

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON  
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED  
AT 6:30 PM ON FEBRUARY 14, 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, Robert Dunlap, Sherrie Hunter, Cody  
Reedy, Tom Sopher, and Kevin Price. The following  
Department Heads were present: Director of IT William  
Kelly, 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 Canter.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at  
6:33 p.m. The public had the option to  
join 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 24, 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 Dunlap.  
Danielle Stewart, Crystal Alonso, and  
Mike Horn from Raleigh County  
Community Action Association  
(RCCAA) attended to discuss the status  
of the Homeless Shelter. Danielle

explained that the Homeless Shelter has needed help for some time now. For the last thirty – forty years the homeless shelter has been on a month-to-month, year-to-year lease with the WV Department of Health & Human Resources (DHHR). The DHHR is a State agency. DHHR is offering to convey the homeless shelter and the property involved to the City. In turn, the City can lease that facility and property to RCCAA to manage and maintain the homeless shelter. This would allow RCCAA to receive grants. As owner of the facility, the City would qualify for CDBG funds which could be used to help the RCCAA manage and maintain the homeless shelter. Danielle stated that DHHR has awarded over one million dollars in funds to the RCCAA that have been and are continuing to be used for maintenance of the homeless shelter. The Mayor said this transaction would be a triple net lease. The City would own the property. The property would continue being managed and maintained by RCCAA, as it is now. The only maintenance and upkeep the City would be involved in would include some paving and snow removal. Crystal

Alonso said RCCAA recently received approximately one million dollars for the homeless shelter. Recent projects include replacement of the boiler system, a new roof, interior remodeling, and electrical upgrades. Soon, work will begin on renovating the basement to expand capacity. If new windows are needed, they will be purchased and installed, as well as a new security system.

Councilman Sopher asked who will maintain the building. Crystal said RCCAA will continue maintaining the building. She said a long-term lease agreement would help secure more funding. The Mayor said a long-term lease will make it more probable to secure funding. Councilman Dunlap asked if being under new ownership will still put RCCAA under the perimeters of the Office of Health Facility Licensure and Certification (OHFLAC). Crystal said that she isn't sure. Councilman Dunlap said that if they are not under DHHR guidelines they may not have to adhere to OHFLAC's regulations. She said she would have to get back with him on this issue. Danielle said that this involves a large plot of land that would offer the opportunity to expand and potentially

offer housing to youth. Danielle said this or any other construction would require the City's approval. Councilman Sopher asked if the State of WV is going to deed the homeless shelter to the City. The Mayor said, "yes." Councilman Sopher asked the question that once the deed transfer takes place, will the City lease the homeless shelter to RCCAA. The Mayor said, "yes." Councilman Price asked if this transfer interferes with any revenue stream(s) being received by RCCAA. Crystal said no, if anything, it can enhance opportunity for more funding. Councilwoman Bullock asked where RCCAA's funding comes from. Crystal said it comes from DHHR, Emergency Solutions Grant, and a Community Service Block Grant. Crystal said RCCAA receives approximately \$700,000 annually to operate the shelter. Crystal said they could ask for more if they have a long-term lease. Mr. File stated that this ordinance conveys more than just the building. A 2.2-acre portion of Parcel 14, Tax Map 50 is involved. He said the second reading and public hearing of this ordinance will be March 14, 2023, at the City Council meeting. He read the ordinance by title, An Ordinance

Concerning Property To Be Conveyed By  
The West Virginia Department Of Health  
And Human Resources, An Agency Of  
The State Of West Virginia, To The City  
Of Beckley. The ordinance was  
unanimously approved on a motion by  
Councilman Dunlap and seconded by  
Councilman Sopher. The ordinance is  
hereby incorporated into these minutes.



Next, Mr. File discussed a resolution regarding the Veterans Affairs Office in the Pinecrest South office building. He said this resolution involves part of the property that was conveyed to the City by the Pinecrest Development Corporation in April 2022. With the property came a certain number of leases. One is a lease with the United States lease number (Veterans Affairs) VA 245-17-6-0162. The transfer of this lease needs completed so the City can take over the portion of the lease that is currently being managed by Pinecrest. This resolution authorizes the Mayor and the Recorder-Treasurer to sign any documents necessary to facilitate the transfer of this lease. The Mayor said that this VA office is located on the ground floor of Pinecrest South office building. They have been in business for approximately five years. The resolution was unanimously approved on a motion by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilwoman Bullock. The resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

For Council's edification, Captain Morgan, Chief Code Enforcement Officer, read a notice of application for WV ABCA license by Humble Hospitality LLC, dba Morgan's Food and Spirits located at 1924 Harper Road. He said the reason for the application is due to new ownership. Councilwoman at Large Hunter asked Captain Morgan if he would talk to management at this location



to get better placement of their sign and  
discontinue using ratchet straps to secure  
it. Captain Morgan said that the City's  
Code Enforcement Office would send  
them a notice. A copy of the application  
is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, Mr. File read paragraphs one through four of 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 on a motion made by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilman Reedy. The resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS: The Mayor complimented Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump and Controller Jessica Chandler for the exceptional work they do managing the City's finances. Approximately six years ago, the City was among the first to sign up for the open government program operated by the State Auditor's office. This allows open access to view the City's finances. State Auditor J.B. McCuskey will be in Council Chambers Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00. The Mayor invited Council

to attend. Mr. McCuskey will discuss a new “Budget Book” tool. Next, Councilwoman Hunter asked if the City could work on composing a compliance check list for building contractors to comply to before a building permit would be issued. Councilman Reedy said that he, his dad, and Captain Morgan (Chief Code Enforcement Officer) are working on the checklist. Councilwoman Hunter said that the flyer she discussed in a previous meeting which has a calendar on the back will be going out to all curbside program recipients. She thanked Pam Frey, Director of Board of Public Works, for her help and Bill Kelly Director of IT for his help. Councilwoman Bullock congratulated Mr. Brown for the opening of his company, Property Elite Real Estate, and said she looks forward to his upcoming developments.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilwoman Bullock invited Council members to the Raleigh Playhouse Theatre February 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. and February 26<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. to the presentation of Afro-lachia “Hidden Figures & Unsung Heroes” by the HGTA Theatre Group. Crystal Tucker is the Director. Councilman Dunlap said Sakura Mankai Cafe will hold a ribbon

cutting ceremony at 11:45 a.m. February 21, 2023. The location for the cafe is in the former Coffee On Main location.

Councilman Sopher said the Salvation Army filed an application to create a Boys and Girls Club in the new facility.

Councilman Sopher said he, Corey Lilly Director of Outdoor Economic Development and Gary Moorefield (who works with Corey on trail development) met with Riland Music (who works for the WV DOH) and discussed ways the State may be able to help the City with outdoor economic development. The new bridge at Cranberry Creek (in front of R.T. Rogers) is the longest bridge of its kind in the world. Councilman Sopher said this will help with the tour of bridges currently being created.

Councilman Sopher said his family is involved in the Piney Creek Watershed Association. Beckley Sanitary Board, in partnership with the Piney Creek Watershed, and WVU Tech received the 2023 National Environmental Achievement Award through the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). The Mayor said this is a special award having a positive impact on many. The Beckley Sanitary

Board and partners will be honored at the NACWA Winter Conference later this month in California. Councilwoman Hunter thanked Danielle Stewart for the work she did as the former Executive Director of Piney Creek Watershed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Trena Dacal, Executive Director of United Way, addressed Council requesting an annual contribution in the amount of four thousand, five hundred dollars. Trena summarized the help United Way provides residents of Southern WV. The Mayor said additional financial information from the United Way is required. She said she submitted the information to the City. Councilwoman Bullock thanked Trena Dacal and Councilwoman Hunter for all they do for United Way. Councilman Sopher asked if the United Way helps with funding for the Salvation Army. Trena said yes, the United Way supports the utility assistance program for the Salvation Army and hopes to help support the Boys and Girls Club.

There were no public comments in person or by phone. With there being no further comments, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

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Mayor

Recorder-Treasurer