A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 6:30 PM ON APRIL 09, 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, Board of Public Works (BPW) Director Pam Frey, Chief of BPD Dean Bailey, Director of Parks & Recreation Leslie Baker, and Chief Code Enforcement Officer Donald Morgan.

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 listen by WEB-X from their computer, or listen 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 a special meeting for Council to lay the levy for the FY 2024-24 will be on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.

Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes from the regular City Council meeting dated March 26, 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 Sopher.

Next, Council unanimously approved a motion made by Councilwoman at Large Hunter and seconded by Councilman at Large Reedy for the City to contribute $5K to the Raleigh County Commission for the spay and neuter program.

Next, the Mayor opened sealed bids from two companies for the paving of Russel Street (from Vance Drive to Kanawha Street) and the paving of Garfield Street (from Johnstown Road to Russel Street). The first bid was from AAA Paving Company in the amount of $182K. The second bid was from WV Paving, Inc. in the amount of $161,800.00. Both bids will be reviewed by the two Council persons at Large, Director of Board of Public Works, Pam Frey, and Recorder-Treasurer, Billie Trump for award at a future Council meeting.

Next, the Mayor opened one sealed bid for a one ton, four wheel drive dump truck with a snowplow. One bid was received from Whiteside of St. Clairsville, Inc. in the amount of $141,980.00. The bid will be reviewed by the two Council persons at Large, Director of Board of Public Works, Pam Frey, and Recorder-Treasurer, Billie Trump for award at a future Council meeting.

Next, the Mayor opened two sealed requests for proposals from recruitment firms to assist in the hiring of a City Manager. The first bid was from AtWork Personnel of Beckley and the other request for proposal was from Bakertilley. The proposals will be reviewed by the City Manager Hiring Committee and a recommendation will be made to Council by this Committee. Council will vote to award the proposal at a future Council meeting.

Next, Mr. Bill Kelly IT Director explained that the network infrastructure throughout the City needs to be updated. This would cost $362K which would be funded by ARPA. Mr. Kelly said that GSA pricing will save the City a lot of money and does not require a bidding process. The IT Department will assist the selected vendor (Extreme Networks) with the work. Councilman Dunlap asked if this would decrease the vulnerability of the City with a cyber-attack. Mr. Kelly said yes. Councilwoman Bullock asked what the timeframe is. Mr. Kelly said as soon as possible. Councilman Sopher asked if this needs to be advertised for bidding. Mr. Kelly said that GSA is a pre-bid and does not require advertising

nor does it require bidding. Mr. Kelly told Councilman Sopher that he may want to confirm this information with Mr. File. Councilman Sopher asked if the City will hire a contractor to help install all the new equipment or if the City's IT department will do it. Mr. Kelly said it will be a little of both. Council unanimously approved the IT Department proceeding to work with the selected vender immediately. A motion was made by Councilman Sopher and seconded by Councilwoman at Large Hunter.

OLD BUSINESS: Councilwoman Bullock said that the National Park Service approved the nomination for the Wright-Hunter Cemetery to be placed on the national register of historic places. The Mayor congratulated her for her work on this project. Councilwoman asked Chief Bailey about a stop sign being installed on Hartley Avenue and Bostic Avenue. Chief said he does not see a problem with a stop sign to be installed. Mr. File said this would need to be done by way of an ordinance. Councilwoman Bullock asked Board of Public Works Director, Pam Frey when "G" Street would be paved. Pam said it is not far

down on the list and should be happening soon.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilwoman at Large Hunter thanked the Board of Public Works Department for all their hard work with spring clean up around the City this week. Councilwoman asked about the problem with vagrants around the City. Chief Bailey said that if they are not breaking the law, nothing can be done. The Mayor said that panhandler's cannot be arrested but the City can ask them to move along. The Mayor has noticed improvement with this issue on Johnstown Road and some improvement at the bottom of Neville Street. The Mayor thanked Chief Bailey for his help in this matter.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. John Brydie gave an eleven page handout to Council. He opposes the one way streets in the proposed Streetscape Project by the WV DOH and WVU Tech.

Natalie Coots voiced her concerns regarding the need for more unity.

Christiana Baisden asked if the Comprehensive Plan Committee would meet so the public could attend the committee meeting prior to the larger "Future Forward" meeting for the

Comprehensive Plan which will be at the Raleigh County Convention Center. Chief Code Enforcement Officer, Donald Morgan said the steering committee meeting is the same day, which is not open to the public, but the one at the Convention Center is. She asked what the criteria is for the City Manager Recruitment Committee to select a hiring agency. The Mayor said that when he opened the bids the reason why specific dollar amounts were not mentioned is because the decision is not based solely upon which firm is the least expensive. The committee will narrow it down to a few selections, call them in to interview them, and the decision will be based off of information gained during that time at which price will be negotiated. Mr. Brown voiced his concern regarding vagrants. The Mayor asked Mr. File, City Attorney if there is something that can be modified to the City's current code to address this issue in a stronger fashion. Mr. File said an individual cannot be put in jail if they trespass. The WV State Code does not permit it. Mr. File said if an individual is caught breaking the law, such as stealing copper, then they can be arrested. Councilwoman Bullock asked

Mr. File what the difference is between breaking and entering and trespassing. Mr. File said these are technical questions. If someone is caught in the act of breaking in to enter a property it is considering breaking the law, but if someone just walks into a place and doesn't break a lock to get in, they would be trespassing. When certain laws are broken is results in a misdemeanor and others result in a felony. Councilman Dunlap said he installed a router and when the vagrants go in and take anything its with intent to commit a crime which is the felony. Mr. Dunlap said every time the alarm sounds at his location he would go down with a firearm. Councilman Dunlap suggested getting a router, a security system, and chase them off. Councilman Dunlap said codes regarding criminal law at the state level need to change. Councilman Dunlap invited the public to attend the Raleigh County Convention Center Wednesday, April 10th at 10:00 a.m. to meet candidates running for positions for the state and discuss these issues. Kandy Kozar asked if there is a lease for Fruits of Labor (FOL). The Mayor said there is a Workshop on April 15th at 5 p.m. She asked how long the

City has owned the building. The Mayor said approximately two years. She asked how does the City pay for the building. The Mayor said the City paid cash for the building. She asked where the cash came from. The Mayor said it came from the City's general fund. She said this includes the B&O tax money collected from the citizens. The Mayor said that is included in the general fund, yes. The Mayor said the building was vacant for four years and in an effort to help revitalize downtown the City thought that this was a good investment. The Mayor said FOL pays B&O taxes. She asked about Seed Sower being on the top floor and referred to it as a sub-lease. The Mayor said he thinks that is where its offices are located and that there is no sub-lease. She said there needs to be more patrol after dark on the Rails to Trail. Kollen Finch requested that individuals owning businesses in the City of Beckley, but do not live in the City be granted voting rights. Councilman Dunlap asked her if she is requesting some type of registry as a business owner within the City so that she can vote. She said yes, the business owners should be allowed to vote one time regardless of

how many businesses they have in the City.

There were no further comments.

Council unanimously approved adjournment on a motion made by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilman Dunlap. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

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Mayor
Recorder-Treasurer