A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 6:30 PM ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2024, IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIA WEB-X.

PRESENT: Mayor Ryan Neal, Interim City Manager Ann Worley, Interim Recorder-Treasurer Jessica Chandler, City Attorney Bill File, and the Mayor's and CM's Assistant Susan Miller, Council Members: Natalie Coots, Nancy Shoemaker-Dingess, Frank Williams, Kip Buchanan, Janine Bullock, and Council persons at Large Sherrie Hunter and Cody Reedy. The following City employees were present: Assistant Director of IT Amy Evans, Anthony Martin IT, Chief Coughlin of BFD, Director of Board of Public Works (BPW) Pam Frey, Chief Bailey of BPD, Director of Parks & Recreation Leslie Baker, and Chief Code Enforcement Officer Donald Morgan.

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 called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts Troop #3, Scout Master Jon Fernald, and Assistant Scout Master Skeets Loving led The Pledge of Allegiance.

Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes from the Workshop dated August 29, 2024, copies of which had been distributed to each member. Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilman Williams seconded by Councilwoman Coots. Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes from the Special

Council meeting dated September 4, 2024, copies of which had been distributed to each member. Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilwoman Hunter seconded by Councilman Williams. Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting dated September 10, 2024, copies of which had been distributed to each member. Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilman Frank seconded by Councilwoman Coots. Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes from the Special Council Meeting dated September 14, 2024, copies of which had been distributed to each member. Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilman Reedy seconded by Councilman Williams.

Next on the Agenda was the appointment of Kevin Price to the Beckley Fire Department Civil Service Commission. Council unanimously approved the appointment on a motion by Councilwoman Hunter seconded by Councilman Williams.

Councilwoman Bullock asked about the length of Mr. Price's term.

Interim City Manager Ann Worley said four years.

Next on the Agenda was the approval of the bid for the DLAP grant for groups 2, 3, and 4. **Group 2** consisted of 110 Grant St., 216 Mills Ave., 367 Mool Ave., 201 Hartley Ave., and 301 Westmoreland St. Empire Salvage and Recycling, Inc's, bid of $32,000. was unanimously approved by Council on a motion by Councilman Williams seconded by Councilwoman Hunter. Councilwoman Coots asked if this included five structures. Councilman Reedy said yes. The bid is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Group 3 consisted of two streets which were 107 Elco Lane and 104 Hunter Street. The bid of Empire Salvage and Recycling in the amount of $11,000 was unanimously approved by Council on a motion by Councilman Williams seconded by Councilman Reedy. The bid is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Group 4 consisted of two streets which were 313 Maplewood Ln., and 938 S. Fayette St. The bid by Tom's Tear Down and Take Away in the amount of $13,000 was unanimously approved by Council on a motion by Councilman Reedy seconded by Councilwoman Hunter. The bid is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, Mr. File read by title the Ordinance Authorizing City Of Beckley To Grant And Convey To Beckley Sanitary Board An Easement And Right Of Way Over, Across And Through Certain Real Estate Of City Of Beckley Between S. Eisenhower Dr. And Clarence W. Meadows Memorial Blvd. He explained that this is the second reading of the ordinance, the first reading having occurred during the September 10th Regular Council Meeting. He summarized the ordinance explaining that the Beckley Sanitary Board (BSB) is requesting the City of Beckley (COB) to grant and convey by Special Warranty an easement and right-of-way over, across and through certain real estate of Grantor located between S. Eisenhower Dr. and Clarence W. Meadows Memorial Blvd. for the purpose of installing, maintaining and operating a storm and/or sanitary sewer, including stormwater management pound. Mr. File said that the General Manager of the Beckley Sanitary Board, Jeremiah Johnson, is here if anyone has questions for him. Mr. File opened the public meeting. There were no questions/comments.

Mr. File closed the public meeting. The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions. There were no questions. Council unanimously passed the ordinance on a motion by Councilman Buchanan seconded by Councilwoman Bullock. The ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, Mr. File explained the next ordinance is up for second reading. The first reading was during the September 10, 2024, Regular Council Meeting. Mr. File explained that this ordinance concerns property in the Pinecrest Industrial Park and will allow the City of Beckley to convey this property commonly referred to as the Pinecrest Industrial Park to the Raleigh County Commission which has agreed to fund the infrastructure on this property making it ready for development with pad ready sites. Mr. File said that there are covenants and restrictions that control what can be done on this property. Mr. File read it by title: Ordinance Authorizing City of Beckly To Convey 131.417 Acres Of Real Estate, More Or Less, Located In The Pinecrest Industrial Park In Beckley, Raleigh County, West Virgina, To The County Commission For The Purpose Of Economic Development Of This Real Estate. Mr. File opened the public hearing and asked that comments be kept brief.

The following people spoke in opposition of the ordinance: Danielle Stewart, Leah White, ZiMeng, Maya Panta, Lillian Bostwick, Tim Murdock, Ella Gwen, Lisa

Shrewsbury, George Barbara, Paul Corbit Brown, JC Wellman, Tony Martin, Angela Mazella, and Christinia Baisden. Charles Houck spoke in favor of the County and City working together on this ordinance while keeping the cross country track in mind. Mr. File asked if there were any other comments in favor of or in opposition to the ordinance.

There being none, Mr. File closed the public hearing. The Mayor asked for a motion. A motion was not made. The ordinance under consideration is hereby incorporated into these minutes. The Mayor moved to the next item on the Agenda.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS: Interim City Manager Ann Worley provided Council a written update and asked department heads if they had any updates they wanted to share. Beckley Events Director, Jill Moorefield reminded everyone that Chili Night is October 5th at 4 p.m. Woodrow Wilson High School's Homecoming Parade is October 2nd at 6:30 p.m. and the Scarecrow Contest is coming soon. Parks and Recreation Director Leslie Baker said that Shane Pierce has been working hard preparing for the upcoming premier of Ambrosia. She said "How People Make Things" is on loan to, and featured, at the Youth Museum. Ann Worley thanked all the department heads for their hard work.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mary West said the City needs to change its ordinance to include the maintenance of trees. She requested speed bumps and cameras be installed on Larew Avenue. Christinia Baisden thanked Council for not making a motion to approve the second reading of the conveyance of the property regarding the Pinecrest Ordinance. She said town hall meetings are needed and three

minutes to speak at Council meetings is not long enough.

She also thanked Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess for her help. Charlie Houck spoke commending the kids on their courage to speak up regarding keeping their track course.

Next on the Agenda was the discussion of the City Manager position. Mr. File said that four final applicants have been interviewed. Councilwoman Coots said that this Council is a united Council. Councilwoman Hunter thanked Council for supporting the children and helping them keep their cross country track field. Councilman Williams said this Council is coming together in becoming more unified and explained that it will take time. Councilwoman Hunter said there is a Hazardous Waste Collection this Saturday at the Convention Center from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Councilwoman Bullock thanked the students for their courage to speak up.

Mr. File said before entering into Executive Session the Parking Commission will have a brief meeting.

The Mayor called the Parking Commission Meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Mr. File said this commission is comprised of the seven members of Council, the Mayor, and the Recorder-Treasurer. Councilwoman Coots made a motion for Councilman Reedy to chair the Parking Commission meetings. Councilman Buchanan seconded the motion and it passed. Councilman Reedy asked if anyone would volunteer to co-chair the meetings. Councilman Buchanan volunteered to co-chair the meetings. Councilwoman Coots made a motion for Councilman Buchanan to co-chair the meetings seconded by Councilman Reedy and it passed. The City's Parking Attendant Stephon Lawson was in attendance. Councilman Reedy asked him if he had any updates. Mr. Lawson provided copies of his written proposals to Chairman Reedy and to Chief Bailey. The proposals regarded improving parking in the City, as well as information about replacing the seventy plus year old meters. Councilman Reedy said the City needs to offer more up-to-date options for people paying to park. He mentioned using a parking app, a QR Code, and the ability for customers to pay by card and by cash. Councilwoman Hunter asked if Passport Parking is

working. Stephon said that it is still not fully operational. Recorder-Treasurer Jessica Chandler said that the revenue from parking violations was $14K and the rental for monthly parking and metered parking revenue is $151K. She said those needing to complete an application to park in the City can do so at City Hall or on the beckley.org website. Stephon said the gravel lot in front of the former Fruits of Labor building needs signage and signage is needed throughout the City letting people know that there is free parking from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Councilwoman Coots said the parking situation in the City needs to be simplified. Stephon said that it does need simplified as some parking spaces allow only fifteen minute parking, some allow one hour and some are for monthly rent. It is confusing for people. Councilwoman Coots asked Stephon if he is the only Parking Attendant. He said yes. He issues parking citations in the City for people parking in fire lanes, handicap spaces, and for parking violations in downtown. Chief of PD is his supervisor. Councilman Williams said a Workshop for parking issues is needed.

Mr. File said that is what the parking commission meetings are for. Several comments were made from the public regarding designating parking spaces in the lot on S. Kanawha Street beside City Hall for handicap parking so those with handicaps attending City Council meetings don't have far to walk. Another public comment included the request to make parking free in downtown. Interim Recorder-Treasurer said that the revenue from parking helps pay for the Beckley Intermodal Gateway (BIG). Business owners along Main Street said they need one hour free parking for their customers as fifteen minute parking is not enough. Councilman Reedy said that these commission meetings do not allow for public comments. He asked for a motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. which was made by Councilwoman Bullock, seconded by Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess. Next, the Mayor asked for a motion at 8:01 to enter into Executive Session of the regular City Council Meeting to discuss City Manager candidates and employment terms. Council unanimously approved the motion by Councilwoman Hunter seconded by Councilman Williams.

Mr. File said no decisions will be made and no votes will be taken during Executive Session. Council unanimously approved entering back into the Regular Council meeting at 8:49 p.m. on a motion by Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess seconded by Councilman Reedy.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:50 on a motion by Councilman Reedy seconded by Councilman Buchanan.

_____

_____

Mayor
Interim City Manager