

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 6:30 PM ON SEPTEMBER 13, 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, and Sherrie Hunter. The following Department Heads were present: Captain Parsons of Beckley FD, Chief Bailey of Beckley PD, Captain Morgan with the Code Office, Director of Board of Public Works, Jerry Stump, and Parks & Rec. Director, Leslie Baker.

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.

The Mayor shared that the Brian Miller, the son of Terry and Dawn Miller's recently passed away and offered his condolences to the family. He also acknowledged the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. He asked for a moment of silence in observance of the passing away of these individuals.

Council dispensed with the reading and approval of minutes from the City Council meeting dated

August 23, 2022, copies of which had been distributed to each member. Council unanimously approved

the minutes as written on a motion by Councilman Dunlap and seconded by Councilwoman Hunter .

Next, Mr. File read aloud numbers one through four of the Resolution and read it by title the Resolution Of The Common Council Of The City Of Beckley To Permit The Open Burning Of Vegetation. The Resolution was unanimously approved by Council as written on a motion by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilman Dunlap. The Resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, Mr. File clarified the amount of the grant and said that the City has no liability for this grant. The City applied for and administers the grant funds. Mr. File read the Resolution by title a Resolution of the WV DMV Governor's Highway Safety Program Grant in the amount of \$355,800.00 which was unanimously approved by Council as written on a motion by Councilman Sopher and seconded by Councilman Dunlap. The Resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, Mr. File read the Resolution by title a Resolution of the WV Lifesavers Grant from the Governor's Highway Safety Program in the amount of \$342,080.00 which was unanimously approved by Council as written on a motion by Councilwoman Bullock and seconded by Councilman Dunlap. The Resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, Mr. File read the Resolution by title a Resolution of the Law Enforcement Liaison Grant from the Governor's Highway Safety Program in the amount of \$419,008.00 which was unanimously approved by Council as written on a motion by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilwoman Hunter. The Resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, the City received one bid for a new four-wheel drive mid-sized SUV for the Beckley Police Department. The Mayor opened the sealed bid from Lewis Automotive for a 2022 Nissan Rogue in the amount of \$30,344.42. The bid was given to Recorder-Treasurer, Billie Trump to review with Councilwoman at Large Sherrie Hunter, Councilman at Large Cody Reed, and Chief Bailey for possible award at a future meeting. The bid is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS: The Mayor said that two days this week the City and County will be meeting with a Consultant from an architectural firm regarding the need for an animal shelter. September 19th three new Police Officers will be sworn in virtually. September 23rd Dancing With The Stars is at the Convention Center. October 1st is Chili Night. October 5th is an airport signage dedication at the Municipal Court building. The Mayor thanked Merle Cole and Councilman Sopher for working on this. Councilman Sopher said that it is a Coal Heritage Highway Authority informational sign. Councilman Sopher said that Merle has put up over twenty signs and they have tried to touch all corners of the County with similar informational signage. The Mayor suggested that the City and County hold trick-or-treat on the same date and the same time, which is Monday, October 31st from 5:00 p.m. . – 7:00 p.m. Councilwoman Hunter thanked Bishop Simms and the church for the Block Party at Heart of God Ministry. She wished Councilman at Large Reedy happy birthday. She said that Audra who is a volunteer at the Beckley Welcome Center said that a lot of people use the bicycles on the trails and really enjoy it. Councilwoman Hunter thanked Councilman Price and Councilwoman Bullock for the gathering on 9-11 downtown where the steel beam is from the World Trade Centers. She was glad to see three Police Officers in Beckley on foot Sunday morning. There will be a Little Jimmy Dickens sign dedication in Bolt in the parking lot at the Bolt Church of God October 2nd at 2:00 p.m. She thanked Merle Cole and everyone that expedited this. Councilwoman Bullock also thanked Bishop Simms and the Heart of God Ministry Church for the block party. She thanked Code Office, Board of Public Works, Beckley Police Dept., and Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump. The Mayor said that he would like to have attended the block party but had COVID at that time. Councilman Sopher thanked Matt Mullins for all he does for the community. The Mayor agreed and said that Matt does a lot of work behind the scenes. The Mayor thanked Matt Mullins and Kate Sopher for all the work they did on the Bill Withers project. Councilman Sopher congratulated Councilman at Large Reedy as he and his wife are expecting a baby girl.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Danielle Stewart said that she would like clarification regarding what the code is in the City regarding signs on telephone poles. She asked for clarification regarding trash cans kept in front lawns. Mr. File said that it is against City Code to have signs on poles and the City would be justified if the Board of Public Works removed the signs. The night before and the day of garbage pickup the trash cans can be out front on the driveway or sidewalk. Mr. File said that other than that specified time it is against City Code to have trash cans in the front. Danielle said that she has noticed trash receptacles being built in the front yards of houses on Prince Street and Glenn Avenue. She suggested

reminding City residents that this is not within the City Code. Councilwoman Hunter clarified that trash bags must be in a trash receptacle. The Mayor said that several years ago the City and Appalachian Power Company agreed that there would be no signage allowed on power poles within City limits. He said that if the Community Pride group or Board of Public Works notices signs on poles, at any height, the City has Appalachian Power's permission to remove them. The Mayor said that this is not something that the power company takes care of. The Mayor said that the City will be more aware of this and asked the Code Office and Board of Public Works to help. The Mayor thanked Danielle for her comments. Councilwoman Hunter asked City Attorney Bill File if he would describe the ordinance regarding the time that lawnmowing in City limits can take place. Mr. File said that within City limits grass cutting hours during weekdays are between 7:00 a.m. through 9:00 p.m. Weekends grass cutting may begin after 8:00 a.m.

A motion made by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilman Sopher was unanimously approved by Council to adjourn at 6:58 p.m.

Mayor
Recorder-Treasurer