A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 6:30 PM ON MAY 28, 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, 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 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.

Head Coach George Barbara, of the track team for Woodrow Wilson High School introduced two well accomplished track runners. Ryan Mukhtar and Ama Ackon-Annan were presented a challenge coin from the Mayor and Councilwoman-at-Large presented them with a certificate of achievement.

Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes from the regular City Council meeting dated April 29, 2024, copies of which had been distributed to each member. Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by

Councilman Dunlap and seconded by Councilman Price.

Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes from the regular City Council Workshop dated April 29, 2024, regarding FOL lease, copies of which had been distributed to each member. Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilman Dunlap and seconded by Councilman Price.

Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump said any budget revisions to the FY-2023-24 budget needs to submitted to the State Auditor's Office. Mr. Trump said the only revisions were in Account Numbers 368 (Contributions/Transfer from Other Entities) which includes the gift of the Pinehaven Homeless Shelter from the State. Additionally, Account Number 369 (Contributions from other Funds) includes ARPA funds and additional money from the fire levy (which paid for the new fire truck). These had to booked as income. It was decided to take money out of the snow removal account since it will not snow between now and the end of the fiscal year. The budget revision was unanimously approved by Council on a motion made by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilman Sopher. The budge revision is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, the Mayor opened the only sealed bid received for a 1 ton, 4WD dump truck with a snowplow to be utilized by the Board of Public Works department. The bid was from Whiteside of St. Clairsville, Inc. in the amount of $141,980.00. The bid will be given to the two Council members at Large, Director of Board of Public Works, and Recorder Treasurer Billie Trump for possible award at a future Council meeting. The bid is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, the Mayor opened two sealed bids received for the demolition of dilapidated structures in the City which are funded by the DLAP Grant. The first bid was from Empire Salvage in the amount of $119,925.00. The second bid was from Reclaim Company, LLC in the amount of $170,450.00. Both bids were given to the two Council members at Large, Chief Code Enforcement Officer Donald Morgan, and Mr. Trump for possible award at a future Council meeting.

Next, the Mayor opened one sealed bid from Southern WV Paving, Inc. for WVDOH Specification Asphalt in the amount of $105./ton for Base II or P&L 1, $109./ton for Wearing I, $144./ton for Curb Mix, and $144./ton for Tennis Mix. The bid was given to the two Council members at Large, Board of Public Works Director Pam Frey and Mr. Trump for possible award at a future meeting. The bid is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next on the Agenda was the City's request for bids for a walk-in freezer for Black Knight. However, no bids were received. Mr. Trump said this may need to be considered an emergency expense. Parks & Recreation Director said the freezer at Black Knight isn't working at all now.

Next, Mr. Paul Hutchinson was to discuss the City and the Chamber of Commerce continuing a partnership on gateways in the City. Mr. Hutchinson was on vacation. Councilman Sopher said landscaping and signage are needed at the gateways and that Mr. Hutchison would like a resolution for these requests at the next Council meeting.

Next, Sam Rich from Thrasher Engineering explained Thrasher's Scope of Services for developing Pinecrest Business Park in the amount of $480K. NRGRDA Executive Director Jina Belcher said that when the City accepted Pinecrest it agreed to do the master planning for the property within the first eighteen months of owning the property. This has not happened. She said that NRGRDA has active tenants that are interested in pad ready sites. She said the Pinecrest group is expecting movement on this project. Jina said that she thinks it is best if Thrasher moves forward on this project. Councilman Price asked Sam about the stormwater issues over in the area close to the Pinecrest Park. Sam said that Thrasher and the Beckley Sanitary Board consistently communicate regarding stormwater in that area and the Hartley project is not geographically connected to the Pinecrest Park. He said this project will need to follow the City's stormwater ordinances. Jina said the two interested tenants are eager and looking for approximately 2-2 ½ acres each but want pad ready sites before they would buy. Councilman Sopher asked Sam why the City does not request bids for

engineering services. Sam said that WV Code 5G states that when a municipality hires for a project in excess of $250K it is supposed to be a qualifications based process. He said some RFP's are written as an open end opportunity for a company to provide services to the City. In 2016 the City had an RFP and Thrasher was selected as the open end general services provider for the City of Beckley. This allows the City to avoid having to go through the 5G process every time it has a project. Sam said that nothing prohibits the City from requesting open end bids again. Councilman Dunlap asked Sam if he had an idea when groundbreaking may take place. Sam said it would likely be in the spring of 2025. Councilman Sopher suggested new Council members consider a new open end bid be requested. The Mayor asked if enough information has been provided for Council during this meeting to decide on the resolution or does Council wish to schedule a Workshop. Councilman Reedy said that he suggests scheduling a workshop. Council unanimously approved tabling the resolution on a motion made by Councilman Reedy and seconded by Councilman Dunlap.

Councilman Reedy asked for a Workshop to be scheduled regarding this. Jina Belcher asked that the Pinecrest group be included in this Workshop.

Next, Mr. File said that tonight is the first reading of this ordinance. Two parties have requested that the City sell two parcels of real estate to them which are located in the Pinecrest Business Park. The parties have offered to pay $75K per parcel. These parcels were negotiated with the previous owner of Pinecrest. The City has agreed to honor the price that was offered to these parties at that time. Mr. File read the ordinance by title An Ordinance Authorizing The City Of Beckley To Sell Two Parcels Of Real Estate Located In The Pinecrest Business Park Off Of Governor Clarence W. Meadows Parkway. If passed tonight, the second reading and public hearing will be during the June 11th Council meeting. Council unanimously approved the ordinance on a motion made by Councilman Dunlap and seconded by Councilman Price. The ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, Mr. File read by title an Ordinance Authorizing Property Swap With West Virginia Department Of Veterans Assistance. Tonight, will be the first reading and if passed the second reading and public hearing will be during the June 11th meeting. Mr. File explained that the property that the WV Veterans Assistance (WV VA) purchased was not conducive to building a facility all on one level. Therefore, the WV VA has requested to swap property with the City of Beckley. The Mayor said that the City thinks this would be good for both the City and the VA. The ordinance was unanimously passed by Council on a motion by Councilman Price seconded by Councilman Sopher. The ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Mr. File explained that this ordinance is being presented tonight at the request of the Raleigh County Board of Education (RCBOE). The first reading is tonight and if passed tonight the second reading and public hearing will be during the June 11th meeting. This refers to the property close to Stratton Elementary School that is being utilized by the school for various purposes including parking. Mr. File said the alley isn't utilized and the RCBOE is requesting that the City close the alley. If this ordinance is adopted the City will convey to the adjacent property owners the alleyway through a quick claim deed; each adjacent owner would get half of the alleyway. This is pursuit to WV Code. The ordinance is titled An Ordinance Permanently Closing, Vacating And Discontinuing So Much Of A Public Right-Of-Way, Namely, An Unused Right-Of-Way/Alley Situate Between And Parallel To Totten Street And Thurmond Street In The City Of Beckley. The ordinance was unanimously approved by Council on a motion by Councilwoman Hunter seconded by Councilman Reedy. The ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next on the Agenda was the reappointment of Jane Haga, DeeDee Ellison, Sandy Palen, Willie Taggart, and Viki Webb to the Beautification Commission. Council unanimously approved the reappointment on a motion made by Councilman Sopher seconded by Councilwoman Bullock.

Next, the reappointment of Valerie Hartling to the Raleigh County Public Library Board of Trustees. Council unanimously approved the reappointment on a motion made by Councilman Sopher seconded by Councilman Price.

Next, the reappointment of Gary Sutphin to the Beckley Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. Council unanimously approved the reappointment on a motion made by Councilman Price seconded by Councilman Reedy.

Next, the reappointment of Marie Bechtel and Quirina Bullock to the Hunam Rights Commission. Due to Councilwoman Bullock's sister serving on this commission,

Councilwoman Bullock recused herself from the vote. Council unanimously approved the reappointment on a motion made by Councilman Dunlap seconded by Councilman Price.

Next, the reappointment of William Brown to the Emergency Operating Center Commission. Council unanimously approved the reappointment on a motion made by Councilman Sopher seconded by Councilman Dunlap.

Next, reappointment of Noah Kapp to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Council unanimously approved the reappointment on a motion made by Councilman Sopher seconded by Councilwoman Hunter.

Next, the reappointment of Howard Vest, Tara Barlow, Sam Interdonato, and Arnold Bolen to the Historic Landmark Commission. Council unanimously approved the reappointment on a motion made by Councilman Dunlap seconded by Councilwoman Bullock.

Next, on the Agenda was Mayor Rappold's appointment of Jeff Shumate to the Policemen's Civil Service Commission. No action is required by Council.

Next, on the Agenda was the Motion to accept Election Results. The Election Results were unanimously approved by Council on a motion made by Councilman Dunlap seconded by Councilman Reedy. The motion and election results are hereby incorporated into these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS: Councilman Reedy asked for an update a lease agreement with Fruits of Labor. The Mayor said that Tammy has presented the lease to her Attorney for review. A copy of the lease was requested by Councilman Dunlap. Mr. File said that he would provide him with a copy of the lease.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mary West spoke about speeding on Larew Avenue. Christina Baisden thanked the City for opening New River Pool for the summer. She asked who is going to be appointed as the Interim City Manager. The Mayor said that this is still under discussion. She said that she thinks new Council members need to be paid more. She questioned the City spending $480K on the Pinecrest Park during a housing crisis. Next, Adam Taylor gave a handout demonstrating the rising cost to rent the Raleigh Playhouse and Theater. He said WV Collective, the Beckley Children's Theatre, and other nonprofit organizations cannot afford the rise in rent. He asked Council to consider lowering the rent.

Councilman Dunlap said that as a Council person he would like to donate his annual allowance of $1,000.00 to WV Collective. The handout is hereby incorporated into these minutes. Woodrow Wilson Track and Field Coach George Barbara requested $1,000.00 to help with the cost of lodging for the runners traveling on June 14th for a competition. Jamon Schmidt, Marketing Director of Goodwill Industries invited Council and the City employees to the grand opening on June 6th. Danielle Stewart was in support of the $480K Thrasher offered for the resolution discussed earlier. She asked Council if they knew who was buying the two parcels at the Pinecrest Business Park. Michael Smith said homelessness in Beckley is a problem.

There were no further comments.

Council unanimously approved adjournment on a motion made by Councilman Reedy and seconded by Councilman Price. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

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Mayor
Recorder-Treasurer