

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 6:30 PM ON JUNE 14, 2022, IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

THOSE PRESENT: Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump, City Attorney Bill File, Secretary Susan Miller, Assistant IT Director, Amy Evans, Council Members: Janine Bullock, Bob Canter, Cody Reedy, Tom Sopher, Robert Dunlap, Kevin Price, and Sherrie Hunter. The following Department Heads were present: Beckley Event's Planner, Jill Moorefield, City Controller, Jessica Chandler, Lt. McDaniel of BPD, Chief Bailey of BPD, BPW Director, Jerry Stump, and Captain Morgan, Chief Code Officer.

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 public is invited to join in Council chambers or via WEB-X 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.

The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance. Council dispensed with the reading and approval of minutes from the regular Council meeting dated May 24, 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 Workshop dated June 7, 2022. Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilwoman Bullock and seconded by Councilman Price. Copies had been distributed to each member prior to the meeting.

Next, Council considered the award of bid for park equipment and installation for Freedom Park.

Councilwoman at Large, Sherrie Hunter made a motion to accept the lowest bid in the amount of \$249,999.56 from Game Time. Councilman at Large, Cody Reedy seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Council.

Next, Council considered the award of bid for the reconstruction of Nebraska, Washington, 9th and 10th Streets. Councilwoman Hunter made a motion to accept the lowest bid in the amount of \$237,500.00 from Southern WV Paving, Inc. Councilman at Large, Cody Reedy seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Council.

Next, Council considered the award of bid for the paving of the basketball court at Scott Avenue Park. Motion was made by Councilman Sopher to accept the lowest bid in the amount of \$55,800.00 from Southern WV Paving, Inc. Councilman Dunlap seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Council.

Next, Council considered the award of bid for the installation of recreation equipment, poured-in-place rubber surfacing and fencing at Scott Avenue Park. Motion was made by Councilman Dunlap to accept the lowest bid in the amount of \$250,000.00 from Court Street Construction. Councilman Price seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Council. All bids were incorporated into the May 24, 2022, Council minutes and are CDBG funded.

Mr. File, City Attorney, summarized the first reading of an Ordinance Revising And Amending City Of Beckley Code Chapter 13 Standardizing The City's Annual Business License Fee And Updating Related Sections. Mr. File stated that if the ordinance is passed tonight the second reading and public hearing will be June 28, 2022. Mr. File explained that the ordinance standardizes the business license fee. City Controller Jessica Chandler was at the meeting to answer any questions regarding the ordinance. Mr. File stated that the Chapter regulates business licenses and is forty-two pages long. Copies are available at City Hall. The City has standardized the annual fee to \$15.00.

Anyone conducting business in the City will be expected to pay this annual fee. Mr. File read the ordinance by title. The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the revisions as described by Mr. File. The ordinance was unanimously approved on a motion made by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilwoman Hunter. The ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS: Councilman Reedy asked for an update on Fruits of Labor (FOL). The Mayor said that FOL moved in a large amount of equipment last week. The Mayor said that he and Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump visited FOL recently and it looks nice inside. Mr. Trump said that the opening date is now dependent upon installation of the equipment.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilwoman Bullock shared that there is a Juneteenth Celebration this weekend starting June 18th at 11:00 a.m. at Hunter's Cemetery and then at New River Park until 3:00 p.m. The celebration June 19th from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. is at the Beckley Women's Club. The Mayor said that he will be at New River Park Saturday with a Proclamation for Juneteenth. Councilman Dunlap reminded everyone that Friday, June 17th and Monday, June 20th the Courthouse will be closed. Councilwoman Hunter said that the guard rail on Pikeview Drive is being replaced. She said that she has had positive comments about the renaming of New River Park honoring Sharon Dempsey. She read a complimentary post regarding the City from Teresa Peterson. Councilwoman Hunter thanked Brian Brown, Parks & Rec. Director, Leslie Baker, and Councilman Dunlap for their hard work in securing Lifeguards for the pools. She thanked Scott Hill, Director of Theatre WV for his work, as well as Director of BPW, Jerry Stump and the employees for their work in making the City beautiful. The Mayor said that the event renaming New River Park honoring Sharon Dempsey was well attended and thanked Black Knight for the snacks provided. Councilman Sopher encouraged Council members to attend the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the relocation of the Beckley Area Foundation (BAF) which is June 23, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. at 1210 S. Kanawha St. The Mayor complimented the BAF for all they have done for this community. Councilwoman Bullock congratulated the graduates from the Cosmetology program at the Academy of Careers and Technology and thanked Mr. Madison for the scholarships that were awarded to make it possible for those to graduate. She also thanked Denise Seay for her involvement. She thanked the staff at the Beckley Sanitary Board for their work on Koch and S. Fayette Streets.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Tommy Earhart voiced concerns regarding the sidewalks in Beckley. He said they are not wheelchair accessible. He said the sidewalks on Beaver Avenue and Granville Avenue have no handrails and there are guide wires and telephone poles in the way of pedestrians. Kevin Keith stated he is concerned for the safety of residents on King Street. He described being attacked by a large vicious dog while doing yard work on King Street on May 20, 2022. It was an unprovoked attack. Mr. File advised Mr. Keith that the City is investigating this situation. The dog came from 107 King Street. The Mayor said that he was informed of this about a month ago and has driven by the location three times and has not seen the dog. He stated the City and the County are working together to improve the Raleigh County Animal Shelter situation because currently there is no place to put dogs. The Mayor said that the City and County met this week and are meeting again next week to continue working on this serious situation. The Mayor asked Chief Bailey to get in touch with the owner of the dog on King Street to follow up on the investigation of this matter. Councilwoman Bullock thanked the Mayor for looking into the Animal Shelter situation. She said there are issues with a pack of dogs on Cannaday Street. The Mayor said that Animal Control needs to be notified. Beckley Events Coordinator Jill Moorefield reminded everyone of the Antique Auto Club Show Saturday, June 18th downtown. Councilman Dunlap thanked Ms. Moorefield for passing out flyers to the downtown businesses regarding City events. Councilman Price said that the cars in this show are authentic and encouraged attendance. Kelly Elkins thanked Council and the Mayor for the opportunity to serve six years on the Human Rights Commission. She said on Saturday, June 18, 2022, she will begin her work with a statewide organization. The Mayor complimented her on her work. She invited people to gather for Rotary After Hours at the McManus Trail at 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 21st to walk together and collect and load food for blessing boxes.

Some of the Students Against Destructive Decisions are teaming with the Beckley Rotary Club and helping.

There were no public comments via WEB-X.

A motion was made by Councilman Dunlap seconded by Councilman Price and unanimously approved by Council to adjourn at 7:05 pm.

Mayor

Recorder-Treasurer