

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED
AT 6:30 PM ON JANUARY 24, 2023, IN COUNCIL
CHAMBERS AND VIA WEB-X.

THOSE PRESENT: Mayor Robert R. Rappold,
Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump, City Attorney Bill
File, and Secretary Susan Miller. Council Members:
Janine Bullock, Sherrie Hunter, Cody Reedy, Bob
Canter, Tom Sopher, and Kevin Price. The following
Department Heads were present: Assistant IT Director
Amy Evans, Anthony Martin (IT), Captain Parsons with
BFD, Chief Code Officer, Donald Morgan, Chief of
BPD Dean Bailey, and Director of Board of Public
Works, Pam Frey. ABSENT: Councilman Dunlap

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 January 10, 2023,
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 Sopher.
OLD BUSINESS: The Mayor stated he
attended the Coal Heritage Trail Event at
Industrial Drive commemorating the
Beckley Mt. Hope Airport. The Mayor
complimented Councilman Sopher who

coordinated the event and said the three signs look great. The Mayor also commented on the quality of the new lettering/signage on the IT/Municipal Court making the building easily identifiable.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Tom Moseley (422 Hull Street) asked for Council's help regarding a problem with drivers speeding in his neighborhood. He said drivers are using it as a short cut to get from Kanawha Street into East Park. He said a speed limit sign was put back on the post. However, this is not enough. Kids play in this neighborhood and safety is a big concern. He said the speeding drivers come through with no warning that kids are playing, retrieving footballs from the street, etc. He suggested that the City install speed bumps (which can be taken up during winter), move the signs to warn drivers, and install flashing signs (warning drivers to slow down). The Mayor asked Chief Bailey of BPD and Director of Board of Public Works, Pam Frey, to meet with Mr. Mosley to see what options are available. Mary West (205 Larew Avenue) said there is a problem with drivers speeding in her

neighborhood and some drivers do not stop at the four-way intersection. She said safety is a concern. She said she almost got hit by a car as she was pulling out of her driveway. She said speeding drivers are making it hard for people utilizing on street parking to get in and out of their vehicles safely. She asked if the City could help with the problem. She also asked if the City could explore options to see if grant money is available to improve the aesthetics of this neighborhood. She said the first thing travelers see when exiting I-64 is Larew Avenue. The Mayor asked Recorder-Treasurer, Billie Trump, if he thought this would qualify under CDBG. Mr. Trump said that the City would see if the request qualifies. Ms. West inquired about the possibility of getting Habitat for Humanity on location to help. Ms. West also requested that the residents be notified before any structure containing asbestos is removed. She submitted a petition including thirty names of residents in and around the Larew Avenue area asking the City for help in tearing down dilapidated houses, cleaning trees and debris from alleys and in reducing the number of speeding drivers. The three-

page petition is hereby incorporated into these minutes. Councilwoman Bullock thanked Chief Code Enforcement Officer Donald Morgan for his help working on that area of the City. Councilman Sopher stated that the area Ms. West mentioned is becoming a gateway entrance into the City.

The Mayor stated that Scott Miller, Director of Just For Kids is addressing Council on a preliminary basis for its financial support. The Mayor voiced his support for Just For Kids and thanked Mr. Miller and Just For Kids for the work they do. Mr. Miller thanked the City for its support last year. He asked the City to consider adding Just For Kids to its annual budget. Mr. Miller requested four percent of Just For Kid's operating cost (or twenty-five thousand dollars). Mr. Miller previously submitted the financials for Just For Kids to Mr. Trump. Mr. Trump said the City may be able to consider this as part of its budget. If so, Council would need to vote on it. The

Mayor asked if approved, would quarterly disbursements be acceptable or one payment for the entire amount. Mr.

Miller said either way is fine. Jodie Patrick (100 Stiffler Drive) asked if the City has an update for the residents of Stiffler Drive and asked if the City received the report back from Thrasher.

The Mayor asked City Attorney Mr. File if he received an update from Thrasher.

Mr. File said he has not received anything from Thrasher at this time. Ms. Patrick asked if the City has a date, it anticipates receiving the report. The Mayor said no.

Thrasher is assessing what it would take to bring the street up to acceptable standards for the City to accept it into the City's street system. The Mayor said that a meeting may need to take place to discuss how the project(s) may be financed, and the amount of participation that may be required from residents of Stiffler Drive.

The Mayor announced, "to those wishing to make a public comment and calling in by phone to press star 3 which "raises your hand", recognizing you to speak and if you are connected by computer to click the hand icon on your participant's panel which recognizes you to speak for no

more than three minutes.” The Mayor stated that public comments are allotted three minutes.

There were no public comments by phone.

With there being no further comments, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Mayor
Recorder-Treasurer