidance for the conduct of the meeting. Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson -Smith 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**

**Director Ellen Light moved that the minutes of the April 25, 2017, Board of Directors meeting be approved, unanimously approved and so ordered.**

**CITY MANAGER DANE RIDEOUT**

**May 15, 2017** at 5:00 p.m., the City of Bluefield will host an information presentation on the 1% Municipal Sales Tax and use tax at the Herb Sims Recreation Center on Stadium Drive. A representative from the WV Department of Revenue Tax Department will provide an overview to businesses on the additional reporting requirement and on the sourcing rules in WV Code 11-15B-14, 11-15B-14a and 11-15B-15 that apply to both State sale and use taxes and to municipal sales and use taxes. There will be another meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Princeton City Hall. The meeting will be filmed and posted on You Tube. City Treasurer Kelly Davis will attend the meeting.

**May 18,** 2017 at 6:00 p.m., the Bluefield Chamber will host a "Meet the Candidate" forum at the Bluefield Area Arts Center, at 500 Bland Street in the Brainerd Gallery on the third floor. The event is open to members of the Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce and the public. The president and CEO of the Bluefield Chamber will facilitate the meeting.

**City Engineer Tony Wagner** was recognized for his professional relationship with the outside agencies. City Engineer Wagner working with the Department Of Highways has expedited the pothole repairs on Bland Road. The city is also working to fill potholes in the area. City Manager Dane Rideout and City Engineer Wagner will validate the proposed list of streets for paving and in house paving plan next week and submit it to the Board of Directors. There are streets that will not be paved due to utility companies planning work in that area.

Clean upon Route 52, East River Overlook and various other areas took place Monday, May 8. Thank you to Four Season Recovery (29 men), Bluefield Police and all the volunteers who made the day a success. A weapon was found and turned into the Bluefield Police Department.

**Dog Park** pad will be poured for the water feature once the weather begins to cooperate.

**Speed Humps** are now located on Oakhurst, Edgewood, Cliffmont, Horton Road and North Street.

**Little Caesars** Pizza is remodeling and correcting the rear wall, which is structurally unsound. Bluefield Regional Hospital continues investing in the City. They were issued a large permit for the Chiller phase-2 project.

**Human Resource** Department has been participating in conference sessions concerning new Federal changes covering topics such as; legislative updates, labor issues, Affordable Care Act, national labor policy update, right to work/ paycheck protection, and millennials in the workplace.

**Parks and Recreation Department** dedicated the Little Free Library on Wednesday, May 3. Little Free Library provides book access 24/7 and is located behind the Holiday of Lights building at City Park. This was an Eagle Scout project. Many thanks to Mickey Pellillo for all of her help at the park.

**Crying Wolf Challenge** mountain bike race is Saturday, May 13. The just for fun race will begin at 11:30 a.m. and the West Virginia Mountain Bike Association races begin at 1:00 p.m.

**Cole Chevy Mountain Festival** begins May 30 – June 4.

**Field Turf** installation has begun. The use of football sleds will not damage or degrade the new turf.

**Bluefield Police Department** announced Patrolman Filer graduated from the West Virginia State Police Academy on April 28, as the class valedictorian. K-9 Ace has successfully completed his annual certification.

**Bluefield Fire Department** has received a grant for \$23,000. This is the third grant, which allows the department to purchase up to date bunker gear.

**James Devens, Chief Operating Officer and Bluefield Gas Vice President,** was thanked for his professionalism and leadership with the City of Bluefield. Mr. Devens has been promoted and will be moving from Bluefield. He and his family are wished the best and will be missed.

**Bluefield State Tennis Team** is one of sixteen teams participating in the Division II National Tennis Championship. Bluefield State College won the Regional Division last week. Good Luck to the Bluefield Tennis Team.

**Community and Economic Development Director Jim Spencer** gave the following report:

- May 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Clover Club (530 Raleigh Street), the Robert C. Byrd Institute will present a workshop for small businesses and entrepreneurs. CREATE stands for creating resilient economies by assisting transforming entrepreneurs. Community and Economic Development Director Jim Spencer believes everything we try is to create opportunity for someone, whether it be training, jobs, etc. A free lunch will be provided. Participants must register no later than May 11 at 3:00 p.m. at [www.rcbi.org/go/bluefield](http://www.rcbi.org/go/bluefield) .
- Fantastic Friday will be from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm. beginning in May. Other events include:

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).

- Commercialization Station plans and specs should be submitted to DEP on May 15. Advertisement for bids should begin June 1.
- The MAP or Millennial Ambassador Program was a success. Over sixty students attended. A similar session has been extended to Graham High School and Bluefield High School. Graham High School has requested the program be presented later this month. Cool and Connected is another way for young people to start thinking about their career.
- Presentation: Bluefield College student Rebecca Havens presented her senior project. Ms. Havens shared her video depicting nostalgic photos of Bluefield and interviews with present day business owners. Ms. Havens reminded us of our past, but encouraged us to look to the future, look for the potential in Bluefield and look at how much the city has to offer. Community and Economic Development Director Spencer stated how important the millennials are to the area and what an asset they are in the growth of our city.
- The windows in city owned vacant downtown buildings are getting a facelift. Over the next few weeks, changes will be taking place. Some of the windows will be used for advertisement for businesses in good standing with the city and historical pictures will be placed in others. This is a way to spotlight our downtown merchants and history. The staff is consolidating ideas from the Blueprint Community, Cool and Connected and other organizations to unveil a plan for the future.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

### **ACTION ITEMS**

**City Treasurer Kelly Davis** requested approval of the monthly financial summary for April. At the close of April 2017, the 10<sup>th</sup> month of the fiscal year, revenue collected totaled \$9,594,141 (99.10%) of the projected amount of \$9,681,405. Expenditures total \$8,940,674 (76.37%) of the projected budget of \$11,707,645. **Director Michael Gibson moved to approve the April financial summary as presented; unanimously approved and so ordered.**

Mayor Cole requested approval of the Bluefield, Virginia Town Council recommendation to appoint Michael Watson to the Bluefield Sanitary Board as the Town of Bluefield Representative for a three-year term (May 18, 2017 – May 17, 2020). Director Steve Danko's term will end at the end of the month and he is stepping down due to health reasons. **Director Michael Gibson moved to appoint Michael Watson to the Bluefield Sanitary Board as the Town of Bluefield Representative for a three-year term (May 18, 2017 – May 17, 2020); unanimously approved and so ordered.** Mayor Cole stated this commission was a well-run organization under the leadership of Executive Director Shannon Bailey and Director Michael Watson will be a great addition.

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

City Manager Rideout stated the agenda format had been changed so commission activities can be announced. City Manager Rideout said our commissions do amazing work and asked elected officials that sit on these commissions to share updates.

Director Chuck McGonagle stated the Historic Landmarks Commission met April 20, 2017. The Bluefield Historic Landmarks Commission is responsible for reviewing exterior construction, alteration, and demolition of buildings in the Downtown Commercial Historic District. This work ensures that proposed improvements and undertakings meet the established city ordinances. There is a booklet with guidelines and the commission consists of five members.

Mayor Cole stated the Bluefield Buildings Commission meets every fourth Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. in the City Board Room. Mayor Cole serves as chairperson of the commission and works with Building Inspector Gerald Steele, Code Enforcement Officer Lori Mills, City Engineer Tony Wagner, Fire Chief Rick Cary, County Health Inspector Carl Carter and Business Owner Carl Thomas, Jr. The commission deals with dilapidated properties. The process begins with a notice to appear when the owner states his intension towards the property. This may lead to a continuation or the property is set for a formal hearing. The formal hearing allows Building Inspector Steele to legally inspect inside the property for safety/ evaluation. The final step is when the property is set for a standard order of demolition. Bluefield at one time had a population of twenty five thousand people and when they left, the buildings were left vacant. This affects our property values. When this commission took office, over one hundred buildings were on the demolition list and today it is down to fifteen. Mayor Cole stated he enjoyed working on this commission.

#### **Reports from officers**

**Director Ellen Light moved that the May 23 meeting be moved to 6:00 p.m. instead of noon.** Mayor Cole stated this was at his request. **The motion was unanimously approved and so ordered.**

Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson-Smith stated she had read in the paper that Bluefield, Virginia was interested in a zip line at the park. Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson-Smith, requested Parks and Recreation Director Charles Ridlehuber contact Bluefield, Virginia and work together on this project.

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

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