

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 6:30 PM ON NOVEMBER 14, 2023, IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIA WEB-X.

PRESENT: Mayor Robert R. Rappold, Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump, and Secretary Susan Miller. Council Members: Janine Bullock, Kevin Price, Robert Dunlap, Bob Canter, Sherrie Hunter, Tom Sopher, and Cody Reedy. The following City employees were present: Director of IT Bill Kelly, Assistant Director Amy Evans (IT), Chief Ed Wills of BFD, Board of Public Works Director Pam Frey, Chief Code Enforcement Officer Donald Morgan, Chief of BPD Dean Bailey, and Director of Parks & Recreation Leslie Baker.

ABSENT: City Attorney Bill File.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:32 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 Workshop dated October 16, 2023, copies of which had been distributed to each member. Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilman Canter and seconded by Councilwoman Bullock.

Council dispensed with the reading of minutes from the regular Council meeting dated October 24, 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 Price.

Council dispensed with the reading of minutes from the Workshop dated November 7, 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.

Next, the Mayor opened one sealed bid from Lewis Nissan for two extended cab four-wheel drive trucks. One truck will be utilized by Parks and Recreation and the other by the Board of Public Works. The bid was in the amount of \$36,728.93 for one Nissan Frontier extended cab truck for a total of \$73,457.86 for two Nissan Frontier trucks. The bid will be reviewed for possible award at a future Council meeting by Councilwoman at Large Hunter, Councilman at Large Reedy, Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump, Director of Board of Public Works Pam Frey, and Director of Parks and Recreation Leslie Baker. The bid is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, the Mayor opened one sealed bid from Lewis Nissan for two SUVs for the Beckley Fire Department. The bid was in the amount of \$31,974.42 for one Nissan Rogue SUV for a total of \$63,948.84 for two Nissan Rogue SUVs. Mr. Trump said one of the SUVs will be paid for by fire levy funds. The bid will be reviewed for possible award at a future Council meeting by Councilwoman at Large Hunter, Councilman at Large Reedy, Mr. Trump, and Chief Wills of the Beckley Fire Department. The Mayor announced that after forty-two years at the Beckley Fire Department Chief Wills will be retiring on December 11, 2023. The Mayor thanked him for his years of dedication to the City and the Beckley Fire Department. The bid is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump read the following resolution by title: "Resolution Authorizing City Of Beckley To Enter Into A Contract With Motorola Solutions, Inc. (Motorola) Regarding Remote Flex Server Migration". Mr. Trump explained that the resolution authorizes the City to enter into a five-year contract with Motorola . Director of IT Bill Kelly said this is a combined county wide data system shared by the county. Mr. Kelly said the City has been utilizing this service for the last five years and this is a maintenance contract which includes an upgrade in the third year.

The resolution was unanimously approved by Council on a motion by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilman Sopher. The resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next on the Agenda was consideration for a contribution to the Beckley Area Foundation to help build a restricted fund to provide perpetual care for the American Legion Cemetery in our community. The Mayor thanked Councilwoman at Large Hunter and Ron Hedrick with the American Legion Cemetery for the ceremony held Saturday honoring veterans. The Mayor shared names of veterans in his family and veterans in City Attorney Mr. File's family. Council members shared the names of veterans in their family as well. Monday the Mayor greeted veterans at the Golden Corral where the owner Eddie Torrico provided fifteen hundred free meals to veterans. The Mayor said per capita, West Virginia has more men and women in the United States Military than any other state in the union. The Mayor said the Raleigh County Commission authorized a donation of three thousand dollars toward building a perpetual care fund for the American Legion Cemetery. The Mayor said the amount the City contributes along with what the County contributes will help build a restricted fund at the Beckley Area Foundation. Once the fund reaches ten thousand dollars it becomes a permanent fund and the income earned is used to provide perpetual care for the American Legion Cemetery. The Mayor said he and City Attorney Mr. File discussed the amount of \$3,000.00 that is listed on the Agenda and City Council can increase that amount if it desires. Councilman Price asked if the amount needed to make it a permanent fund at BAF is ten thousand dollars. The Mayor said yes. The County has contributed three thousand towards the ten-thousand-dollar amount needed. Councilman Price made a motion for the City to contribute seven thousand dollars toward this fund. Councilman Dunlap seconded the motion. Councilwoman at Large Hunter recused herself from the vote. The Mayor asked Recorder-Treasurer Mr. Trump if the City can afford this amount. Mr. Trump said yes. Councilman Price made a motion to amend the amount listed on the Agenda from \$3K to \$7K. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dunlap. The amendment was unanimously approved by Council. Councilman Price then made a motion for the City to contribute \$7K to the perpetual care fund to maintain the American Legion Cemetery. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dunlap and unanimously approved by Council.

OLD BUSINESS: Councilwoman Hunter asked if the City could contact the WV Department of Highways to conduct a traffic study to see if a school zone or traffic signal could be installed in front of Woodrow Wilson High School. Mr. Trump said that he would contact the WV DOH. The Mayor said he thinks a traffic signal would help this area. Councilman Sopher said that there needs to be a school zone on Pinewood Drive beside the playground there. Chief Bailey said he would look into this. The Mayor said a Workshop is scheduled for Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. The tentative Agenda items are City Manager Form of Government, discussion regarding the Opioid Fund and the lease with Fruits of Labor. Dr. Copenhaver, President of New River Community Technical College will be a guest speaker. Councilwoman Bullock congratulated Chief Wills on his retirement. She also congratulated Jason Lockhart for his role in The West Virginia Story play at the Raleigh Playhouse Theatre. Councilwoman Bullock asked if a representative could be at the Workshop to explain regulations regarding the Opioid Fund. The Mayor said it may be in the amount of

approximately \$4M. Mr. Trump said any expenditures from this account requires Council's approval. Mr. Trump said a specific account just for this money was opened awaiting the deposit. Mr. Trump said that he has read some guidelines which are broad at this point and will likely become more specific.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilwoman Hunter said the Wonderland of Trees live auction with United Way is this Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Councilwoman Bullock thanked Pam Frey and the staff at the Board of Public Works for all they do.

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 complained about drivers speeding on Larew Avenue and trees that need cut down and removed. Michael Enrique Smith spoke regarding water coming up from the ground where he lives on Woodlawn Avenue and the sidewalk system in the City. Ron Hedrick thanked Council and the City for its support for the perpetual care fund to maintain the American Legion Cemetery.

With there being no further comments, Council unanimously approved adjourning the meeting on a motion by Councilwoman Bullock and seconded by Councilman Dunlap. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

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Mayor

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Recorder-Treasurer