A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 6:30 PM ON FEBRUARY 9, 2021 IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE BECKLEY CITY HALL.

THOSE PRESENT: Mayor Robert R. Rappold, Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump, City Attorney, Mr. File, Secretary Susan Miller, Bill Kelly, Director of IT, Amy Evans, Assistant Director of IT.

THOSE PRESENT BY WEBEX: Council Members: Tom Sopher, Robert Dunlap, Kevin Price, Janine Bullock, Sherrie Hunter, Michael Reedy, Police Chief Lonnie Christian, Director of Board of Public Works Jerry Stump, Chief of Fire Department, Ed Wills.

THOSE ABSENT: Robert Cannon and Councilman Bob Canter.

The Mayor called the meeting to order. Because of the ongoing concerns of the coronavirus, and the health and safety of the Council Members, the City of Beckley employees, as well as the public, this regular Council meeting for February 9, 2021 is being held via WebEx Event. The public will have access to join the meeting either 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 reminded the public that they will be able to make comments when invited to do so by either pressing *3 on their phone and their call will be taken in the order it is received, or if viewing by computer or tablet, raising your hand by right clicking your name and choosing "Raise Hand".

Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the regular Council meeting dated January 26, 2021, copies of which were distributed to each member. Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilman Sopher and seconded by Councilman Price.

The Mayor announced the City received only one bid for lawncare. The Mayor opened the bid from Camp Creek Mountain Maintenance. Their bid is for the total of $67,779.36 which is $1,882.76 per week, and they will begin work on March 1, 2021. Billie Trump and Council members at large, Sherrie Hunter and Michael Reedy will review the bid prior to it being presented to City Council for consideration.

OLD BUSINESS: The Mayor congratulated Mr. Bill Kelly, Director of IT who has begun his forty-first year of service with the City. The Mayor also congratulated Jerry Stump who has forty-three years of service with the City. The Mayor complimented Leslie Baker for various accomplishments with Black Knight and for the new exhibit at the Youth Museum (Thomas the Train Explore the Rails). The Mayor announced that Black Knight is now open for carryout lunches. He also complimented Councilman Robert Dunlap and Dr. Kristi Dumas for the Dress for Success ribbon cutting this past week.

Councilman Price asked if there is an update on locating a person to do sign language for the web-x council meetings for the hearing impaired. The Mayor said that he will revisit emails from Kelly Elkins regarding this and discuss it with Councilman Price.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilwoman Hunter said that February 11, 2021 is the National Recognition for 211, United Ways. Our local United Way representative is Marsha Shonk. They handled 3,600 calls for our community in 2020. Councilwoman Hunter also shared that Mountaineer Food Bank will be placing an Ameri-Core Vista volunteer in Beckley beginning March 2021 through March 2022. This is a paid volunteer through the Corporation for National & Community Service that will help the Veteran's Table Program. Their office will be at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building.

Councilman Dunlap, Councilwoman Bullock and Councilwoman Hunter have been working to establish a warming station for the City. They will work with Pastor Ballard Johnson from Ebenezer Baptist Church on this project.

Councilman Sopher read an article from The Register Herald Sunday, February 7, 2021. He suggested the City support Mick Bate's stand by writing a Resolution, for Council's approval, to help get the Public Service Commission involved in the regulation of broad band internet service in WV. Councilman Sopher also encourages other cities and counties to do the same. Mayor asked Councilman Sopher to write a rough draft resolution for Council's approval. Mayor stated that the City has been briefed by Jason Roberts, Region I and John Tuggle Region 4 regarding the expansion of broad band and agrees that this is worthwhile for further review by Council.

Councilwoman Hunter congratulated Keyser, WV for adopting an Ordinance providing protection to the LGBT community. The Mayor said this makes 13 cities in WV providing protection to the LGBT community, and he is proud that Beckley is one of the 13 cities.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: With no public comments, the Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Councilman Price made the motion and Councilwoman Bullock seconded.

_____ _____

Mayor Recorder-Treasurer