

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

February 14, 2017

NOON

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, Mercer County, West Virginia was held on Tuesday, January 24, 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, Community and Economic Development Director Jim Spencer, City Treasurer Kelly Davis, and City Clerk Bobbi Kersey. City Attorney Brian Cochran 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 Thomas J. Cole called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Director Ellen Light moved that the minutes of the January 24, 2017, Board of Directors meeting be approved as presented; unanimously approved and so ordered.

Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith moved that the minutes of the January 31, 2017, Town Hall meeting be approved as presented; unanimously approved and so ordered

Recognition

City Manager Dane Rideout recognized Code Enforcement Officer Tyler Myers for passing his Property, Maintenance and Housing Inspector Test. Mr. Myers passed the test the first try. City Manager Rideout thanked Mr. Myers for his professionalism and congratulated him on his accomplishment. Mayor Cole reminded everyone of the difficult job and important job Code Enforcement does in the city. When this board began, the city only had one code enforcement officer. The department now has three very dedicated officers and are an asset to the city. The code enforcement department is under the supervision of Police Chief Dennis Dillow. Chief Dillow was recognized for his involvement and his support of their efforts.

Police Chief Dennis Dillow congratulated Code Enforcement Officer Myers and stated he had worked with his father on the police force for the past twenty-seven years. Lieutenant Myers will be retiring in a few months leaving an open position. Police Chief Dillow introduced new hire Patrolman Ricky Lee Jones. Patrolman Jones has ten years of law enforcement experience and is a trained drug recognition expert. During the first week on duty, Patrolman Jones made three DUI arrests. City Clerk Bobbi Kersey administered the Oath of Office to Patrolman Jones.

CITY MANAGER DANE RIDEOUT

Happy Birthday Fire Chief Rick Cary.

Assistant City Manager Josh Cline was thanked for his hard work and the professional job putting together material and information for the Bluefield Daily Telegraph on the 2016 Annual review.

Excavation for Bleachers behind the tennis courts is coming along with the hope the bleachers will be ready this summer. This project was funded years ago by the Shott Foundation but has been stagnant.

Joseh Cseppi Huber is a German intern working with City Engineer Tony Wagner. Cseppi is in the process of counting every streetlight and verifying wattage, location, and formulating a GIS database. In the future, the city can possibly apply to the State for a streetlight tariff.

An Administrative Assistant position is in the final stages for hiring. This person will work with code enforcement, the fire department and will be the city operator.

Police Department

Seven hundred forty-three (743) calls for service this month

Ninety-three (93) arrests

Detective Adams made an arrest on College Avenue concerning an individual's death and there was an arrest concerning a shooting on Highland Avenue from last November. The K-9's monthly street value of drugs seized is over \$6,000.

Fire Department

Three (3) major fire incidents with more than \$1,000 in damages

Seven (7) motor vehicle collisions

The new fire truck is expected to arrive in July. Behind the scenes, the firefighters are maintaining the twenty-year-old fire engines and saving citizens money.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

Community and Economic Development Director Jim Spencer:

- Chris Delp is the owner of Saltwater Underground a new retail company that will open in April. He will be located in the basement of the old Wells Fargo building on Federal Street. Mr. Delp wants to educate people on how to start their own reef tank. He will be selling tanks/equipment, salt-water fish and salt-water coral from all over the world.
- Three (3) surveys are available online (mybluefield.org/ Cool and Connected tab) concerning broadband internet capabilities. One is for businesses, one is for stakeholders such as citizens and elected officials, and one is for internet providers. Everyone is asked to participate because the information will be valuable when representatives from the EPA's Sustainable Communities Program and the Appalachian Regional Commission and Smart Growth America visit the City of Bluefield on March 21 and March 22. The surveys will identify broadband needs and allow the city to go after Federal funding.
- Derek Dodson has requested his lease be extended at the Commercialization Station with Autonomous Radio Controlled Equipment until June 2017. The city has "a lot of powerful partners" interested in working with the Commercialization Station. Representatives, Gerald Biser and Michael Goddard, from the West Virginia Manufacturing Extension Partnership, which is part of West Virginia University, described the services their agency could offer the city. Plans call for hosting a Mercer County event in April to discuss services available to help businesses grow. Services range from manufacturing process improvements, quality systems for health and safety, energy assessments, training, production improvements and innovations.

ACTION ITEMS

City Treasurer Kelly Davis requested approval of the monthly financial summary for January. At the close of December 2017, the 7th month of the fiscal year, revenue collected totaled \$6,906,422 (71.34%) of the projected amount of \$9,681,405. Expenditures totaled \$6,349,109 (54.23%) of the projected budget of \$11,707,645. Director Chuck McGonagle moved to approve the January financial statement as presented; unanimously approved and so ordered.

City Treasurer Kelly Davis requested approval to transfer \$12,095.04 from the General Fund into the Financial Stabilization Fund. This money represents of Sanitary Board lease payments. Director Ellen Light moved to approve the transfer of \$12,095.04 from the General Fund into the Financial Stabilization Fund; unanimously approved and so ordered.

Mayor Cole read a Resolution stating Region I Planning and Development Council would submit the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan to Federal Emergency Management Agency officials for final review and approval. Mayor Cole request a motion to approve the Resolution to be submitted by Region I Planning and Development for the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith moved to approve the Resolution for Region I Planning and Development to submit the Council Hazard Mitigation Plan; unanimously approved and so ordered.

Mayor Cole requested approval to enter into a lease agreement with TNT Fireworks to lease space at the Bluefield City Park, June 15-July 7. City Manager Rideout stated TNT sold fireworks last year at the Kmart location. They requested a new location due to the closing of Kmart. Code Enforcement and the Fire Department will inspect for safety issues. Director Michael Gibson moved to enter into a lease agreement with TNT Fireworks to lease space at the Bluefield City Park, June 15-July 7; unanimously approved and so ordered. Citizens were reminded that there is a city ordinance stating it is illegal to set off fireworks within city limits.

Mayor Cole requested approval to extend and amend the current lease with Derek Dodson thru June 2017. Director Michael Gibson moved to extend and amend the current lease with Derek Dodson thru June 2017; unanimously approved and so ordered. Community and Economic Development Director Jim Spencer stated Mr. Dodson is currently working on a new model. Hopefully, the model will be ready for a demonstration in the next thirty days. Director Michael Gibson moved to extend and amend the current lease with Derek Dodson thru June 2017; unanimously approved and so ordered.

Mayor Cole requested approval to enter into a lease agreement with Chris Delp to open Saltwater Underground in the basement of the Wells Fargo Building. Director Michael Gibson moved to enter into a lease agreement with Chris Delp to open Saltwater Underground in the basement of the Wells Fargo Building; unanimously approved and so ordered.

Mayor Cole requested approval to reappoint Betsy Sorrell, Linda Thomas, Bob Little, Patty Hudson, Robert Linkous, David Hardin, Mary Raub, Betty Nash, and Victoria Harris for a four-year term on the Beautification Commission. Term ending February 13, 2021. Director Chuck McGonagle moved to approve the reappointment of Betsy Sorrell, Linda Thomas, Bob Little, Patty Hudson, Robert Linkous, David Hardin, Mary Raub, Betty Nash, and Victoria Harris for a four-year term on the Beautification Commission, term ending February 13, 2021.

Mayor Cole requested approval to appoint Melvin Ross, Dan Shortridge, and Harold Brewster for a four-year term on the Beautification Commission. Term ending February 13, 2021. Director Michael Gibson moved to appoint Melvin Ross, Dan Shortridge, and Harold Brewster for a four-year term on the Beautification Commission. Term ending February 13, 2021; unanimously approved and so ordered.

Mayor Cole requested approval of purchase of display "Bears Decorating Tree" for Holiday of Lights. City Manager Rideout said three displays were presented on social media for input. The public voted and this display won. All displays are paid from donations raised by the Holiday of Lights. This purchase will provide Holiday of Lights with over a million lights for next year.

Director Chuck McGonagle moved to approve the purchase of “Bears Decorating Tree” for the Holiday of Lights; unanimously approved and so ordered.

OTHER

Mayor Cole reminded citizens of the Winter Warmer, Saturday, February 18 @ The Arts Center from 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Advance tickets are \$25 and \$30 at the door. Help support the city and have a good time.

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

Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

Thomas J. Cole, Mayor