

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED
AT 6:30 PM ON FEBRUARY 28, 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 Canter, Robert Dunlap, Sherrie
Hunter, Cody Reedy, Tom Sopher, and Kevin Price. The
following Department Heads were present: Director of
IT William Kelly, Assistant Director of IT Amy Evans,
Anthony Martin (IT), Captain Parsons with BFD, Chief
Code Officer, Donald Morgan, and Chief of BPD Dean
Bailey.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at
6:30 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 February 14, 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 said the
last two weeks have been wonderful
weeks during Black History month
beginning with the celebration at Heart of
God Ministries. The Mayor presented a

Proclamation to Mr. and Mrs. Parham as Living Legends when the NAACP met at the Women's Center. He also attended a performance at the Raleigh Theatre. The Mayor complimented Councilwoman Bullock for her portrayal of Shirley Chizel.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilwoman Bullock and Councilman Sopher complimented Jeanie Campbell at Code Enforcement. Councilman Sopher said he thinks Jeanie would like Council to visit Code Enforcement. The Mayor said Jeanie is a great asset to Code Enforcement. The Mayor complimented Captain Morgan with the work he has done with his team at Code Enforcement. Councilman Sopher said he thinks Jeanie has hopes of Council visiting Code Enforcement before spring clean-up begins which is at the end of March. The Mayor said that the City needs to be aware that releasing the date for spring clean up too early could result in residents putting things out for pick up too early. The Mayor congratulated Councilman Reedy on becoming a father. Councilman Dunlap thanked Council members who attended the ribbon cutting and grand opening of Sakura Mankai Café. He said

two new businesses will open within the next thirty days in Ward 3. The businesses arriving are Alchemy Beauty Lounge and Vinyl Tracks which will also have a performance space on Prince Street. The Mayor apologized for his late arrival at the ribbon cutting. He had a meeting with Senator Capito which delayed his arrival.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mary West voiced concerns regarding Larew Avenue including drivers speeding, the need for removal of shrubs and trees from alley ways and beautification of the street.

Councilwoman Bullock thanked Chief Bailey of Beckley Police Department and Chief Code Enforcement Officer Morgan for their continued support working in this area of the City. Councilman Sopher thanked Chief Bailey for the visibility of more Police Officers in the City.

Councilman Dunlap asked Ms. West where the speeding seems to be happening more frequently. She said as the speeding is occurring as drivers leave Kanawha Street, off Eisenhower onto Worley Avenue. She said drivers are not stopping at the four-way intersection.

Ms. West asked for extra patrol in this area. Brian Brown spoke about his

development on Central Avenue. He asked when this rezoning ordinance would be on the agenda. He appreciates any support the City could give in satisfying requirements to rezone and work together to create areas for parking. Mr. File said the City cannot proceed with the ordinance until it has the metes and bounds description showing the entire tract being rezoned. Mr. Brown said he contacted the Surveyor so he could survey the parcels that do not belong to them for that tract. Mr. Brown said that he sent the Surveyor the map with all the parcels highlighted in yellow that Captain Morgan from Code Enforcement gave him. Mr. Brown said that in the event the Surveyor comes back with something that still doesn't satisfy any of the requirements then it will cause another delay. Mr. File said the City needs the map from Mr. Brown's Surveyor prior to scheduling the public hearing before Council. Mr. Brown asked if this will be all that is required once the map is submitted to the City. Mr. File said that should be it and if the City receives the map within the next week the first reading of the ordinance can be placed on the agenda for the March 14th Council

meeting. Mr. File said rezoning requires a thirty-day notice prior to the second reading of the ordinance. Robert Moore with the Beckley Art Center said they recently submitted their financials and a cover letter to Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump. They requested to be added to the City's budget. The Mayor thanked Mr. Moore for submitting their financials to Mr. Trump and is optimistic about the City being able to help. Councilman Dunlap said most recently the Beckley Art Group absorbed the entire program at the School of Harmony rather than allowing it to become nonexistent. Now, tutoring for music classes and so many things are offered at the School of Harmony due to the Beckley Art Group. Councilman Dunlap thanked Mr. Moore for the work Beckley Art Group has done and continues to do. The Mayor asked if anyone online or by phone is waiting to make a public comment. The Mayor asked who is ready to speak. Anthony in IT said no one has raised their hand to speak. With there being no further comments, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

Mayor
Recorder-Treasurer