

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 6:33 PM ON FEBRUARY 08, 2022, BY WEB-X DUE TO COVID-19.

THOSE PRESENT: Mayor Robert R. Rappold, Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump, City Attorney Bill File, Secretary Susan Miller, IT Director, Bill Kelly, Assistant IT Director, Amy Evans, Council Members: Cody Reedy, Tom Sopher, Robert Dunlap, Bob Canter, Kevin Price, Sherrie Hunter, and Janine Bullock. The following Department Heads were present: Captain Parsons of Beckley FD, Chief Christian of Beckley PD Controller, Jessica Chandler, and Captain Morgan.

The Mayor reminded the public that they will be able to make comments when invited to do so by either pressing *3 on their phone and their call will be taken in the order it is received, or if viewing by computer or tablet, raising your hand by right clicking your name and choosing "Raise Hand".

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Council members, Department Heads and the public joined the meeting by WEB-X either from their computer, or by phone, using the weblink or phone number provided the day of the meeting on the City's webpage at Beckley.org or the City's Facebook page.

Council dispensed with the reading and approval of minutes from the regular Council meeting dated January 25, 2022, copies of which had been distributed to each member. Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilman Sopher and seconded by Councilman Price.

Next the Mayor explained that the invoice for the truck that the City purchased for the Lillian James Learning Center had a price increase. The original cost was \$43,000.00. However, due to supply chain issues the invoice increased by \$4,419.00. The new invoice amount is \$47,419.08. The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the price increase, which was made by Councilman Dunlap, seconded by Councilwoman Hunter and unanimously approved by Council.

Next was the first reading by title only by Mr. File an Ordinance Amending City of Beckley Code Chapter 2, Sec.2-509 And Sec. 2-510 Increasing From \$15K to \$25K The Requirement Of Formal Bid Procedures For The Purchase of Goods. The ordinance was unanimously approved by Council on a motion made by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilman Dunlap.

Next was the first reading by title only by Mr. File an Ordinance Amending City of Beckley Code Chapter 13, Article XIII. Hotel Tax To Incorporate The Marketplace Facilitator Into This Chapter. The ordinance was unanimously approved by Council on a motion made by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilman Reedy.

Next was the first reading by title only by Mr. File an Ordinance Authorizing the City Of Beckley To Accept As A Gift From Harper Rentals, Inc. Real Property Identified As Lot 25, Main Street (Commonly Known As The WJLS Building). The Mayor stated the City will be responsible for the new roof. Mr. File confirmed that the City will be responsible to pay for the new roof. A motion was made by Councilman Canter and seconded by Councilwoman Hunter to accept the ordinance on the first reading. Councilman Reedy stated that he has some concerns that he would like Council to consider before the second reading of this ordinance. The condition of the building concerns him due to the roof leak. The possibility of roof trusses, joists, and old roofing systems being rotten are of concern to him. The weight of the towers on the roof is also of concern to him. The Mayor said that Mr. Trump, Recorder-Treasurer has contacted several contractors about estimates to replace the roof and the one estimate he received was approximately \$400K. The Mayor said that if he recalls correctly, he thinks that Mr. Bickey has an estimate to get the roof replaced for approximately \$120 - \$140K. Mr. Trump stated that several months ago he, Board of Public Works Director Jerry Stump, Walter Peplowski, and a few other employees from the Board of Public Works

accompanied a roofing contractor (that the City had previously utilized) to look at the roof. The contractor and Walter climbed the roof and they looked underneath. No significant problems were detected. Mr. Trump stated that this does not mean that problems are not there. Mr. Trump further stated that he thinks that Councilman Reedy makes a good point and we may not know until further work takes place. Mr. Trump said that he thinks Mr. Bickey would allow the City to look at the roof again. Councilman Reedy asked if Mr. Trump would provide Council copies of the approximate \$400K estimate. Councilman Reedy also asked for a copy of the estimate that Mr. Bickey obtained for approximately \$120 – \$140K. Mr. Trump said that he will do his best to provide that information. With no further discussion regarding the ordinance, the Mayor asked for a vote which was unanimously approved by Council. These ordinances are hereby incorporated into these minutes. Mr. File stated that the second readings and public hearings on the three ordinances will take place on February 22, 2022.

OLD BUSINESS: The Mayor extended an invitation to Council members to attend a celebration of Black History Month in the Council chambers at the City Hall in Oak Hill Saturday, February 12, 2022, at 6 p.m. The celebration honoring Quincy Madison will be February 19, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. at Central Baptist Church. Last week the Mayor presented a Proclamation in recognition of Henry Dickerson, a 1969 graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School who played in the NBA. Councilman Canter asked when the original target date for completion of the remodeling and opening of Fruits of Labor is. The Mayor said that it was February 14, 2022. However, because Tammy Jordan has experienced shipping delays due to COVID, the new targeted opening date may be in early spring. Billie Trump, Recorder-Treasurer, said that any maintenance issues the City is responsible for prior to the business opening have been completed by the City. The Mayor stated that the City is hopeful that the parking lots across from Fruits of Labor and Earwood Street will get paved by the Board of Public Works once the asphalt plants resume operations in April.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Kelly Elkins, Director of S.A.D.D. (Students Against Destructive Decisions) asked for the Mayor's permission to put "Tobacco Free Zone" signage in the City parks. The Mayor asked City Attorney, Mr. File, if this would be okay and Mr. File said it is. Brian Brown questioned the terms of the lease with Fruits of Labor and what the City's contingency plan is if Fruits of Labor fails. He also asked about the acquisition and remodeling costs. He asked why the City is continuing to purchase real estate when certain streets in the City are under water. The Mayor stated that he does not have this information readily available, but the information is available and is no secret. The Mayor asked if there were any other public comments. With there being no further public comments, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:05 on a motion made by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilwoman Hunter.

Mayor

Recorder-Treasurer