

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON  
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED  
AT 6:30 PM ON OCTOBER 10, 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, Kevin Price, Robert Dunlap, Bob Canter, Tom Sopher, Sherrie Hunter, and Cody Reedy. The following City employees were present: Director of IT Bill Kelly, Assistant Director of IT Amy Evans, Anthony Martin (IT), Chief Ed Wills of BFD, Director of Board of Public Works (BPW) Pam Frey, Chief Code Enforcement Officer Donald Morgan, Chief of BPD Dean Bailey, Director of Beckley Events Jill Moorefield, 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 September 26, 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 Workshop dated September 28, 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  
Hunter.

Next, Mr. File explained that tonight is  
the second reading of the ordinance  
requested by the West Virginia Land  
Trust annexing into the City of Beckley  
613.24 acres located in the Piney Creek  
Preserve. He summarized and read by  
title an Ordinance Annexing To The City  
Of Beckley 613.24 Acres, More Or Less,  
Located In The Piney Creek Preserve  
Adjacent To The City Of Beckley In  
Town District, Raleigh County, West  
Virginia. Mr. File opened the public  
hearing. There were no questions or  
comments. Mr. File closed the public  
hearing. Council unanimously approved  
the ordinance on a motion by Councilman  
Price and seconded by Councilwoman  
Bullock.

The Mayor said a ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the Piney Creek Preserve Waterfall Trail is Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. A copy of the ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, Commanding Officer for the Beckley region of the Salvation Army Captain Liz Blusiewics reported on the construction status of their new facility on Robert C. Byrd Drive. She said the Salvation Army's new building on Robert C. Byrd is projected to have its grand opening in February 2024. She said this will be the home of the first ever Boys and Girls Club in Raleigh County. She said the Salvation Army is looking for mentors to help the youth it will sponsor. She thanked the City for its support. She said every dollar given to the Salvation

Army in this area stays in this area. She asked for the City's continued support and requested an additional annual amount of \$15,000.00 for the Boys and Girls Club be added to the City's budget as a line item. The Mayor said this will require action by Council and will be an Agenda item at the next Council meeting on October 24, 2023. Councilman Dunlap thanked Captain Liz for all she does for this community and said he appreciates the energy she brings to this community. Councilman Sopher also thanked Captain Liz and said the first time he met her he knew the Salvation Army in this area is in good hands.

Next, the Mayor asked Heather Lilly with the New River Transit Authority (NRTA) if she had any additional comments she wanted to make after addressing Council at its last meeting. She said she was at the meeting to answer any questions Council may have. The Mayor said the NRTA is a wonderful service, and he supports the work it does. The membership fee has been \$38,500.00 for the last forty years and understands why the NRTA is requesting an additional \$38,500.00.

Councilman Sopher asked Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump if the City could

afford the additional financial support in the amount of \$38,500.00 that the NRTA is requesting. Mr. Trump said the City can afford it and may have other means in its pipeline to help. The Mayor said Opioid Settlement money may be able to be applied to this, but the City is not certain at this point. The Mayor asked if there were any other questions or comments from Council regarding this. With there being no questions, Council unanimously approved the motion made by Councilman at Large Reedy and seconded by Councilwoman at Large Hunter to support the NRTA in the additional amount of \$38,500.00. The total dollar amount of support from the City to the NRTA is \$77,000.00.

OLD BUSINESS: The Mayor said Chili Night was great. He thanked Director of Beckley Events Jill Moorefield and all of the people, including City employees who helped make Chili Night a success.

Councilwoman Bullock congratulated Councilman Dunlap for being one of the honorees and a recipient of an Incite Hope Award presented by AWAY (Advocating a Way for Adults and Youth).

Councilman Dunlap thanked her and said he accepted it on behalf of the late Kyle

Lusk and himself. Kyle Lusk was an attorney who also helped women of domestic violence by offering his legal representation pro bono. He said he was honored but it pales in comparison to what the ladies at AWAY do on a daily basis. He also thanked the law enforcement members of the community. The Mayor congratulated Councilman Dunlap.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilwoman Hunter thanked all involved who helped with the Litter Sweep on September 30<sup>th</sup>. She said there will be another Litter Sweep on Dry Hill Road next week. Councilwoman Hunter said she received a phone call requesting that Truman Avenue and Missouri Avenue be put on the 2024 list of streets to be paved. Director of BPW Pam Frey said that Missouri Avenue is on the list for next paving season. The Mayor asked if any member of Council had any other new business. With there being none, the Mayor reiterated that the City along with Raleigh County will observe trick-or-treat on Halloween, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5-7 p.m.

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 participant’s panel. Mary West voiced her concerns regarding drivers speeding on Larew Avenue. She said when drivers are leaving Larew Avenue making a left turn onto Eisenhower Drive a green arrow light signals drivers when to make the turn. However, drivers on the other side of the road making a right turn do not have an arrow at that time and drivers on that side of the road are turning at the same time. She suggested that someone from the City contact the DOH to put a sign up on that side of the road informing drivers they are to make a right hand turn only when they have a green arrow. The Mayor said the lead green light does have the right of way there. The Mayor said the City has had numerous conversations regarding speed humps/bumps for Larew Avenue. The City has asked the DOH to conduct a traffic count and speed study. The City has not received the results. The Mayor said the City’s traffic control map would likely have to be amended if speed humps/bumps are deemed by Council to be appropriate. Mr. Mosley said speeding is an issue on many streets in Beckley. He asked for the speed limit on Hull



Street be reduced to 15 mph and wants to know what the next step is in getting an ordinance to make this possible.

The Mayor assured Mr. Mosely that this is under discussion. Councilman Sopher suggested that the City consider whether the speed limit on numerous streets need to be decreased. The Mayor said the City wide twenty-five mph speed limit has been in place for quite some time. The Mayor said the City will take this into consideration.

With there being no further comments, Council unanimously approved adjourning the meeting on a motion by Councilman Sopher and seconded by Councilman Canter. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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Mayor  
Recorder-Treasurer