A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 6:30 PM ON FEBRUARY 23, 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 and Michael Reedy, Police Chief Lonnie Christian, Donnie Morgan with Code Enforcement, Director of Board of Public Works Jerry Stump, and Chief of Fire Department, Ed Wills.

THOSE ABSENT: Robert Cannon.

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 23, 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 February 9, 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 Councilwoman Hunter.

The Mayor announced the award of bid for weekly lawncare services to Camp Creek Mountain Maintenance, Inc. The weekly amount is $1,882.76 with work beginning March 1, 2021 and continuing through November 2021. The total is $67,779.36. Councilwoman Hunter made a motion to accept the bid and Councilman Reedy seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote. NOTICE TO BIDDERS advertised in The Register Herald and the bid from Camp Creek Mountain Maintenance, Inc. are incorporated into these minutes.

A RESOLUTION TO PERMIT OPEN BURNING OF VEGETATION was read by title by the City Attorney, and he also presented to Council pertinent parts of the resolution. Councilman Price made a motion to accept the Resolution and Councilwoman Bullock seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote. The resolution is incorporated into these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS: The Mayor complimented Councilwomen Bullock and Hunter and any other Council member(s) that may have been involved in the coordination of opening the warming center.

The Mayor announced that there will be a workshop Monday, March 1, 2021 at 5:05 p.m. The proposed budget will be discussed. He also stated that we will have our Region 1 Infrastructure Priority Listing for Council's review. We will also have the AC Youth Corps. matter to discuss. The Mayor encouraged each Council member to read the memo from Leslie Baker, Director of Parks and Recreation describing her thoughts on the value of this program. Council will discuss a possible contribution to the AC Youth Corps. program. Councilwoman Hunter thanked Chief Wills for having a firefighter present during the two nights the warming station was open. Councilwoman Bullock thanked all involved for their help in getting the warming center up and running in such a short amount of time. Councilwoman Hunter stated that Trena Dacal was wonderful, as was Ron Hedrick who found the location and thanked Pastor Mitch. Four people came in the first night, one of which asked to be taken to a drug rehab facility. The second night there were eight people. She told the Council members and Chief Wills how much it meant to be able to offer this service.

Councilman Reedy asked the Mayor if he had an update on the New River Drive project. The Mayor does not have a projected time for completion but as the weather cooperates it will contribute to more work getting done on this project. Jerry Stump added that Nick Ayers, the Engineer on this project, told him today that the workers were doing some back filling and getting the by-pass pumps going. Mr. Stump stated that there is still a considerable amount of water present. Consistent warmer temperatures are needed for the grout work.

Councilman Reedy asked the Mayor if he had any updates on the potential storm water control project on Robert C. Byrd Drive. The Mayor stated that he does not have an update but the D.O.H. is aware of the situation and is giving some attention to it. The Mayor stated that he isn't aware of any immediate movement from the legislature or D.O.H. at this point.

Councilman Sopher asked Amy Evans with the IT Dept. how many guests are logged on to the meeting. Ms. Evans stated that there are nine attendees and fifteen Council Members and Department Heads.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilwoman Bullock stated that with it being Black History Month, she wants to thank Bishop Fred T. Simms & Heart of God Ministries for all they do for the City. She also thanked Quincy Madison and retired educators with the Black Educators Totally United Yes group for their contributions to our community. The Mayor stated that Beckley shares a rich history that coincides with Black History Month and thanked Councilwoman Bullock for bringing this up. Councilwoman Bullock thanked the Mayor for the article in the paper in support of Black History Month. Mr. File spoke highly of Councilwoman Bullock's Dad, Chester Bullock, who was a Social Worker for the WV Dept. of Welfare. Mr. File complimented his work with older people. Councilman Sopher stated that the Historical Society worked with the WV DOH to make sure the Bill Withers sign got erected. The Mayor commented that it looks wonderful and gives people an opportunity to pull off the road and read about the history of Bill Withers.

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

Councilman Reedy made the motion to adjourn and Councilwoman Price seconded it.

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Mayor Recorder-Treasurer