A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 6:30 PM ON JANUARY 23, 2024, 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, Bob Canter, and Cody Reedy. The following City employees were present: Director of IT Bill Kelly, Assistant Director of IT Amy Evans, Anthony Martin (IT), Chief Coughlin 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 asked if any public comments are made to please observe the time reserved at the end of the meeting for public comments. He asked that everyone refrain from outbursts and cursing and conduct themselves appropriately.

Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes from the City Council meeting dated January 09, 2024, 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 was the receipt and opening of sealed bids for the demolition of 1114 Harper Road (the former Pagoda Motel.) The first bid was from Carr Excavating Services, LLC for a total of $233,432.27. The second bid was from Spring Creek Consultants and Contractors, Inc. for a total of $184,052.00. The third bid was from Reclaim Company, LLC for a total of $248,405.00. The fourth bid was from Echo, Inc. for a total of $94,750.00. The fifth and final bid was from Empire Salvage and Recycling, Inc. for a total of $68,863.00. The bids will be reviewed by Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump, Councilwoman at Large Hunter, Councilman at Large Reedy, Director of Board of Public Works Pam Frey, and Chief Code Enforcement Officer Donald Morgan for possible award at a future Council meeting.

Next, the Mayor said the City has supported the Raleigh County Convention Center for several years by contributing $50K annually. Due to rising costs, the Convention Center has experienced an increase in costs to provide dinners, host ballgames, etc. for the community.

He recommended that the City increase its contribution from $50K annually to $75K annually. Mr. Trump said the building is aging and the cost of maintaining it has increased. Mr. Trump said he thinks the Raleigh County Commission has increased its contribution also. Mr. Trump said that the Raliegh County Board of Education is another contributor, but he isn't sure if it increased its contribution. Mr. Trump said he supports the City increasing its contribution to the Raleigh County Convention Center. Council unanimously approved the increase to $75K annually on a motion made by Councilman Sopher and seconded by Councilman Price.

Next on the Agenda was the approval of the extension/renewal of the New River Transit Authority (NRTA) lease. Mr. File explained that this is a renewal of the current lease and allows NRTA to continue using the bottom floor of the Beckley Intermodal Gateway (BIG). The annual rent remains the same as it was last year at the amount of $49,062.00.

(Monthly installments equal to $4,088.50). In lieu of receiving actual cash payments, the monthly installments represent the City's in-kind contribution toward the operations of the NRTA and has been used as the local match of the FTA Section 5307 grant. The start date on the lease is January 1, 2024, and terminates on December 31, 2025. This is a two-year lease. Council unanimously approved the renewal of the lease on a motion made by Councilman Dunlap and seconded by Councilman Price. A copy of the lease agreement is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next on the Agenda was the approval of the lease extension/renewal of 101 Main Street to Gray Media (dba WVVA TV, Inc.). Mr. File said this is a twelve-month lease renewal beginning February 1, 2024, through January 31, 2025. The Lessee (Gray Media) will pay monthly lease payments to the City of $2,510.00. The Lessee shall also pay for three parking spaces at $40./each per month totaling $120./month. Council unanimously approved the renewal of the lease to Gray Media d/b/a WVVA TV, Inc. on a motion made by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilwoman at Large Hunter. A copy of the lease agreement is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, Mr. File explained an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to sign a deed conveying property located at 3082 Robert C. Byrd Drive to 3082 R.C.B., LLC. The property was sold at a public auction on December 14, 2023, to the highest bidder for the amount of $27,500.00. This public auction had previously been advertised twice in the newspaper. There were two bidders. The initial bid was ten thousand dollars. Mr. File read the ordinance by title, "Ordinance Authorizing The Sale Of 3082 Robert C. Byrd Drive, Beckley, WV, As Shown On Beckley Tax District Map 11, Parcel 189, To The Highest Bidder." The first reading of this ordinance was on January 9, 2024. Mr. File opened the public hearing. Danielle Stewart said it is hard to tell who owns R.C.B., LLC. Brian Brown asked if this is a City owned building. Mr. File said yes. Mr. Brown asked if the building went up for sale due to it having back taxes. Mr. File said no, it was sold at a public auction because the City had no use for the property. Mr. Brown asked if the building is in disrepair. Mr. File said he has no opinion on the condition of the building, and he can't speak on behalf of

the purchaser. Councilman at Large Reedy asked if this is the property beside the Donut Connection. Mr. File said yes. Councilman at Large Reedy said that he thought the Beckley Sanitary Board (BSB) bought this property. Mr. File said the BSB does not own the property. The City purchased it for the BSB and it asked that the City sell it. There were no other comments. Mr. File closed the public hearing. The ordinance was unanimously approved by Council on a motion made by Councilman Dunlap and seconded by Councilman Sopher. The ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS: Councilwoman at Large Hunter thanked Rose Hicks for speaking during public comments at the last meeting. She also thanked Board of Public Works for responding to Ms. Hick's concern in a timely manner. She asked that the family and friends of the late Jimmy Stone be remembered during their time of loss. He was a Litter Control Officer and a retired Raleigh County Sheriff.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilwoman Bullock shared that the Wright Hunter Cemetery is nominated for consideration to be placed on the national register of historic places. The meeting to make the determination will be on February 21, 2024, in Charleston, WV. The Mayor told Councilwoman Bullock that the City will cover her expenses if she chooses to attend. Councilwoman Bullock said that this cemetery is one of the oldest black cemeteries in Beckley. Councilman Sopher commended Councilwoman Bullock for her work on this project. Councilman Dunlap said that Leadership Beckley's graduation is February 14, 2024, at the Historic Black Knight. Councilwoman Bullock thanked Dr. Dumas for all that she does for the

Beckley Rotary Club. She also congratulated Mr. Brown on his upcoming real estate development. Councilman Sopher invited the public to attend a meeting in Council chambers from 4 - 7p.m. on February 1st. This meeting is regarding a Streetscape Project and will include the Department of Highways, E.L. Robinson (a current Board member of WV Tech), and Jimmy Wriston, the Secretary of Transportation (who graduated from WV Tech). This project involves putting the overhead transmission lines underground, and South Kanawha Street becoming a one-way street from Beaver Avenue in the direction towards the City Hall area. Included in this plan is Minnesota Avenue becoming a one-way street in the other direction connecting with Beaver Avenue. The Mayor invited the public to attend. He will be unable to attend due to a vacation trip out of state. Councilman Dunlap said it would be nice for people in wheelchairs to have safe sidewalks. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Mosley spoke in opposition to the City Manager Form of Government (CMFG). Mary West said she is running for Council for Ward 5 and wants to help the City. Mr.

Brown spoke in opposition to the CMFG and said the City lacks transparency. Mr. Brown said he would like the City to consider converting the former Pagoda Motel to transitional housing. Michelle Smith said she is observing the meeting and may have a public comment later. Christina Baisden spoke in opposition to the CMFG. Pam Upton spoke in opposition to the CMFG. Danielle Stewart said the upcoming meeting on February 1st regarding the Streetscape Project which likely will go from McCreery Street to Beaver Avenue and if the plan is to extend Minnesota Avenue (all the way to McCreery Street) this would involve properties needing to be purchased and current property owners need to be advised of the meeting. Danielle also questioned the Fruits of Labor lease terms. Danielle commented on lifeguards for the City's swimming pools, and said lifeguard training is offered at the YMCA.

The Mayor asked if there were any comments online. 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. There were no comments. A

motion to adjourn was made by

Councilman Price and seconded by

Councilwoman at Large Hunter. The

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

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Mayor
Recorder-Treasurer