

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENEED AT 6:32 PM ON MARCH 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: Director of Board of Public Works, Jerry Stump, Captain Parsons of Beckley FD, Chief Christian of Beckley PD, Captain Morgan, Chief Code Officer, and Jina Belcher, Director of the NRGRDA.

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 6:32 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 22, 2022, copies of which had been distributed to each member. Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilwoman Bullock and seconded by Councilman Dunlap.

Next Mr. File summarized an Ordinance Authorizing City of Beckley To Accept Property From Pinecrest Development Corporation. Mr. File stated that Council realizes that in adopting this ordinance that the City will assume the debt against this land in the amount of \$325,645.72 which is the amount that Pinecrest Development Corporation (PDC) owes on this property. The City will assume the \$1,500.00 per month rent payment to Forward Southern West Virginia which is on behalf of the NRGRDA so long as NRGRDA occupies office space there. PDC will be assigning to the City all its leases and any rights it has regarding the Pinecrest Plaza South. The income that is generated from Pinecrest Plaza South more than covers the debt obligation and more than covers the rental obligation the City will have to Forward Southern West Virginia. The City agrees to develop this property as was started by PDC and to improve the infrastructure to the property. Mr. File read the ordinance by title An Ordinance Authorizing The City Of Beckley To Accept From Pinecrest Development Corporation A Certain Tract Or Parcel Of Land Consisting Of 142.27 Acres. The ordinance was unanimously approved by Council on a motion made by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilman Sopher. The ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next Mr. File summarized an Ordinance Re-Enacting And Amending City Of Beckley Code Chapter 4. He stated that the ordinance updates the City's building code and brings it in compliance with the State of West Virginia's code. Mr. File said that this is done periodically when the WV Legislature updates the State Building Code to include the amendments and revisions made by the WV State Fire Commission. Mr. File read the ordinance by title Ordinance Re-Enacting And Amending City Of Beckley Code Chapter 4, Article I, Sections 4-9, 4-9.1, 4-10, 4-11, and 4-12. The ordinance was unanimously approved by Council on a motion made by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilman Sopher. The ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next was the second reading by title only and public hearing of an ordinance titled 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. Mr. File explained that the Beckley Sanitary Board is working on a stormwater project in this vicinity. The cost of this property is \$12,500.00 which is to be paid by the Beckley Sanitary Board. Mr. File opened the public hearing. There were no public comments. Mr. File closed the public hearing. The ordinance was unanimously approved on the first reading by Councilman Sopher and seconded by Councilman Price. This ordinance is incorporated into these minutes.

Next was the second reading by title only by Mr. File and public hearing of 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, and 140, City of Beckley District. The cost of this property is \$8,000.00 which the Beckley Sanitary Board will pay. 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 Dunlap and seconded by Councilman Canter. This ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

The Mayor sought Mr. File's opinion as to whether the order of the items on the agenda could be altered. Mr. File said there was no problem in doing so. The Mayor then asked Recorder/Treasurer, Billie Trump if the City received any bids for the roof repair for the WJLS building. Mr. Trump said the City received one bid which was from Frye Roofing, Inc. in the amount of \$96, 987.00. The bid will be given to Director of Board of Public Works, Jerry Stump, and Council Members at Large, Sherrie Hunter and Cody Reedy, to review with Mr. Trump. This bid is incorporated into these minutes.

Next the Mayor consulted with Mr. File to ask the correct procedure to bring 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) off the table. Mr. File stated that the Mayor can proceed with the ordinance once a motion to remove the ordinance from the table is adopted. A motion was made by Councilwoman Hunter, seconded by Councilman Bob, and unanimously approved by Council to take this ordinance off the table. Mr. File read by title only 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). This is the second reading of the ordinance. Mr. File opened the public hearing. Director of NRGRDA Jina Belcher stated that she is in favor of the City acquiring this space. Ms. Belcher stated that expansion space for The Hive is needed and this would be an ideal location. She stated that a local maker's marketplace, as well as a business incubation space would be ideal in this facility. Ms. Belcher asked that before the City invests any money for the roof repairs on the building that the capital stacking of the project be discussed first because the NRGRDA may have access to some potential grants and the City's funds would best be utilized as matched for this redevelopment, including the roof repair. Ms. Belcher asked if anyone had any questions regarding the potential use of the space. There were no questions for Ms. Belcher. There were no other 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 Hunter. Councilman Sopher thanked Controller Jessica Chandler for her due diligence in asking Mr. Bickey questions regarding this property and showing that it had a positive cash flow. Councilman Sopher said that if Ms. Belcher has any opportunities to use any grants regarding the Historical Landmark Commission that would be wonderful. He stated that he thinks this is a good investment and hopes that the City can draw some business to that corner of Beckley, and he likes that it is close to the campus of WVU Tech. This ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Prior to the meeting Recorder/Treasurer, Billie Trump shared with Council members a comprehensive copy of the City's purposed budget for fiscal the 2022-23 year. He stated that the budget must be submitted in the month of March to the WV State Auditor's Office for approval. Mr. Trump stated that the budget can be amended. The State experienced some problems getting some of the tax information forwarded to the County. Therefore, the City needs to make an amendment to the ad valorem by increasing it to \$2,827,585.00, which is an increase of \$17,485.00. Mr. Trump explained that all of the revenue must be accounted for. Mr. Trump said that on the expense side he moved the additional \$17,485.00 to contingency

which makes the contingency line-item total \$417,485.00. Mr. Trump asked if anyone had any questions regarding the budget. No one had any questions. The Mayor stated that the County Assessor's office delivered the numbers yesterday. He thanked Controller Jessica Chandler and Mr. Trump for their hard work on the budget. Council unanimously approved the budget on a motion made by Councilman Canter and seconded by Councilwoman Bullock. The budget for fiscal year 2022-23 is incorporated into these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS: The Mayor said that there will be a Workshop Monday, March 14, 2022, at 5:05 p.m. in Council Chambers for Council members. However, the public can join the meeting by WEB-X or by phone. The Workshop is regarding sanitary sewer and storm water rates. Councilman Reedy asked for an update as to when the houses that caught on fire on E Street will get torn down. The Mayor said that there are certain procedures that need to take place and there are legal guidelines. Mr. File said that the City needs to give notice to the insurance carriers of these properties before any removal of the houses begin. Chief Code Officer, Captain Donnie Morgan, said that the code office started the notification process, ran the required legal ad, and the court hearing is March 30, 2022. Councilman Dunlap updated Council on the progress regarding recruiting lifeguards. He said that ten of the seventeen student applicants for lifeguards are good applicants. Councilman Dunlap suggested that the City find a qualified person that can train and certify applicants to become lifeguards rather than waiting on a third party. Mr. Dunlap stated that he and Director of Parks & Recreation, Leslie Baker, are working on forming a committee to help with the recruitment process for Lifeguards and they welcome help from members of the community. Councilman Sopher reminded everyone that the gates at the YMCA Soccer Complex are locked at dusk. He asked if the City could communicate with the YMCA regarding this, or if the Board of Public Works could put up more prominent signage and mentioned the possibility of the Fire Department having a key to the gate. The Mayor said that the City will consult with the YMCA on this matter and that signs stating the hours are there. The Mayor said that people can park on the outside of the gate to avoid being locked inside the gate. Councilwoman Bullock thanked Captain Donnie Morgan and the Board of Public Works for their help with the abandoned homes that had vagrants living in them.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilwoman Hunter thanked the Beckley PD and the other law enforcement agencies for their hard work in helping decrease the number of firearms on the streets in the City. Councilwoman Bullock reminded the Mayor of the Salvation Army's groundbreaking ceremony tomorrow. The Mayor announced that the ribbon cutting ceremony is at 12 noon at 2871 Robert C. Byrd Drive and the public is welcome.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

On a motion made by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilman Dunlap the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Mayor

Recorder-Treasurer