A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 6:30 PM ON JUNE 11, 2024, IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIA WEB-X.

PRESENT: Mayor Robert R. Rappold, Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump, and City Attorney Bill File. 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, Captain Parsons of BFD, Board of Public Works (BPW) Director Pam Frey, Chief of BPD Dean Bailey, Director of Beckley Events Jill Moorefield, and Chief Code Enforcement Officer Donald Morgan. ABSENT: Susan Miller, Mayor's Executive Assistant, and Chief Joe Coughlin of the BFD.

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.

The Mayor opened the meeting requesting a moment of silence to honor the memory of Commissioner Dave Tolliver who recently passed away.

Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes from the regular City Council meeting dated May 28, 2024, copies of which had been distributed to each member. Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilman Sopher and seconded by Councilman Dunlap.

Gail Oakes of Theatre WV made a presentation seeking financial support for the theatre in the amount of $10K. The Mayor stated that the City has supported this request in the past. Council unanimously approved the request to donate $10K to Theatre WV on a motion made by Councilman Sopher seconded by Councilwoman-at-Large Hunter.

Jamie Lehman, State Director of Imagination Station, made a presentation regarding the literacy program they provide for children birth to age five. The benefits were outlined as she stated that this was an approved expenditure for the opioid settlement funds. She stated that an additional $15,750. was needed in the Beckley/Raleigh County area to reach children in this area. The Mayor said that this is a good program. Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump said that the City has $2.5M in the bank at interest and available for Council to approve its distribution to qualified projects. Councilwoman Bullock asked how the children get enrolled in the program. Ms. Lehman replied that there are various agencies involved in identifying eligible children and there is also direct enrollment. Councilman Reedy stated

that his daughter is enrolled in the program and it is very beneficial. Council unanimously approved the request to donate $16K to Imagination Station from the opioid settlement on a motion by Councilman Reedy seconded by Councilman Price.

The presentation by Destination By Design was postponed.

Next, on the agenda was the award of bid for a 1 ton, 4WD dump truck with a snowplow. Councilman Reedy stated that this will be purchased with federally directed spending funds, and since there was only one response to the previous bid cycle, the item had to be rebid to satisfy the federal requirements. This time only one bid was received and it can now be voted on. The bid received (which was incorporated in the May 28, 2024, minutes) is from Whiteside of St. Clairsville, Inc. It met all the specifications and was in the amount of $141,980. Council unanimously approved the bid on a motion by Councilman Reedy seconded by Councilman Price.

Next on the agenda was the award of bid for the DLAP grant. Councilman Reedy stated that the bid was for the demolition

and removal of thirteen dilapidated structures in the City through the WV Program for Reclamation of Abandoned and Dilapidated Properties. Two bids were received. Each bid met the specifications. Reclaim Company, LLC's proposal was $119,925.00. Empire Salvage and Recycling, Inc.'s proposal was $119,925.00. The program requires that the lowest acceptable bid must be chosen. Council unanimously approved the proposal from Empire Salvage on a motion by Councilman Reedy seconded by Councilwoman Hunter. The bid is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next was the award of bid for asphalt, concrete, stone/sand, and reinforcement rods. The bid was from Southern WV Paving, Inc. and it was the only bid received and met WVDOH specifications. Asphalt: Base II or P&L 1 $105/ton, Wearing I $109/ton, Curb Mix $144/ton, Tennis Mix $144/ton. Council unanimously passed the proposal on a motion by Councilman Reedy seconded by Councilman Sopher. The bid was incorporated in the May 28, 2024, minutes.

The resolution to approve the Pinecrest development was taken off of the agenda

after consultation with Thrasher and their recommendation to publish and RFP. Councilman Dunlap was concerned about the possibility of a delay of the development of the Pinecrest Business Park. Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump said it would be advertised and hopefully be available for Council to consider at the next Council meeting.

Next, the ordinance titled, "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" needs to be amended to name the buyer as Matchpoint, LLC. Mr. File had a discussion with the principals, and they understand the possible delays and choose to move forward with the purchase. Council unanimously approved the amendment to the resolution on a motion by Councilman Price seconded by Councilman Sopher. 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". Mr. File opened the public meeting. There were no comments. Mr. File closed the public meeting. The ordinance was unanimously passed by Council on a motion by Councilman Sopher and seconded by Councilman Price. The ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, Mr. File said that tonight is the second reading and public meeting of the ordinance he read by title, “Ordinance Authorizing Property Swap With West Virginia Department Of Veterans

Assistance." Mr. File opened the public meeting. There were no comments. Mr. File closed the public meeting. Council unanimously approved the ordinance on a motion by Councilwoman Hunter seconded by Councilman Reedy. The ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Mr. File explained that the next ordinance is being presented for second reading and public hearing tonight. He said this is at the request of the Raleigh County Board of Education (RCBOE) requesting the City to close an alley adjacent to property close to Stratton Elementary School that is being utilized by the school for various purposes including parking. 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". Mr. File opened the public meeting. There were no comments. Mr.

File closed the public meeting. The ordinance was unanimously approved by Council on a motion by Councilman Reedy seconded by Councilman Sopher. The ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

The Bill Withers sculpture project was discussed with Mr. File reporting that the fund needs $30K to complete the project. Director of Beckley Events Jill Moorefield spoke of the contributions that Withers had made to entertainment and that the community had raised considerable funds. The Mayor asked Recorder-Treasurer if the City could afford a contribution of this amount. Mr. Trump said yes. Council unanimously approved the contribution on a motion made by Councilman Dunlap seconded by Councilman Price. Councilwoman Bullock praised Jill Moorefield for her efforts in this endeavor.

OLD BUSINESS: There were no comments.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilman Sopher remarked on the paving of Garfield Street. He said that the results were excellent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mary West remarked that Larew Avenue has rats in the area and has problems with overgrown alleyways. Tony Martin (owner of Axe Hole) on Neville Street remarked that the downtown area needs revitalization. He stated that his business has generated over $500K in the last three years and was upset that Frutis of Labor wasn't open longer and was receiving subsidies from the City and State. Christina Baisden asked about the Baker/Tilley recruitment group for City Manager. She wanted the data gathered by the company and said it should be public information. She spoke of the sunk cost fallacy regarding the Fruits of Labor building and wanted information regarding it. Danielle Stewart protested that some small grant applications had to submit extensive information in the application process and wondered if Fruits of Labor had to do the same. The Mayor announced the need for executive session and said no decisions will

be made and no votes will be taken. Council unanimously passed the request on a motion by Councilman Price seconded by Councilman Sopher. Council unanimously approved exiting executive session on a motion by Councilman Price seconded by Councilwoman Bullock. Council unanimously approved entering back into the regular council meeting on a motion made by Councilman Dunlap seconded by Councilman Price. Council unanimously approved adjournment on a motion made by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilman Sopher. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

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Mayor
Recorder-Treasurer