

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

**February 26, 2018 - Noon**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, Mercer County, West Virginia was held on Monday, February 26, 2018, at noon in the Municipal Building Boardroom. Present were Mayor Ron Martin, Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson-Smith, Director Matt Knowles, Director Robb Williams, City Manager Dane Rideout, City Treasurer Kelly Davis, City Attorney Colin Cline, Community and Economic Development Director Jim Spencer and City Clerk Bobbi Kersey. Director Michael Gibson was 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 Ron Martin called the meeting to order.

**Public Comments or Public Discussion**

NONE

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Vice-Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith moved to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2018 Board of Directors meeting, unanimously approved and so ordered.

**Action on Accounts**

City Treasurer Kelly Davis presented two lists of accounts to be turned over to collections for February. The first list was for twenty - four city accounts receivable totaling \$1,137.62. The second list was for eighty – one accounts in city fees totaling \$40,625.16. City Treasurer Davis requested approval to turn both of these accounts over to the city collection agency. Director Matt Knowles moved to approve the February collections as submitted, unanimously approved.

**City Manager Report**

- City Attorney Colin Cline, City Engineer Tony Wagner, Police Chief Dennis Dillow and Fire Chief Rick Cary were presented a frame certificate from the third Special Forces Group (Airborne) that has been training in the region. The certificate recognized these individuals for exceptional support during Realistic Military Training for Bravo Company, 3d Special Forces Group (Airborne), from 1 December to 9 December 2017. Their efforts greatly contributed to the overall accomplishments of the unit's mission. Commander Sergeant Bruce W. Holmes, COL. SF Commanding Bradley D. Moses and the Command Team at third Special Forces Group (Airborne) stated they were proud to recognize their outstanding contributions.
- The streetlight on Federal and Princeton Avenue will be replaced.
- Potholes are being filled as weather permits. Citizens were reminded to use the Fix It Bluefield Application to report potholes. Using the app allows public works department to find the exact location, have a visual aide, helps maintain a time frame and documents accountability. Citizens were reminded to keep in mind asphalt plants are not open during winter months.

- The Parks and Recreation Department Director Charles Ridlehuber has made some positive changes to the City of Bluefield Fitness and Recreation Center. Director Ridlehuber is working on the pool issues so that it can be used in a variety of ways. Starting in March swim lessons will begin as part of the after school program. Starting in April swim lessons will be offered to the community. Recreational therapy will be on Tuesday and Thursdays. The park will be open to vehicle traffic starting next week. Bathrooms are not open due to still having cold weather and water pipes can still freeze. Porta potties are still available.
- The collapsed wall on McCulloch Avenue is being addressed. The City is working with Frontier.
- The City now has four K-9 dogs, the newest named Gregor. Patrolman Hawks completed K-9 training. There is now one K-9 per shift.
- The Fire Department responded to a structural fire on Poplar Street. Several pets were lost due to the fire but no loss of human life.

### **Enactment of Ordinances**

Mayor Martin noted the next items on the agenda dealt with the second readings for acquisitions of properties in the downtown area. All of the acquisitions are funded by local foundations.

Mayor Martin requested approval of Second READING OF AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN REAL ESTATE PROPERTY IN DOWNTOWN BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA (405 Bland Street, 407 Bland Street and 405 Raleigh Street). Director Robb Williams moved to approve the Second READING OF AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN REAL ESTATE PROPERTY IN DOWNTOWN BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINA, unanimously approved and so ordered.

Mayor Martin requested approval of contracts for Board Employees. Mayor Martin stated the contracts were discussed during the morning executive session. Director Matt Knowles moved to approve the Board Employees' contracts as discussed in executive session, unanimously approved and so ordered.

Mayor Martin requested approval to ratify the recommendation of Sgt. Major James Baylor to serve on the Police Civil Service Commission as the Fraternal Order of Police Representative. Director Matt Knowles moved to approve the recommendation of Sgt. Major James Baylor to serve on the Police Civil Service Commission as the Fraternal Order of Police Representative, unanimously approved and so ordered.

Mayor Martin requested approval of property donation from Art Riley. City Attorney Colin Cline stated Mr. Riley owns a number of properties in the city. Mr. Riley approached the city about a donation of some land. One was a parcel of eight acres on the north side of Halifax Street. From time to time citizens will approach the city concerning property that may be of interest to the city at a future date. City Attorney Cline stated he had been tasked with creating a land bank. The purpose of the land bank is a public authority created to efficiently hold, manage and develop tax-foreclosed or donated property. Land banks act as a legal and financial mechanism to bring property back to productive use. Director Robb Williams moved to accept the property donation from Art Riley, unanimously approved and so ordered. Mayor Martin stated Mr. Riley was ill and could not attend the meeting. He asked that everyone keep Mr. Riley in his or her thoughts and prayers.

Mayor Martin requested approval of a RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE 2018 – 2019 REGION I PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ANNUAL PROJECT PRIORITIZATION. City Manager Dane Rideout stated the annual prioritization list is submitted each year. Region I will use the list when applying for State and Federal funding. Economic Development (travel and tourism, industrial development, small business development) was the number one priority. All of the priority projects are attainable and are tied into the Comprehensive Plan. Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson – Smith moved to approve the RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE 2018 – 2019 REGION I PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ANNUAL PROJECT PRIORITIZATION, unanimously approved and so ordered.

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Meet the Millennials was held February 22 at the Clover Club from 3-5 p.m. Approximately sixty people attended. Nine new business owners participated. It was a time to pass on information to the younger generation. While at the meeting, the new Resource Guide was shared with the young entrepreneurs and will be shared later with government officials in Charleston. The Resource Guide highlights economic growth and the proactive and aggressive vision we have for Bluefield.

### **Miscellaneous and Unfinished Business**

Mayor Martin stated the group planning to attend Mercer County Days in Charleston did not go, due to the teacher's strike. Mayor Martin said they wanted to show their support so that the Legislature could focus on that issue and not have to deal with outside events.

The Board offered their condolences to the Thomas family with the passing of Carl Thomas. Carl served on the Buildings Commission for over thirty years and had just stepped down from the position this past August.

Please keep Director Michael Gibson and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

### **Presentation**

Police Chief Dennis Dillow and Fire Chief Rick Cary spoke of a positive event that happened in the City. On December 26, the Police and Fire Department responded to a call concerning a young person, who had been bullied and attempted suicide. Upon arrival of the departments, they found a person working to revive her. He was not having much success. Police Officers and Firemen began CPR until they got a pulse. Raven will make a full recovery and was present at the meeting. The following were recognized: Sgt. Brian Copenhaver, Sgt. Kenneth Adams, Police Officer Aaron Green, Police Officer Kenneth Wright, Fire Captain Jimmie Perkins, Lieutenant Shannon Akers, Lieutenant Matthew Pettrey, Firefighter Robert Jones, and Firefighter Bryan Carr. The young woman assisted in presenting each with a Meritorious Award. This award is given to an individual for demonstrating special faithfulness and perseverance. Raven was thanked for attending and helping present the awards.

### **Adjournment**

Mayor Martin requested a motion to adjourn. Director Matt Knowles moved to adjourn the meeting, unanimously approved and so ordered.

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Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

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Ron Martin, Mayor