

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 6:30 PM ON JULY 26, 2022, IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

THOSE PRESENT: Mayor Rappold, Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump, City Attorney Bill File, and Secretary, Susan Miller. Council Members: Janine Bullock, Bob Canter, Cody Reedy, Tom Sopher, Robert Dunlap, Sherrie Hunter, and Kevin Price. The following Department Heads were present: IT Director Bill Kelly, Chief Bailey with BPD, Chief Wills with BFD, Director of BPW Jerry Stump, and Parks & Recreation Director Leslie Baker. Cucumber & Company was present.

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 June 12, 2022. Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilman Dunlap. Copies had been distributed to each member prior to the meeting.

Next, was the award of bid received from Triple A Paving and Sealing for milling and paving of Dyer Ave. (from 12th St. to Gadd Ave.), 12th St., Scott Ave. (from Prince St. to 12th St.) and 11th Street. The bid was in the amount of \$168,500.00 and was incorporated into the July 12, 2022, minutes. The bid was unanimously approved by Council on a motion by Councilwoman Hunter seconded by Councilman Reedy.

Next, was the second reading and public hearing of an Ordinance Re-enacting And Amending City Of Beckley Code Chapter 4, Article 1, Sections 4-9, 4-9.1, 4-10 And 4-10.5 (Building Code). Mr. File read the Ordinance by title and summarized its contents. Mr. File opened the public hearing. There were no public comments. Mr. File closed the public hearing. The Amendments become effective August 1, 2022. The ordinance was unanimously approved by Council on a motion by Councilwoman Hunter and seconded by Councilwoman Bullock. The Ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, was the second reading and public hearing of an Ordinance Amending City of Beckley Code Chapter 7, Article II, Section 7-200 (Fire Prevention Code). Mr. File read the Ordinance by title and summarized its contents. Mr. File opened the public hearing. There were no public comments. Mr. File closed the public hearing. The Amendments become effective August 1, 2022. The Ordinance was unanimously approved on a motion by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilman Sopher. The Ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, Mr. Trump presented A Resolution Of The Common Council Of The City Of Beckley Approving The FY 2022 CDBG Annual Action Plan for \$298,708.00. Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump summarized the Resolution stating that a public hearing was held in the past and there were no public comments. The expenditures of the funds follow along with some paving initiatives that the City has planned. There has been a decrease in these funds of approximately \$30K. Mr. Trump stated that other municipalities are having similar reductions throughout the state. Council unanimously approved the resolution on a motion made by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilman Dunlap. The resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, Mr. Trump presented A Resolution Of The Common Council Of The City Of Beckley Amending The FY 2018 CDBG Programs in the amount of \$103,517.37 to help with improvements to the Scott Avenue Park. The Mayor said that the progress on the park is coming along very nice. The Resolution was unanimously approved on a motion by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilman Sopher. The resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, Mr. Trump presented A Resolution of the Substantial Amendment to the FY 2020 CDBG CARES Act Annual Action Plan of \$159,626.02. Mr. Trump said that this is money provided by the federal government to aid with rent and utility support and to help food pantry programs. Throughout the summary are several different agencies that specialize in supporting people. The City is reducing line items such as St. Stephens which was reduced by \$30K which was not spent. The food pantry was reduced by approximately \$18K and the Salvation Army decreased its amount by approximately \$18K. These funds were essentially funds that were not spent by the program deadline. Those funds have been recommitted to the “Meals on Wheels” program with the Raleigh County Commission on Aging increasing their budget to \$160K. The rent and utilities line item has been decreased. Mr. Trump said that each of these agencies were funded with the specific task of providing rent assistance or food pantry assistance. The money must be spent according to the guidelines of the grant program so the City is trying to ensure that those funds are spent. Council unanimously approved this resolution on a motion by Councilman Sopher and seconded by Councilwoman Hunter. Councilwoman Bullock asked Mr. Trump when the deadline was. He explained that this was part of the 2020 plan and the deadline for these funds to be committed is today. However, the funds can be recommitted by October 2022. The resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS: The Mayor said that Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump and City Controller Jessica Chandler are looking at the City's budget to see if salary increases for City employees are affordable. The Mayor said that Beckley Area Foundation (BAF) has contributed approximately \$54K to the City over the last five years. The BAF is seeking funds to construct a parking lot across the street from their new headquarters at 1210 S. Kanawha Street. They have raised over \$200K of the projected cost of \$350K. The Mayor asked Council to consider helping. The Mayor said he accepted on behalf of the City a key to Coalwood presented to him last week by Homer Hickam. The Mayor encouraged Council to attend the Summer Car & Bike Show Saturday, July 30th at 6:00 and cast their vote for their favorite vehicle. Councilman Dunlap asked Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump if the City will recover any of the money from the contract with the company providing lifeguards for the City pools due to the pools closing early in the season. Mr. Trump said that the contract was paid off early but at the end of the swim season the City will meet with representatives from USA Pools of Delmarva and discuss contractual obligations. Councilman Dunlap suggested that the City pay quarterly rather than paying in full in advance. Councilwoman Hunter thanked Parks and Recreation Director Leslie Baker for all her efforts towards providing the community the opportunity to have pools for swimming. Councilman Sopher said that his daughter has enjoyed the swimming pools this summer and wishes they could remain open the remainder of the summer. Councilwoman Bullock thanked the Mayor for the Proclamation, and Ms. Baker and the staff at Black Knight for the wonderful 100th birthday celebration for Ms. Ida Crawford. She suggested that the City hold a Senior Classic Festival just as the City holds the Kids Classic Festival. Councilman Sopher said that it is exciting to see progress on the parking lots beginning to take place on Earwood Street and Woodlawn Ave. The Mayor said that it will be a nice green space and concrete areas for parking and the City is still waiting on Thrasher to deliver the plans for this area. The Mayor said that Fruits of Labor's Building Dedication Ceremony is Monday, August 1st at 9:00 a.m. and encouraged Council to attend. The Mayor thanked Jerry Stump, Director of Board of Public Works (BPW) for their help with parking for this event. Councilman Reedy asked who purchased all the equipment such as dishwashers, ovens, etc. for this location. The Mayor said that FOL made the purchases for their equipment and the old equipment that was left in the building from Zen's was auctioned by the City.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilwoman Hunter thanked Captain Morgan and the Code office for their work. She thanked the Beckley PD for their work. She thanked Coach Sarrett with Woodrow Wilson High School for bringing the coaching staff and football team to help pass out food boxes at the Linda K. Epling Stadium. The Mayor thanked Black Knight for hosting the Remote Worker Program Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and said that five families are in this program.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Judy Patterson expressed her concern about G Street. She said that it is in disrepair. She said the temporary work that was done has been washed away with all the rain. The Mayor said that there are several components to getting the street repaired and the City is aware and working on it, but it is going to take time. The Mayor suggested the use of alternate routes including F Street and Koch Street. Deloris Kidd expressed her concern regarding water running from the church across the street into her yard in this same area. The Mayor asked Mr. Stump with the Board of Public Works to look at this area. She thanked the City for quickly removing the weeds from Deegans Street. Councilman Dunlap said that he too has experienced problems from the work taking place for the new school in their area and he asked the

residents to please be patient and things will get taken care of as soon as possible. Councilwoman Bullock said that she discussed these concerns with the contractor, and they assured her that they are doing their very best. A motion made by Councilman Dunlap and seconded by Councilman Price was unanimously approved by Council to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Mayor

Recorder-Treasurer