A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 6:30 PM ON NOVEMBER 28, 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, Tom Sopher, Sherrie Hunter, and Cody Reedy. Councilman Bob Canter joined remotely. 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.

The Mayor announced that Councilman Bob Canter joined the meeting remotely as he was traveling and unable to join in Council Chambers.

Council dispensed with the reading of minutes from the City Council meeting dated November 14, 2023, copies of which had been distributed to each member. Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilman Dunlap.

Next, the Mayor stated the City received timely three responses to the Request for Proposal for the 2024 Comprehensive Plan. The Mayor opened each proposal and stated the amount listed on each proposal will not be disclosed during this meeting. A committee will review each proposal to ensure each meets all the specifications requested by the City. The first one was from Destination by Design. The second one was from Benchmark, and the third one was from W.G.I. Consulting Services. Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump said the committee (including the two Council persons at Large) will review the proposals for possible award at a future Council meeting.

Next was the award of bid for the purchase of two extended cab 4-wheel drive trucks. The only bid received was from Lewis Automotive. Councilwoman at Large Hunter said one truck will be used by the Parks & Recreation Department and the other will be used by the Board of Public Works. The price for one 2024 Frontier extended cab 4x4 truck is $36,728.93 and the City is purchasing two trucks. The bid was incorporated into the November 14, 2023, minutes. The bid was unanimously approved by Council on a motion by Councilwoman at Large Hunter and seconded by Councilman at Large Reedy.

Councilman Dunlap asked why other automobile dealerships would not have been able to place a bid. He asked if it is because the other dealerships are not in the City limits. The Mayor said a dealership is not required to be located in the City to be eligible to submit a bid. The Mayor said Stephens Auto in Boone County has submitted bids in the past. He said Lewis Automotive is located inside the City limits, and it is the only dealership that submitted a bid.

Next was the award of bid for the purchase of two SUV's for Code Enforcement and the Beckley Fire Department. The fire levy will cover the cost of the vehicle purchased for the Fire Department. The only bid was from Lewis Automotive in the amount of $31,974.42 for one 2023, Nissan Rogue. (The City is purchasing two vehicles.)

The bid was incorporated into the November 14, 2023, minutes. The bid was unanimously approved by Council on a motion by Councilman at Large Reedy and seconded by Councilwoman at Large Hunter.

Next, Mr. File read the resolution titled "Resolution For A One Time Pay Supplement For All Full-Time City Employees". The Mayor said that this pay supplement is for all full-time City employees and excludes the Mayor and City Council. Mr. File read the resolution in its entirety. The Mayor said that this is something the City is happy to do when it can afford it. It is not a Christmas bonus. It is a pay supplement. The resolution was unanimously approved by Council on a motion made by Councilman Pirce and seconded by Councilman at Large Reedy. The resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, Mr. File said tonight is the first reading of an ordinance that establishes a City Manager-Mayor form of government. If this ordinance is passed on first reading tonight, the second reading and public hearing will be during the December 12th Council meeting. Mr. File said the press has covered this topic very well and he thinks the public has been well informed. He said this has been the subject of several Workshops and thinks Council has had a very good opportunity to review and understand this topic. The final Workshop regarding this topic was last night. Mr. File read by title An Ordinance Establishing A City Manager-Mayor Plan Of Municipal Government And Amending The Code Of The City Of Beckley, As Amended, By Adding Thereto A New Article, Designated "Article IX. Manager-Mayor Plan" In Chapter Two, Part Two, The City Code, By Amending "Section 2.2. Compensation Of Officers And Employees; Allowing Time Off" In Article I, Chapter Two, Part Two Of The Code; All Relating To Providing For The Qualifications, Duties, And Responsibilities Of The City Manager, Allowing For The Appointment And Removal Of A City Manager, Providing Transition Rules From Strong-Mayor Plan To A Manager-Mayor Plan of Municipal Government, Requiring The City Manager And Mayor To Be Bonded, Setting Compensation Of The Office Of Mayor And Members Of Council Under A Manager-Mayor Form Of Municipal Government, And Other Matters Related Thereto. Mr. File said Mr. Mark Matkovich has been very instrumental in preparing this ordinance. Mr. Matkovich is the former City Attorney and now practices in Charleston. Mr. Matkovich is Council for the WV Municipal League. Mr. File expressed his appreciation to Mr. Matkovich for his assistance. The Mayor thanked Mr. Matkovich for all his help. Councilman Sopher made a motion to amend the ordinance to increase the pay for the Mayor's salary increasing it from $9,600.00 annually to $12,000.00 annually. The Mayor stated that now is the time to make any amendments to the ordinance. Mr. File agreed. Councilman Price seconded the motion to amend the ordinance and Council unanimously approved the motion to amend the ordinance. Councilman Dunlap said he spoke to the HR staff member regarding health insurance. He said Council members are not eligible to be on the health insurance plan through the City because Council members are designated as non-full-time employees. He asked if the new Mayor, at their own expense, would be eligible to receive the health insurance benefits although he has read the City's policy and Council can make it available to the Mayor and to Council members if they so choose. Councilman Dunlap said that this may help those interested in running for these positions if health insurance was made available at their discretion. The Mayor said more discussion with the HR department and the insurance company would need to take place. The health insurance company may have a requirement of a minimum number of hours worked per week for eligibility. Councilman Dunlap said he was told by HR that this topic would need addressed at the time of renewal with the health insurance company. Mr. Trump said he thinks renewal of the health insurance plan is in September. Mr. File said, if this ordinance is passed, it would go into effect at the beginning of the next term, which is July 1, 2024. Any change in benefits for the Mayor and Council must be approved by July 1 in order to be in effect next term. Mr. File said the ordinance as

presented makes the position of Mayor a part time employee. The Mayor asked if there was any other discussion regarding the motion to amend the ordinance regarding increasing the Mayor's salary. With there being no further discussion on the motion to amend, the Mayor asked for a motion to pass the ordinance as amended on first reading. Council passed on first reading the ordinance as amended on a motion by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilman Sopher. Councilwoman Bullock, Councilwoman at Large Hunter, and Councilman at Large Reedy opposed the ordinance. The Mayor asked Council members in opposition to the ordinance to indicate their vote by a show of hand. Councilwoman Bullock, Councilwoman at Large Hunter, and Councilman at Large Reedy all raised their hand. The ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, Mr. File said the first reading of the ordinance reducing the speed limit on Hull Street is tonight and, if passed, the second reading and public hearing will be during the December 12th Council meeting. Mr. File explained that this ordinance will reduce the speed limit from 25 mph to 15 mph on Hull Street. Mr. File read by title An Ordinance To Provide For The Amendment To The Traffic Control Map-Other Than Parking-And Traffic Control File Amending The Speed Limit On Hull Street To Fifteen (15) Miles Per Hour. The Mayor said this has been under study by Chief Bailey and the Beckley Police Department and under discussion by the City for some time now. He said this is a narrow street with a number of curves and hills. The ordinance was unanimously approved by Council on a motion made by Councilman Sopher and seconded by Councilman Price. The ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS: The Mayor said the second Council meeting in December is the 26th, the day after Christmas and asked Council to be thinking about whether they want to cancel that meeting. He said the Christmas parade is Saturday, December 2nd at 11:00 and encouraged everyone to attend. The Mayor said Coal Town Christmas is also this weekend at The Exhibition Coal Mine. Councilwoman Hunter asked why speed humps/bumps cannot be installed on Larew Avenue. The Mayor said there is opposition from the Board of Public Works and the Police Department. The traffic study the WV Department of Highways conducted found that there is very little speeding on Larew Avenue. The Mayor said it needs further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilwoman at Large Hunter thanked Director of Board of Public Works Pam Frey for working with the Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority on a calendar for the recycling schedule. Pam said the flyers will be delivered next week.

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.

Tom Mosley thanked the Mayor, Mr. Trump, Chief Bailey, Mr. File, and Council for passing on first reading the ordinance lowering the speed limit to 15 mph on Hull Street. Michael Smith made suggestions to improve the City. He asked for a list of accomplishments Council has achieved since 2016. Councilman Dunlap told Mr. Smith that he can learn more about City Council's past meetings and accomplishments on the City's website and The Register Herald. He said the Rotary Club also receives annual updates from the Mayor. Danielle Stewart voiced her concerns about the City Manager Form of Government by saying the people are not being given a choice regarding adopting a City Manager Form of Government and she thinks the City Manager should be required to live in the City limits. Tony Martin voiced his concerns regarding the City Manager Form of Government and feels as though the citizens of Beckley are not being given a voice. Christina Baisden spoke regarding her support for Larew Avenue and the need for transparency within the City. Dustin Potter spoke in favor of Back Roads of Appalachia. Ron Booker joined the meeting virtually. He asked for clarification on the four Council members voting in favor of the CMFG because he did not see Councilman Canter. The Mayor explained that Councilman Canter joined the meeting virtually and voted in favor of the ordinance. 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 7:05 p.m.

_____ _____

Mayor Recorder-Treasurer