

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON  
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED  
AT 6:30 PM ON NOVEMBER 22, 2022, IN COUNCIL  
CHAMBERS AND VIA WEB-X.

THOSE PRESENT: Mayor Robert R. Rappold,  
Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump, and Secretary Susan  
Miller. Council Members: Cody Reedy, Bob Canter,  
Tom Sopher, Kevin Price, and Janine Bullock. The  
following Department Heads were present: Director of  
IT Bill Kelly, Assistant IT Director Amy Evans, Corey  
Lilly Director of Outdoor Economic Development, Pam  
Frey Director of BPW, Captain Ernie Parsons with BFD,  
and Chief of Police Dean Bailey. ABSENT:  
Councilwoman Hunter and Councilman Dunlap. Guest:  
Lt. Chris Graham with the BFD.

The Mayor called the Workshop 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 22, 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 Councilwoman Bullock.  
Council dispensed with the reading and  
approval of minutes from the NRGRDA  
Public Meeting held in Council chambers  
on November 3, 2022, copies of which

had been distributed to each member.

Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilman Sopher and seconded by Councilman Price.

Council dispensed with the reading and approval of minutes from the Council Workshop held on November 3, 2022, copies of which had been distributed to each member. Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilman Sopher and seconded by Councilwoman Bullock.

Next, on the Agenda was the Supplemental Resolution for the Pension Funding Bonds. The Mayor said that due to rising interest rates and changes in the stock market this would be delayed until market conditions improve.

Next, Mr. File presented an Ordinance approving the City entering into a non-exclusive franchise agreement with Cebridge Acquisition, LLC (dba Optimum). The public hearing will be December 13, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. and the second reading of the ordinance will be during the Council meeting December 13, 2022. Mr. File said that the renewal period of this agreement is five years, and it continues to provide the City with

revenue of five percent of Optimum's .  
gross revenue generated in the City. Mr.  
File read the ordinance by title, An  
Ordinance Granting A Renewed  
Nonexclusive Franchise To Cebridge  
Acquisition, LLC Doing Business As  
Optimum To Construct, Operate and  
Maintain A Cable Television System In  
The City Of Beckley, Raleigh County,  
West Virginia. The Mayor asked if there  
were any comments or questions  
regarding this ordinance. Councilman  
Price noted there were several strike  
throughs and deletions in the agreement  
and Mr. File said that the format is being  
finalized and Susan will forward to  
Council a clean draft. Mr. File thanked  
Councilman Price for addressing this and  
stated that the City is still negotiating a  
few minor points with Cebridge which  
may require a few very minor  
amendments to the Agreement. The  
Mayor stated that Mr. File has retained  
the services of Attorney Robert Rodecker  
to assist in negotiations. Mr. Rodecker  
has assisted the City in prior negotiations.  
Mr. Rodecker is an expert on negotiating  
these types of contracts with cable  
companies. Councilman Sopher asked if  
this gives the City any leverage to make

sure that subdivisions like Woodland Village and Ewart Avenue have access to service. Mr. File said that it doesn't necessarily give leverage to that. However, it does require that cable be offered in areas with a certain amount of population. The Ordinance was unanimously approved by Council on a motion made by Councilwoman Bullock and seconded by Councilman Price. The ordinance and the agreement are hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, the Mayor spoke about a pay supplement he is recommending for City employees. The Mayor said that the annual pay supplement was suspended during the pandemic when the City found other ways to reward City employees through ARPA Funds. Mr. File explained that the resolution provides a salary enhancement which is called a pay supplement in the amount of \$850.00 to each full time City employee on the payroll as of December 1, 2022. Mr. File reiterated that this is a pay supplement. It is not a bonus. The resolution was unanimously approved by Council on a

motion made by Councilman Reedy and seconded by Councilman Price. The resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes. The Mayor said that neither he nor Council are eligible to receive this pay supplement.

Next, the Mayor said that there is still work taking place on the Outdoor Economic Development Plan and it will be revisited at the December 13, 2022, Council meeting.

Next, Lt. Chris Graham from BFD spoke about the CERT Team. The CERT team trains individuals to take care of themselves in case of emergency then branch out and help neighbors. The CERT team helped administer COVID tests and COVID vaccinations.

Councilman Reedy recommended the Beckley CERT Team for the Governor's Service Award which honors volunteers and service organizations. Although they were not selected as winners this year, the Governor sent the BFD a Certificate of Accommodation and a letter. The Emergency Management Division of WV presented Beckley CERT with a thank you plaque at the last LEPC meeting. Beckley CERT also partnered with

American Red Cross and helped with disaster responses. Lt. Graham thanked Chief Wills and Council for their support in helping the Beckley CERT team. The Mayor thanked Lt. Graham for everything he does far beyond his job description and thanked the Beckley CERT team for their involvement in the follow up opioid treatment that supplements what F.M.R.S. does.



For Council's edification, Captain Donald Morgan (with the Code Office) read the WVABCA Class B license application from Hampton Inn's Management, LLC (dba Hampton Inn) at 110 Harper Road. Captain Morgan said the Class B license would be used for a gift shop. A copy of the application is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS: The Mayor said November 30, 2022, is Judy Lusk's last day as a City employee. She has worked for the City for thirty-five years. The Mayor encouraged everyone present to stop by and wish her well before her last day. The Mayor commented on the nice luncheon at Black Knight for Jerry Stump who is also retiring. Mr. Stump worked for the City for forty-five years. His last day is also November 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Mayor invited all to attend on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00 a.m. the Veterans and Christmas parade. The Mayor announced an upcoming Workshop at 5:05 p.m.

December 5<sup>th</sup> which will be to further discuss the Beckley CERT Team. Representatives from the Chamber of Commerce will attend the Workshop for a more in-depth discussion regarding the City Manager form of government. The Mayor said that other surrounding municipalities such as Charleston, Oak Hill, Lewisburg, Princeton, Bluefield, and Fayetteville already operate under the City Manager form of government. Councilman Sopher suggested to Pam Frey (Director of Board of Public Works) that the City work closely with the State Road and create a sidewalk plan for the increasing number of pedestrians in the City. He suggested the sidewalks be made safe for wheelchairs, baby carriages, and strollers. Councilman Sopher said that a local citizen has been calling Mr. Trump once a month for some time now asking for a lease for the Fruits of Labor (FOL). Councilman Sopher said that he understands why this is being requested. Councilman Sopher suggested that the lease may want to be constructed with flexibility and the ability to re-evaluate things on an ongoing basis with FOL to see if any changes need to be made. The Mayor agreed and said Mr. File has been working on the lease agreement. The Mayor said the City is expecting to receive funds from the opioid settlements. It is his understanding that a stipulation in spending these funds is that the City use these funds in support of organizations that provide recovery services such as Fruits of Labor, Brian's Safehouse, and several other very good opioid recovery organizations. The Mayor said this may be a

consideration in the final lease terms. The Mayor said that he thinks one thing that needs to be considered is that FOL has a recovery program and a for profit restaurant and FOL is paying B&O taxes. Their sales are generating one percent sales tax. The Mayor assured Councilman Sopher that the City will get the lease agreement with FOL completed in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilwoman Bullock said that Stratton Elementary is having a mural project December 4<sup>th</sup> from 1p.m. – 5p.m. in the gymnasium. She thanked Chief Bailey for the help of the Beckley PD and complimented the BPD on the professionalism of the Officers. Councilwoman Bullock said that the Mountaineer Food Bank is Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at the Epling Stadium. She asked the Mayor if he received any information regarding the East Beckley Post Office. He said he talked to Senator Manchin's Field Representative, Ben Spurlock, last week. He oversees post office facilities for Senator Manchin. Mr. Spurlock said this is a very difficult issue due to the condition of that building. As a temporary solution, until the roof is repaired on that building, the Mayor proposed the idea of the East Beckley Post Office temporarily utilizing space at the Black Knight. The Mayor said that he was told that due to the security that is required by any post office, the Black Knight wouldn't be an option. The Mayor said that Mr. Spurlock did not give a tentative date of completion for the repairs on the building. Councilman Sopher said November 12<sup>th</sup> The WV Land Trust, Corey Lilly, and Gary Moorefield led a

hike to see the Land Trust's property which is behind Woodrow Wilson High School and Woodcrest. He said they looked at a park area, beautiful waterfalls, and an overlook that overlooks the Cranberry Creek Bridge. Councilman Sopher said there were thirty-five people there and it was very well received by everyone, especially the residents at Woodcrest. Councilman Sopher said that he was very impressed with the entire experience. Councilman Sopher said there are three water falls within less than one mile. Councilman Sopher complimented Corey with what he has in mind for this area. Councilman Sopher said the Board of Public Works did a wonderful job patching the road that led down to the hike. The Mayor said that this natural asset has been right here for years and for it to be coming into prominence is amazing. Councilman Sopher said that the whole Piney Creek project with the mill and the overlooks are so exciting and it's in our own back yard. Councilman Sopher said that the upcoming new President of the Historical Society created a Search A Word with a list of Mayors of the City of Beckley on one side and a list of Raleigh County Places on the back. It's a fun, educational sheet to pass time with.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments. With there being no further comments the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

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Mayor  
Recorder-Treasurer