A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 6:30 PM ON JANUARY 14, 2025, 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: Kip Buchanan, Natalie Coots, Nancy Shoemaker-Dingess, Frank Williams, Janine Bullock, Sherrie Hunter, and Cody Reedy. The following City employees were present: IT Tech Anthony Martin, Director of P&R Leslie Baker, Director of Board of Public Works Pam Frey, Acting Chief of BFD Chief Ed Thompson, Director of Board of Public Works Pam Frey , Beckley Events Coordinator Jill Moorefield, Chief Dean Bailey of BPD, and Chief Code Enforcement Officer Donald Morgan.

The Mayor led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Bishop Simms with Heart of God Ministries prayed. The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The public had the option to join the meeting in person, 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. Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes from the December 10, 2024, regular council meeting, 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 January 8, 2025, Special

Council Meeting, copies of which had been distributed to each member. Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilwoman Bullock seconded by Councilman Williams.

The Mayor reminded Council that if any member has a conflict of interest it should be stated prior to discussion of any agenda item.

Michael Resare, City Manager thanked the Board of Public Works for their work regarding snow removal and congratulated Jill Moorefield for being inducted into the Hall of Fame for the West Virginia Fairs and Festivals. Mr. Resare invited Council to attend the upcoming promotions of police officers and firefighters on January 27th at 11:00 a.m. He announced the "Meet & Greet" for the Mayor, Council, and for himself on February 4th from 5-7 p.m. at Black Knight. The Police Academy deadline is March 25, 2025. Micheal said that the WV DOH is looking into the timing of the traffic light issue on Harper Road near Carriage Drive. He said Ferrari and Associates conducted the City's financial audit last week and the City can expect the results from the audit towards the end

of January. Mr. Resare said that the demolition work on Neville Street will be finished soon.

Next, the Mayor said he and members of Council may make comments at this time. However, the comments are not up for discussion. Councilman Williams mentioned the demolition of houses. Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess and Councilwoman Coots said the City needs to discuss how residents of the City can be recognized. The Mayor said the City needs to discuss vacant buildings uptown. He said the City needs to decide if it wants to renovate, sell, or rent the buildings. Councilwoman Hunter said each Ward needs the opportunity to earn a Beautification Award. She said the City needs to produce a 411 card. She has concerns regarding abandoned vehicles in the City. Councilman Reedy said certain traffic lights in and around the City needs turn signals on them. He mentioned entering the VA Hospital traveling South from Beckley to Macarthur. He said the traffic light at CVS on Robert C. Byrd also needs turn signal.

Next, David Evertsen, CEO & Principal of Municipal Solutions, LLC gave a virtual presentation regarding the City's

need for an operations audit. He was formerly a City Manager and is knowledgeable about municipal government and his firm has performed operations audits for numerous municipalities. Council was given all the information including the scope of services, a timeline, and cost ($48,200.00) prior to the presentation. The Mayor asked if any member of Council had any questions. Councilman Reedy moved to approve the bid, seconded by Councilwoman Hunter. Councilman Williams said that he thinks this is needed but would like more time to review the documents. Councilman Williams moved to table, second by Councilwoman Bullock. Council unanimously approved the motion to table the Operations Audit until the next Council meeting.

Councilman Reedy said a Workshop needs to be scheduled regarding the Operations Audit before the next Council meeting.

Chief of the BFD Ed Thompson presented Lieutenant Michael Segars with the Lifesaving Medal Award.

Chief Thompson presented Firefighter First Class Jimmie Meadows, Jr. with the 2024 Firefighter of the Year Award.

Next, Council unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Resare City Manager to the New River Transit Authority Board of Directors on a motion by Councilman Buchanan seconded by Councilman Reedy. Next, Council unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Resare City Manager to the Board of Directors for Region 4 on a motion by Councilman Reedy seconded by Councilwoman Hunter.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mary West complained about speeding drivers on Larew Avenue and Magistrate Court in the County. Kellie Gunnoe with WV Collective asked the City for help financially. Tom Moseley said the City needs a safety streets commission and a way to recognize city residents. Christina Baisden opposes the City having prayer before council meetings. She said the improvements to the City's website are good. She had questions regarding the Agenda mentioning the Opens Meeting Act. She asked who the public directs questions to and when. Danielle Stewart is in favor of the City paying to have an Operations Audit. She said the Agenda needs to be in alignment with State Code. She announced that February 28, 2025,

the Pinehaven Homeless Shelter will be closing due to a lack of funding. Rose Hicks said Queen Ann Drive (in the County) needs attention and additional speed limit signs, traffic lights, and turn signals are needed in and around the City. Aretha Vanhorn thanked the Board of Public Works for removing snow from Larew Avenue and said there are drivers still speeding there.

The Mayor announced if calling in by phone dial *3 to raise your hand. If connected by computer: click the "hand icon" on the participants panel. Michelle Levin said a turn signal needs to be added to the traffic light on Stanaford Drive at Woodrow Wilson High School.

The Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Hunter made the motion seconded by Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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Mayor City Manager