

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 6:30 PM ON OCTOBER 25, 2022, IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS AND BY WEB-X FOR THE PUBLIC DUE TO COVID-19.

THOSE PRESENT: Mayor Robert R. Rappold, Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump, City Attorney Bill File, Secretary Susan Miller. Council Members: Cody Reedy, Tom Sopher, Robert Dunlap, Bob Canter, Kevin Price, and Janine Bullock. The following Department Heads were present: Assistant IT Director Amy Evans, Captain Ernie Parsons of Beckley FD, Chief Bailey of Beckley PD, Captain Morgan with the Code Office, and Director of Board of Public Works, Pam Frey.  
ABSENT: Councilwoman at Large, Sherrie Hunter.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Council members, Department Heads and the public joined the meeting either in person or by 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 or the City's Facebook page.

The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance. Council dispensed with the reading and approval of minutes from the City Council meeting dated October 11, 2022, copies of which had been distributed to each member. Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilman Dunlap.

Next, on the Agenda was the Supplemental resolution for the Pension Funding Bonds. Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump said that the supplemental resolution for the pension funding bonds is not finished. He said the Actuaries are still doing some research. He said this will be delayed until at least the end of November. Once the figures are computed it will be presented to Council. The Mayor asked if the City is still trying to get this approved before the end of the year. Mr. Trump said yes.

Next, Mr. File presented an Ordinance rezoning 102 4<sup>th</sup> Street from R-1 to B-1. Mr. File said, if approved tonight, a second reading and public hearing will take place on December 13, 2022. Mr. File stated that this property is where the former Tudor's Biscuit World was located. Mr. File said the City of Beckley's Planning Commission on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022, recommended this rezoning. Mr. File read the ordinance by title, An Ordinance Amending The City Of Beckley Zoning Ordinance Of 1971 And The Comprehensive Plan Of The City Of Beckley And The Zone Map Of The City Of Beckley, As From Time to Time Has Been Amended, To Provide For The Re-zoning Of 102 4<sup>th</sup> Street, As Shown On Tax Map 32, Parcel 97, Beckley Corporation, Within The City Of Beckley, Raleigh County, West Virginia, From "R-1", One Family District, To "B-1", Neighborhood Highway Business District. Mr. File explained that the intent of the purchaser is to remodel the property and use it for an insurance agency. He said the Planning Commission held a public hearing on October 4<sup>th</sup> and did not receive any negative responses from the community. The Mayor said that one could assume that because there were no negative comments the community is relieved that this location will become an insurance office. The ordinance was unanimously approved by Council on a motion made by Councilman Reedy and seconded by Councilman Sopher. The ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

The Beckley Building Commission's: Notice of Meeting, Agenda, Bond Authorizing Ordinance, Exhibit A (Description of Leased Property), Exhibit B (Notice of Public Hearing), Exhibit C (Form of Bond), Form Of Trustee's Certificate Of Authentication, and the Assignment are incorporated into these minutes.

Next, Mr. Trump reported on the Audit Committee's recommendation for an Auditor to perform the City's Audit. He stated that the State of WV Auditor's Office provides a large list of approved firms and the City sent

letters to each firm. Only Ferrari & Associates, PLLC, responded. The Audit Committee examined their credentials and pricing. It was the recommendation of the Audit Committee that the City of Beckley obtain the services of Ferrari & Associates, PLLC. Mr. Trump said that this company has performed the City's audits the last couple of years. Billie said that the bidding process is cumbersome. The State Auditor now allows the bidding process to take place once every two years rather than each year. He said that if Council approves Ferrari & Associates it will not only be for 2022 fiscal year, but also for 2023 fiscal year. The Mayor said that he and Mr. Trump met with Ferrari & Associates for about an hour upon the completion of their audit of the City. The Mayor said that Ferrari & Associates has begun to learn the City and the people they work with. The Mayor said that Ferrari & Associates does a great job complimentary to the work that Billie Trump and Jessica Chandler do as far as maintaining the City's finances. The Mayor said that the City has been very fortunate to have had the last two audits with no findings at all. The Mayor said that the auditing team has not changed in a couple of years which is a good indicator of stability. The proposal from Ferrari & Associates, PLLC was unanimously approved on a motion made by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilman Sopher.

The proposal is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS: The Mayor said the City received an offer via email regarding replacing the golf carts at Black Knight. The City has used the current golf carts for almost six years. The National Trading Group Company is offering two thirds of the original value paid for the carts. Councilman Sopher, Councilwoman Bullock, and Councilman Price had previously expressed support for the purchase of new carts and the Mayor said Councilwoman Hunter also expressed support in favor of this transaction. Councilman Sopher suggested to Billie Trump that Black Knight invest in a cart path. He said the goal would be to have a paved cart path, but it could be graveled in until the City has the means necessary to pave a cart path. The Mayor agreed and said that this is in the long-range plans for Black Knight using excess asphalt the City may have. The rough road leading up to the equipment shop was recently paved. The Mayor said a discussion can take place to temporarily lay out those cart paths until a permanent solution can be reached. The Mayor announced there is a Workshop on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00. Corey Lilly, Director of Outdoor Economic Development has been working with Andy Williamson, Outdoor Economic Development Collaborative, WVU, and Eric Woolridge, Director of Planning & Business Development with Destination By Design. Also, on the evening of the Workshop will be the NRGRDA public meeting for the Brownfields Application. The Mayor complimented Leslie Baker, Director of Parks & Recreation, and Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump on the positive article regarding Black Knight that was in the

newspaper. Pam Frey, Director of Board of Public Works, said that the fall leaf pick up is November 14<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Reedy said a few people reached out to him asking when the public will be able to attend Council meetings in person. The Mayor said he prefers that the City continue to be cautious due to COVID, flu season and a rise in RSV cases. He thinks the City should continue allowing the public to join by WEB-X for now. The Mayor said that it will be monitored weekly.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business. The Mayor announced that if calling by phone dial \*3 to raise your hand. If connected by computer, click the “hand icon” on your participants panel to speak.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Christian Martine, who is running for the WV House of Delegates 45<sup>th</sup> District, called to introduce himself. With there being no other public comments, a motion made by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilwoman Bullock was unanimously approved by Council to adjourn at 6:50 p.m.

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Mayor  
Recorder-Treasurer