

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 6:30 PM ON FEBRUARY 22, 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: Director of Board of Public Works, Jerry Stump, Captain Parsons of Beckley FD, Chief Christian of Beckley PD, Deputy Chief Bailey of Beckley PD, Controller, Jessica Chandler, Captain Morgan, and Parks & Recreation Director, Leslie Baker.

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 6:30 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 February 8, 2022, copies of which had been distributed to each member. Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilwoman Hunter.

Next Mr. File explained that the Beckley Sanitary Board (BSB) is asking the City to purchase a tract of real estate on Carter Street on its behalf. This property is needed for an infrastructure project that the BSB is working on at the Carter Street, City Avenue area. The cost of this property is \$12,500.00. The BSB negotiated this price with the Owners, Willie Joe Chandler and Mary Katherine Chandler. Mr. File read by title only an Ordinance Authorizing City of Beckley To Purchase A Tract Of Real Estate On Carter Street In The Hedrick-Walker-Carter Addition Described As Lot No. 418 And A Portion Of An Eighteen (18) Foot/ Alley Located Off Of Carter Street. The ordinance was unanimously approved on the first reading by Council on a motion made by Councilman Sopher and seconded by Councilwoman Hunter. This ordinance is incorporated into these minutes.

Next Mr. File explained that the Beckley Sanitary Board (BSB) is asking the City to purchase another tract of real estate for the same infrastructure project. This property is owned by the Catholic Church. The BSB has negotiated a price of \$8,000.00 which consideration will be paid by the BSB. Mr. File read by title only an Ordinance Authorizing City Of Beckley To Purchase A Tract of Real Estate In The Vicinity Of Carter Street And City Avenue In The Hedrick-Walker-Carter Addition As Shown On Tax Map 32, As Parcels 28, 29, 30, 31, 139, 140, City Of Beckley District. The ordinance was unanimously approved on the first reading by Council on a motion made by Councilman Sopher and seconded by Councilwoman Hunter. This ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next was the second 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. Mr. File opened the public hearing for public comments. There were no public comments. Mr. File closed the public hearing. The ordinance was unanimously approved by Council on a motion made by Councilman Dunlap and seconded by Councilwoman Bullock. The ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next was the second 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 The Chapter. Mr. File opened the public hearing. There were no public comments. Mr. File closed the public hearing. The ordinance was unanimously approved by Council on a motion made by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilwoman Bullock. This ordinance is incorporated into these minutes.

Next the Mayor suggested that the City table the 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). First reading of the ordinance was on February 8, 2022. The Mayor suggested that the ordinance be tabled until the next meeting on March 8, 2022, at which time the bids for a new roof should be available. The Mayor said that he and Mr. File consulted regarding the need for the City to obtain bids for a new roof on the building. Mr. Bickey is speaking to the contractors regarding the cost of a new roof. The Mayor said that there is an understanding if the contractor finds additional repairs while performing the work, the price may increase. Mr. File joined in the recommendation the ordinance be tabled until the next meeting. A motion to table the ordinance until the March 8, 2022, meeting was unanimously approved by Council on a motion made by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilwoman Hunter.

Next is the Resolution Authorizing City Of Beckley To Renew Lease Of Raleigh Playhouse And Theatre From Mine Power Systems, Inc., For Period Of One Year For Original Annual Consideration Of \$36,000.00. Parks and Recreation Director, Leslie Baker expressed her support to the Mayor for the renewal of this lease which he relayed to Council. Councilman Dunlap asked if the HVAC system and the overhead projector have been repaired. The Mayor said that Mr. Bickey is paying to have the HVAC system repaired. The Mayor said that he is uncertain about the working order of the overhead projector, but he will find out more about it. Councilman Reedy asked if the lease amount of \$36,000.00 will remain the same. Mr. File said yes, and the terms and conditions will remain the same. Councilman Sopher asked if the City can sublease the basement. Mr. File said that the City may sublease the basement but would need to refer to the agreement for specifics. The resolution was unanimously approved by Council on a motion by Councilman Dunlap and seconded by Councilman Sopher. The resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next is the Resolution Of The Common Council Of The City Of Beckley To Permit The Open Burning Of Vegetation. Mr. File read the four pertinent parts as outlined in the resolution along with the effective dates for open burning of vegetation. The resolution was unanimously approved by Council as written on a motion made by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilman Reedy. The resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS: The Mayor expressed his sympathy for the family of Betty Wilkes as Betty passed away a few days ago. The Mayor said he presented Quincy Madison a Living Legend Award last Saturday. Councilman Price asked if there is an update on getting the Historic Black Knight on the City's website. IT Director Bill Kelly said that he will further discuss this with Ms. Baker and continue working with Cucumber and Company on this project, as well as many other projects to bring the City's technological

capabilities current so that the residents have online services. Councilman Reedy asked if Council meetings could resume being in Council chambers March 8th since mandates are being lifted. The Mayor said it will be decided on a day-to-day basis. Councilman Sopher said that he would also like to see Council resume having meetings in person. Councilman Dunlap expressed his excitement with the progress IT has made towards the City of Beckley app and thanked IT for all the work that they do. Councilman Dunlap asked Mr. Kelly if a tentative date to introduce the app is available. Mr. Kelly said that IT is in the process of gathering departmental information to help launch the app such as: parking payments, viewing municipal accounts, payment arrangements, paying B&O taxes, paying BSB accounts online, parks and recreation fees, etc. Mr. Kelly said that IT does not have a target date, but he does not think it will be too much longer. Mr. Kelly reminded everyone that the Passport Parking App is always an option and downtown merchants can voucher parking for their customer's if they so choose. Mr. Kelly said that this option needs communicated to the downtown merchants. Amy Evans, Assistant IT Director, said that they have been working with Cucumber & Company to add the agendas for the Council meetings, as well as the videos of Council meetings to the City's website. These options are available now. Amy said that the agenda is uploaded the Friday before the Council meeting. On the right side of the screen on the City's site is "TextMyGov" which allows viewers to text a key word to that number and to be routed to the appropriate link. This allows feedback to the IT department. If someone asks a question using "TextMyGov" and the answer is not available, the IT department is notified which allows them to know what information is needed.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilman Sopher said that when you pull into Industrial Drive off Clarence Meadows Blvd. there is not good signage to get people to the municipal court and to the IT Dept. He thinks a permanent better-quality sign is needed there. The Mayor said that the Board of Public Work's sign making department should be able to help with this. Councilman Dunlap updated Council on the efforts to recruit lifeguards for New River Pool and the pool at Historic Black Knight. He met with seventeen student athletes between the ages of sixteen and seventeen years old at Woodrow Wilson High School. The cost to train and certify each lifeguard is \$250.00 at the YMCA. Mr. Dunlap said he, as well as many others, are working hard trying to make sure recreational options are open at the pools. He will reach out to the youth at Shady Spring High and WVU Tech's swim team. Councilwoman Bullock mentioned the following individuals as February is Black History Month: Quincy Madison, Attorney Wilbert Payne, his father, and grandfather, Ms. Pamela Moore who was an Educator who passed away just a few days ago, and Mayor Daniel Wright of Oak Hill. She announced that on the last Saturday in February Rev. Watts will be hosting a lecture series in the Oak Hill City Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m. She also listed former Council members, Charles Jones, Madrith Chambers, Lorraine Seay, Frank Williams, Cedric Robertson, Ronnie Booker, and Lee Leftwich. The Mayor added former Council member Albert Scott. The Mayor commended Oak Hill for the lecture series that they are doing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:13 on a motion made by Councilman Dunlap and seconded by Councilwoman Bullock.

Mayor

Recorder-Treasurer