

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENE
D AT 6:30 PM ON MAY 23, 2023, IN COUNCIL
CHAMBERS AND VIA WEB-X.

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, Cody Reedy, Tom Sopher, and Kevin Price. The following Department Heads were present: Assistant Director of IT Amy Evans, Anthony Martin (IT), Captain Coughlin with BFD, Director of Board of Public Works (BPW) Pam Frey, Chief Code Enforcement Officer Donald Morgan, Chief of BPD Dean Bailey and Director of Parks & Recreation Leslie Baker.
ABSENT: Councilwoman Hunter.

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.

Council dispensed with the reading of minutes from the City Council meeting dated May 9, 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.

Council dispensed with the reading of minutes from Council's Workshop dated May 15, 2023, 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. Council dispensed with the reading of minutes from the Council's Workshop dated May 22, 2023, 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 was the award of bid for the price of asphalt, concrete, stone/abrasives/sand, and reinforcement rods. The bid was in the amount of \$101.25/ton for Base II or P&L I, \$107.00/ton for Wearing I, \$144.00/ton for Curb Mix, and \$144.00/ton for Tennis Mix. Southern WV Paving, Inc. was the only bidder. The bid was unanimously approved on a motion by Councilman at Large Reedy and seconded by Councilman Sopher.

The bid was previously incorporated into the May 9, 2023, minutes.

Next was the award of bid for the paving and milling of N. Oakwood Avenue and Sheridan Avenue. The bid was from AAA Paving & Sealing, Inc. in the amount of \$150,000.

The bid was unanimously approved on a motion by Councilman at Large Reedy and seconded by Councilwoman Bullock.

The bid was previously incorporated into the May 9, 2023, minutes.

Next, the Mayor opened the only bid received for the purchase of sixty (60) police duty handguns. The bid was from Vance Outdoors, Inc. in the amount of \$46,320.00. The bid will be given to Recorder-Treasurer Trump, Police Chief Bailey, Councilwoman at Large Hunter and Councilman at Large Reedy for possible award at a Council meeting in the near future. The bid is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, the Mayor opened the only bid received for the replacement/repair of the roof on The Historic Black Knight. The bid was from Frye Roofing in the amount of \$153,600.00. The bid will be given to Recorder-Treasurer Trump, Director of Parks & Recreation Leslie Baker, Councilwoman at Large Hunter and Councilman at Large Reedy for possible award at a Council meeting in the near future. The bid is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next City Attorney Bill File read by title
A Resolution To Establish Boundaries
and Covenants For Land and Water
Conservation Fund On Property Owned
by the City of Beckley Raleigh County,
West Virginia. Mr. File explained that
this resolution places a restriction that is
required by the Secretary of the Interior.
The Secretary of the Interior has made it
possible for the City to receive a grant to
make improvements to the City of
Beckley Freedom Park. In doing so, the
City is required to have certain language
in a deed of record. The language is
placed on a deed which the City is

deeding to itself that is included in this language in order to restrict future use of the property. This park cannot be converted to other than public outdoor recreation use without the written approval of the Secretary of the Interior. This allows the City to receive the grant funds and proceed with the project. Council unanimously approved the resolution on a motion made by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilwoman Bullock. The resolution is hereby adopted by the City and is incorporated into these minutes.

Next, Chief Code Enforcement Officer Donald Morgan said the City received a notification of application for WVABCA license for a change of ownership at 1914 Harper Road to El Bandido. Councilman Sopher asked if El Bandido is relocating or adding an additional restaurant. Mr. Morgan said this will be an additional restaurant. The notification for application is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS: The Mayor said Council recently had workshops including issues regarding food trucks, panhandling, and Stiffler Drive. Ms. Baker gave a brief update on the status of the swimming pools. She said the City now has ten certified lifeguards and is still looking for concession stand workers and an attendant to accept tickets upon entry. She said the City now has a Pool

Manager. She said the pool will probably open June 8th. The entire pool has to be painted. She said scheduling is still a challenge with lifeguards because they want a lot of time off work. She thanked the YMCA and “At Work” employment agency for their help in locating and certifying lifeguards. She said the City’s lifeguards will receive training on a weekly basis similar to an in-service type of training. The Mayor expressed his appreciation for the YMCA and “At Work” for their help. He said the rumor that the pool at Black Knight has structural damage is not true. Ms. Baker said the reason the pool at Black Knight will not open this season is not related to the pool, it is related to staffing issues. She said a work force of approximately ten employees would be needed to work at that pool. Councilwoman Bullock attended the graduation for the last class of fifth graders who graduated from Beckley Stratton Elementary today. Beginning next school year, the students will attend the new Beckley Stratton Elementary.

NEW BUSINESS: Regarding streets in the City that have legitimate speeding issues, Councilman Dunlap said there is a

precedent for a member of the street to petition and gain support from residents on their street. If the residents had unanimous support on the street, it would be possible for the BPD to consider decreasing the speed limit on that particular street. He asked if the BPD could consider decreasing the speed limit from 25 mph to 15 mph. He said this has happened on some other streets in the Bowling District. Chief Bailey told Councilman Dunlap that they could discuss this. The Mayor said he does not think it is a good idea. He said it is a long straight street with two stop signs. The speed limit could be decreased to 15 mph and people are still going to drive 20 – 25 mph. Councilwoman Bullock asked Chief Bailey if he had an update on arrests regarding the recent shootings. He said the BPD is waiting for information and arrests will be forthcoming.

Councilman Reedy asked for a workshop for Council to discuss with Chief Bailey a new starting salary and retention tools for the BPD. The Mayor said he agrees that a workshop is needed. He and Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump met with Chief Bailey and Deputy Chief Allard this morning regarding this issue. The Mayor

said it will require Council's vote.

Councilman Reedy said he would like to see the investment the City makes by sending City Police Officers to the police academy be retained, rather than seeing the officers leave as soon as they can for a higher paying position with the Raleigh County Sheriff's Office or as a State Police Officer. The Mayor said this is a matter of concern. He said during their meeting this morning Chief Bailey shared a number of anticipated departures from the BPD. The Mayor said this issue needs to be addressed quickly. The Mayor said that Councilwoman Hunter's grandson, Cameron Manns is a great pitcher for Shady Spring High School. They are playing in a regional tournament at Pike View High School this evening which is why Councilwoman Hunter isn't here.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: The Mayor announced if calling in by phone dial *3 to raise your hand. If connected by computer: Click the hand icon" on your Participants panel. Mr. Fredrick Brown addressed Council. He said he purchased a house at 1315 "F" Street. He said he does not have a sewer line to his residence. He said that he contacted the Beckley Sanitary Board (BSB) and talked

to John Peplowski. He received a bill from Jeremiah Johnson, BSB General Manager, showing the cost of \$4,164.80 to gain sewer access. The Mayor suggested that Mr. Brown attend the BSB's regular monthly meeting which is the second Wednesday of each month. The Mayor said the Sanitary Board members are present during the meetings and he is likely to get a resolution during a BSB meeting. The Mayor invited him to join the BSB's next meeting on June 14th at 9:00 a.m. on Heber Street. Councilman Dunlap paraphrased saying there was a sewer upgrade on "F" Street, and it ended about sixty yards before it reached Mr. Brown's house. He said the BSB didn't finish the upgrade thinking that home may be demolished rather than upgraded. Mr. Brown said that is correct. Mr. Brown said when the project was taking place, he made the BSB aware of that. He said nothing was done yet a lot of money was allocated to the BSB. He said parts of the project were not completed and in 2016 the BSB had to return to the area to reconnect residents to the sewer system. The Mayor said Jeremiah Johnson and engineers will be at that meeting and encouraged him to

attend. Mr. Bobby Hall said he is asking the City to support an event on July 29th from 11 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Maxwell Hill Community Center. The event is to assist people with addiction issues.

Danielle Stewart gave Mr. Hall the contact information of organizations/people that can assist him.

The Mayor encouraged Mr. Hall to send his office a letter explaining his request.

Tina Pannell, President of Juneteenth, said the Juneteenth Festival will be June 16th. She said kids can sign up on the app and bowl at Leisure Lanes no cost. June 17th from 9 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. T-shirts will be sold at the Hunter Cemetery. The walk will be from 10 am. – 11:00 am.

After the walk they will go to the New River Park and continue festivities there.

Danielle Stewart addressed Council. She said once a ninety-day treatment period for addiction is completed, bus tickets are being given to individuals who have completed the program. She said this is one of many stories adding to the panhandling problem in the City. She is working with others to formulate a comprehensive solution to help those in need, transport individuals needing transportation, and identify and remove

opportunists in the community. This plan will require support from multiple organizations including the City. She anticipates having a draft plan by the end of the week. She is requesting City Council schedule a workshop to discuss this at its earliest convenience. The Mayor said a workshop will be scheduled and he would appreciate Danielle attending with more details. Raleigh County Community Action pledged a certain dollar amount to help, and the City will be asked to pledge money to help. There were no public comments online. With there being no further comments, Council unanimously approved a motion to adjourn which was made by Councilman Dunlap and seconded by Councilwoman Bullock. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Mayor

Recorder-Treasurer