

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 6:30 PM ON MAY 24, 2022, IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

THOSE PRESENT: 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, and Sherrie Hunter. The following Department Heads were present: Superintendent of BPW, Walter Peplowski, Captain Parsons of Beckley FD, Deputy Chief Allard of Beckley PD and Chief Ed Wills of BFD.

ABSENT: Mayor Rappold and Councilwoman Bullock.

Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump explained in the absence of the Mayor, Council votes on a Council member to conduct the Council meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A motion was made by Councilman Dunlap, seconded by Councilman Price, and unanimously approved for Councilwoman Hunter to chair the meeting. Chairperson Sherrie Hunter 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".

Chairperson Hunter called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. 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, the City's Facebook page, or attended in Council chambers.

Council dispensed with the reading and approval of minutes from the Workshop dated April 25, 2022.

Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilman Dunlap and seconded by Councilman Price. Copies had been distributed to each member prior to the meeting. Council dispensed with the reading and approval of minutes from the regular Council meeting dated April 26, 2022. Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilman Sopher and seconded by Councilman Canter. Copies had been distributed to each member prior to the meeting.

Next, Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump explained that the City is required to submit a budget revision before the end of the fiscal year to reconcile all in inflows and outflows that were not anticipated. Usually, the City submits this in June. However, because of the proximity of the Council meeting to the deadline set by the State, the City is completing it now. Mr. Trump stated that he sent an email to all Council members with the document and an explanation. As a review, the City showed some increases, but the City had to book the value of the Pinecrest property, WJLS property, ARPA funds and some additional money from the fire levy and some contributions from the Board of Education. All these items are booked as revenue and are all accounted for in General Government, Streets & Transportation. Mr. Trump stated that everything balanced. He asked if anyone had any questions. No one had questions. The Budget Revision was unanimously approved by Council on a motion made by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilman Sopher.

The Fiscal Year Ending 2022 Budget Revision is incorporated into these minutes.

Bids for park equipment and installation for Freedom Park (CDBG) were received and opened. The first was from Radford & Radford, Inc. for \$386,715.00. The second bid was from Game Time for \$249,999.56. The bids will be given to Recorder-Treasurer, Billie Trump, Board of Public Works Director, Jerry Stump, and the two Council members at Large, Councilwoman Hunter and Councilman Reedy to review for possible award at a later meeting. These bids are hereby incorporated into these minutes.

The bids for the reconstruction of Nebraska, Washington, 9th & 10th Streets (CDBG) were received and opened. The first bid was from Asphalt Contractors Site Work, Inc. for \$249,392.00. The second bid was from Southern West Virginia Paving, Inc. for \$237,500.00. The bids will be given to Recorder-Treasurer, Billie Trump, Board of Public Works Director, Jerry Stump, and the two Council members at Large, Councilwoman Hunter and Councilman Reedy to review for possible award at a later meeting. These bids are hereby incorporated into these minutes.

The bids for the paving of the basketball court at the Scott Avenue Park (CDBG) were received and opened. The first bid was from Southern West Virginia Paving, Inc. for \$55,800.00. The second bid was from Exterior Services, Inc. for \$73,000.00. The bids will be given to Recorder-Treasurer, Billie Trump, Board of Public Works Director, Jerry Stump, and the two Council members at Large, Councilwoman Hunter and Councilman Reedy to review for possible award at a later meeting. These bids are hereby incorporated into these minutes.

The bids for the installation of recreation equipment, poured-in-place rubber surfacing and fencing for Scott Avenue Park (CDBG) were received and opened. The first bid was from Court Street Construction for \$250,000.00. The second bid was from Radford & Radford, Inc. for \$256,345.00. The bids will be given to Recorder-Treasurer, Billie Trump, Board of Public Works Director, Jerry Stump, and the two Council members at Large, Councilwoman Hunter and Councilman Reedy to review for possible award at a later meeting. These bids are hereby incorporated into these minutes.

There were no bids received to furnish gravel for Scott Avenue Park (CDBG).

Chairperson Hunter said that the City will advertise again asking for bids on this project.

Next, Mr. File explained that the BSB (Beckley Sanitary Board) adopted a resolution at their May 11, 2022 meeting requesting the COBCC (City of Beckley Common Council) accept the donation of two parcels of real estate. The lots are described as lots 67 & 68 Sylvania, parcels 272 & 273 on tax map 40 of the Raleigh County Assessor's Office. These are parcels are directly impacted by work on the Sewer and Stormwater upgrade replacement project taking place in the S. Fayette Street, Koch Avenue and Dock Street area. There is no cost to the City. These parcels are being donated to the City at the request of the BSB. The resolution was unanimously approved by Council on a motion by Councilman Sopher and seconded by Councilman Price. This resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next was the award of bid to Southern West Virginia Paving, Inc. for asphalt, concrete, stone, and reinforcement rods. Southern West Virginia Paving Inc.'s bid consisted of: Base II or P&L I at \$92.50 per ton, Wearing I at \$97.50 per ton, Curb Mix at \$107.00 per ton, and Tennis Mix at \$107.00 per ton. Council unanimously approved this bid on a motion made by Councilman Reedy seconded by Councilman Price.

A copy of this bid was incorporated into the Council meeting minutes dated April 26, 2022.

Councilman Sopher asked if the bid received from Southern West Virginia Paving, Inc. for asphalt, concrete, stone, & reinforcement rods could be used as a bid to furnish gravel for the Scott Avenue Park.

Mr. Trump said that he will check with the Consultants since CDBG funds are being used. He stated that CDBG bidding requirements are different than the City's bidding requirements. Mr. Trump said that if the City can demonstrate that it met all the bidding requirements of CDBG, the City may be able to do that.

OLD BUSINESS: Councilman Reedy asked for an update on Stiffler Avenue. Mr. Trump said that one of the foundational things that must be done is the management of stormwater. He thinks Stormwater employees have been there to assess the problem. Mr. Trump said that he has contacted the Ethics Commission and the State Auditor's Office to determine the City's options to spend money on this issue.

Councilman Sopher spoke about the attendance of the Bill Wither's event at the Beckley Intermodal Gateway (BIG). He said that it was a rainy afternoon and there was a nice crowd there despite the weather. He said the music was wonderful and there were vendors there. He supports this being an annual event. Councilman Sopher asked Mr. Trump for an update about hiring Lifeguards and asked if the pools will open for Memorial Day. Mr. Trump said that he and Leslie Baker, Director of Parks and Recreation will be meeting with the USA Pools of Delmarva which is the company that the City contracted with to staff and operate the pools. Mr. Trump said that as of now, he doesn't know if the pools will be open. He said hopefully the City can initially get the pool at Black Knight open because it requires fewer Lifeguards.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilman Dunlap asked if Council could request the Mayor hold a Workshop regarding the possibility of the City hiring a City Manager. He would like for Council members to answer questions with a sense of finality of yes, the City is going to hire a City Manager or no, the City is not going to hire a City Manager and elaborate with specific reasons. Councilman Sopher agreed. He said this is somewhat like a "mid-term" because it is not an election year and therefore now is a good time to discuss this subject. Chairperson Hunter thanked Beckley Beautification and the Board of Public Works for their work on making the City a pretty place with the flowers they've recently hung and all the pretty flower beds.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairperson Hunter reminded those logging on or calling in by phone how to comment. No one was online to make public comments. However, there were three citizens that attended the meeting and commented. The first was Ms. Carter. She lives on "G" Street and asked when the mud and dust will be cleaned up and when will the street be repaired. Councilman Dunlap validated her concerns and explained that there has been heavy equipment in and out that would damage new asphalt and perhaps maybe that is why the street has not yet been repaired. Chairperson Hunter said that she will speak to BPW Director, Jerry Stump regarding this. Chairperson Hunter asked Ms. Carter if she would share her contact number with her after the meeting. Reverend Neighbors spoke representing the East Beckley Bulldogs football team in the East Beckley area. He explained that they previously had a team, but it folded.

A group is trying to restart this midget league football team to give young people an opportunity to join a team and play football. East Beckley Bulldogs has formed a Board of Directors. They are asking the City for ten thousand dollars to help with equipment and startup costs. They have kids that have already signed up. Councilman Dunlap said that Stratton is a Title I school. The kids were informed that if they were interested and couldn't afford the enrollment fees to organize team sports this year that it would be subsidized from some of the COVID funds.

Councilman Dunlap asked Reverend Neighbors if he has checked with the Board of Education to confirm that since this team is organized and structured if they could access some of the money that Raleigh County Board of Education has been provided. Reverend Neighbors said that they will be checking on it. No action was taken on his request for funding. Paul Hutchinson spoke about the Clarence W. Meadows Bypass which was completed a couple of years ago. June 28th is the tentative date that the Governor of WV will be able to attend the dedication ceremony at 2:00 p.m. (at the Bypass) and there will be a luncheon prior to the dedication at noon either at the Civic Center or at Black Knight. This is sponsored by the Beckley Raleigh County Chamber of Commerce, the City of Beckley (at no cost to the City) and by the County. Mr. Hutchinson said the City may be asked for \$500 or \$1,000.00 to help cover the cost. Councilman Sopher said that the Historical Society wrote the text for the Clarence W. Meadows sign and applied for the application. The Meadows family raised extra money to apply towards the dedication ceremony. Mr. Hutchinson said that Thursday, May 26, 2022, Alfred Beckley will be 220 years old. He said that he checked with the Editor of the Register Herald, and he has yet to see much in the press about this.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

Council unanimously voted to move to Executive Session on a motion made by Councilman Dunlap and seconded by Councilman Price. Executive Session began at 7:15 p.m. and concluded at 7:26 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Dunlap and seconded by Councilman Canter to come out of Executive Session and resume the regular meeting. The motion passed. A motion to adjourn the Council meeting was made by Councilman Dunlap and seconded by Councilman Sopher. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor

Recorder-Treasurer