

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON  
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED  
AT 6:30 PM ON JUNE 13, 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, Sherrie Hunter, Cody Reedy, Tom Sopher, and Kevin Price. The following Department Heads were present: Director of IT Bill Kelly, Assistant Director of IT Amy Evans, Anthony Martin (IT), Chief Wills of 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.

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 23, 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 Councilman Price. Council dispensed with the reading of minutes from Council's Workshop dated June 5, 2023, copies of which had been distributed to each member. Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilwoman

Hunter and seconded by Councilman

Dunlap.

Next Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump

shared the FY 2022-2023 Budget

Revision with Council. Mr. Trump said

the City underestimates its revenues (as

an attempt to ensure the budget works).

The overage in the revenues is distributed

among the many departments to make

sure all the debts are cleared, and he

hopes to have excessive funds at the end

of each fiscal year. Mr. Trump asked if

anyone had any questions. Councilman

Sopher said it is nice to see an increase in

the City's revenue. Mr. Trump agreed.

With no further questions the Budget

Revision was unanimously approved on a

motion made by Councilman Price and

seconded by Councilman Sopher. The

Budget Revision will be submitted to the

WV State Auditor and is incorporated

into these minutes.

Next, Council unanimously approved Tina Pannell serving a three-year term on the Human Rights Commission (HRC) on a motion by Councilwoman Hunter and seconded by Councilwoman Bullock.

Ms. Pannell's term on the HRC expires June 30, 2026.

Next, Council unanimously approved the reappointment of Virginia Jefferson serving a five-year term on the Beckley Housing Authority (BHA) on a motion by Councilwoman Bullock and seconded by Councilman Sopher. Ms. Jefferson's term on the BHA expires June 30, 2028.

Council unanimously approved the reappointment of Councilman Price serving a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the Emergency Operating Center (EOC) on a motion by Councilwoman Bullock and seconded by Councilman Sopher. Councilman Price's term on the EOC expires June 30, 2026.

OLD BUSINESS: Councilman Price asked if packets containing information regarding the City Manager form of government are completed. Mr. File said information from the Municipal League is being requested. The Mayor said the packets are not complete.

Next, Councilwoman Hunter thanked those who attended the Landfill & Recycling Center tour conducted on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Sopher asked when a Workshop can take place regarding Stiffler Drive. The Mayor said the residents of Stiffler Drive were provided a copy of the cost analysis report from Thrasher. Some of the information outlined in that report included Stormwater issues and should be addressed first. This area is in the City's MS4 watershed. The Mayor spoke to Jeremiah Johnson (General Manager of the Beckley Sanitary Board) regarding this issue who said he will move the item up on the list of projects. Councilman Sopher said the residents of Stiffler are glad to hear that they are on the list.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilwoman Bullock said Senate Bill 772 was passed and provides State funding to cover the cost of tearing down depilated structures. She asked if the Piney Oaks, Unity Hall on Terrill Street would be covered under this Senate Bill. The Mayor said he thinks Reverend Martin was given the property by the Raleigh County Board of Education with the understanding that Mr. Martin would create a community center

there. The Mayor said he was told that Reverend Martin moved out of town and appointed someone to maintain the building and it did not happen. The Mayor said the City attempts to demolish approximately twenty structures per year (most structures being residential) through CBDG grant money. Chief Code Enforcement Officer Morgan said the City applied for the DEP grant, but the City was not awarded the grant this fiscal year. Recorder-Treasurer Trump said he thinks Senate Bill 772 is intended for residential structures and would not apply to Piney Oaks. Councilwoman Bullock said when the auditor was here, she was told the application process needs to take place and that this location would probably qualify. Mr. Trump said he closely read the bill and is not disputing what the auditor said. Councilwoman Bullock thanked the BPD, Code Enforcement Office, and Board of Public Works for all they do. Councilwoman Hunter will invite students in the School Government Club at Woodrow Wilson High School, the senior class president, the student body president, and Bella Staples, a star performer on the Woodrow Wilson track team (shot put and discus),

to a Council meeting before school starts.

Councilman Dunlap welcomed Tina Pannell to the Human Rights Commission and reminded everyone about the upcoming Juneteenth events. He said if more information regarding dates and times of the events is needed, visit his Facebook page.

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. Mary West voiced her concerns regarding drivers speeding on Larew Avenue and asked the City to assist in beautifying Larew Avenue. A petition from Mary West, a letter from Greg Blackburn and four pages of signatures supporting the petition to reduce the speed limit on Larew Avenue from 25 mph to 15 mph are incorporated into these minutes. Councilwoman Bullock asked Ms. West if her goal is to get the speed limit decreased to 15 mph. Ms. West said yes.

Mr. Greg Blackburn spoke saying that he is not a resident of Beckley. However, he and his wife provide lawncare services to residents on Larew Avenue and he suggested police cameras be placed on this street to observe drivers speeding on Larew Avenue. Frank Williams signed up to speak. However, when he was given the opportunity for public comments, he said that he will pass and discuss his concerns with City Attorney Mr. File after the meeting.

Next, Council unanimously voted to go into Executive Session Code pursuant to WV Code 6-9A-4(B) 2A on a motion by Councilman Reedy and seconded by Councilwoman Hunter. Mr. File said that no decisions will be made, and no votes will be taken during the Executive Session. Council entered Executive Session at 6:58 p.m. At 7:26 p.m.

Council unanimously voted to come out of Executive Session on a motion by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilwoman Bullock. At 7:27 p.m. Council unanimously voted to resume regular session on a motion by Councilwoman Hunter and seconded by Councilman Price. The Mayor stated no votes were taken and no decisions were

made in Executive Session. With there being no further comments, Council unanimously approved adjourning the meeting on a motion by Councilwoman Hunter and seconded by Councilman Sopher. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

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Mayor

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Recorder-Treasurer