A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 6:30 PM ON MAY 27, 2025, IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIA WEB-X.

PRESENT: Mayor Ryan Neal, Interim City Manager Phillip Jarrell, Interim Recorder-Treasurer Jessica Chandler, Susan Miller, Mayor & City Manager's Assistant, City Attorney Bill File. Council Members: Natalie Coots, Kip Buchanan, Nancy Shoemaker-Dingess, Frank Williams, Janine Bullock, Sherrie Hunter, and Cody Reedy. The following City employees were present: IT Technician Anthony Martin, IT Technician John Hopkins, BFD Chief Ed Thompson, Director of Board of Public Works (BPW) Mike Bolen, Beckley Events Coordinator Jill Moorefield, Chief Dean Bailey of BPD, Parks & Rec. Director Leslie Baker, and Chief Code Enforcement Officer Donald Morgan.

The Mayor led in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by prayer by Father Leonard Smith with St. Francis DeSales Catholic Church. 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.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Mayor said that all members of Council were present and there was a quorum. Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes from the May 13, 2025, 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.

Next on the Agenda were Brief Comments From the Mayor, Council Members, and the Interim City Manager. Councilwoman Bullock congratulated her Godson for his recent graduation and said she was glad to see the Land Reuse Agency (LRA) Ordinance on the Agenda for tonight's meeting. Councilman Buchanan said he has reached out to several department heads and thanked them for their help this week.

Councilman Williams did not have any comments. Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess thanked the Board of Public Works and the Beckley Police Department for their help recently.

Councilwoman Coots thanked Board of Public Works and said the play, "Murder in Lime Life" she recently attended in the City was excellent. The Mayor requested a workshop regarding the use of opioid funds. Councilwoman Hunter thanked Ron Hedrick of the Veterans Museum, our first responders, and the American Legion Post 32. She also thanked the Beckley Area Foundation (BAF) for the perpetual fund they recently created.

Councilwoman Hunter gave Council a copy of a Nuisance Ordinance from September 2017. She said this might be able to help the City regarding abatement.

Councilman Reedy said that he appreciates Mr. Jarrell, the Beckley Police Department, and the help from the Board of Public Works regarding parking in the City. Mr. Jarrell said that he learned a lot at the recent workshop he and a couple of employees from Code Enforcement attended last week that was held at Pipestem. He said he invited John Butterworth with the City of Charleston to attend an upcoming workshop, as a guest speaker regarding land banks, etc.

OLD BUSINESS: Council voted to leave on the table the Cancellation of the Lease Agreement Regarding The East Park Community Center, 100 Washington Street, Beckley, WV Dated Augst 5, 2011, Between City Of Beckley And Southern West Virginia Multi-Cultural Museum And Community Center, Inc. on a motion by Councilman Reedy seconded

by Councilwoman Coots. Councilman Williams opposed the motion to leave the lease cancellation on the table.

Council asked to have a new lease within thirty days to review before terminating this lease.

Next was the second reading of Ordinance Changing Starting Time Of Regular Council Meetings Of Beckley Common Council From 6:30 p.m. To 5:30 p.m. On Second And Fourth Tuesdays Of Each Month. Mr. File said the first reading of this ordinance was on April 22, 2025, and the second reading and public hearing was held on May 13th. Council tabled this matter on May 13th. A motion was made by Councilman Reedy seconded by Councilman Williams to bring this item from the table. However, Council did not vote in favor of bringing this ordinance off the table.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. File said tonight is the first reading of An Ordinance Changing The Meeting Dates Of Common Council Meetings To The 1st and 3rd Tuesday Of Each Month Beginning At 5:30 p.m. If passed tonight on first reading, the second reading and public hearing will be during the June 10, 2025, Council meeting. Mr. File pointed out that if this ordinance is adopted, it will become effective August 1, 2025. Council unanimously approved the ordinance on a motion by Councilwoman Coots seconded by Councilman Williams.

The ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next listed on the Agenda was the 1st Reading Of Ordinance Creating Land Reuse Agency (LRA). Interim City Manager Jarrell said that he would like to have a workshop regarding a LRA.

He will invite John Butterworth as a guest speaker. Mr. Butterworth is with the City of Charleston. Mr. Jarrell requested that the LRA Ordinance be discussed after the workshop rather than tonight, before the workshop. Mr. File said no action is required on the ordinance tonight.

Next on the Agenda was the approval of the 2025-2026 Contributions List. Council unanimously approved the list on a motion by Councilman Reedy seconded by Councilwoman Coots. The list is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next was the award of bids for six BPD vehicles (Byrne Discretionary Community Project Grants Program – Dept. Of Justice).

The quote by Stephen's Auto for a Ford F-150 was $46,608.00 and for a Ford Explorer was $44,176.00. The next bid was from Mid-State Ford. They quoted $46,966.52 for a Ford F-150 and $43,625.40 for a Ford Explorer. Council unanimously approved the award of bid for two Ford F-150 trucks to Stephens Auto on a motion made by Councilwoman Hunter seconded by Councilman Reedy. Council unanimously approved the award of bid for four Ford Explorers to Mid-State Ford on a motion by Councilwoman Hunter seconded by Councilman Buchanan. The two bids were incorporated into the May 13, 2025, Council Meeting minutes.

Council unanimously approved the following appointments and reappointments to the commissions listed below. The City Manager was appointed to the New River Transit Board of Directors for a term of one year on a motion by Councilwoman Hunter seconded by Councilman Williams.

The City Manager was appointed to the Planning Commission on a motion by Councilman Buchanan seconded by Councilwoman Coots. Next, Ryan Snuffer was reappointed to the City of Beckley Planning Commission on a motion by Councilwoman Hunter seconded by Councilwoman Bullock. Dr. Zafar was reappointed to the Beckley Board of Zoning Appeals on a motion by Councilman Williams seconded by Councilwoman Coots. Robert File was reappointed to the Beckley Board of Zoning Appeals on a motion by Councilman Buchanan seconded by Councilwoman Bullock.

Councilman Kip Buchanan was reappointed to the Beckley Housing Commission on a motion by Councilwoman Bullock seconded by Councilwoman Coots. Councilman Buchanan abstained from voting. Ed Tigert was reappointed to the Fireman's Civil Service Commission on a motion by Councilwoman Hunter seconded by Councilman Buchanan. Dr. Kurt Reiber was reappointed to the Beckley Building Commission on a motion by Councilman Buchanan seconded by Councilwoman Bullock. India Hosch was reappointed to the Raleigh County Health Department Commission on a motion by Councilman Buchanan seconded by Councilwoman Coots. Councilwoman Nancy Shoemaker-Dingess requested that Council be given the opportunity to offer names of people for City Commissions before the terms expire.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: The Mayor announced that if calling by phone, dial *3 to raise your hand. If connected by computer click the "hand icon" on your participant's panel. There wasn't anyone who signed up to speak online. Mary West said she wants the speed humps removed and asphalt put down. Tom Mosley said that he wants to see the Multi-Cultural Center serve the people and the City. Debbie Williams invited everyone to a Raleigh County Baby Shower on May 30, 2025, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Raleigh County Head Start.

Councilman Williams said that the Multi-Cultural Center is utilized a lot and he is aware of the various uses for the facility. He told Mr. Mosley that he wanted him to stop dragging his name through the mud or he'll see him in court.

With there being no further business to discuss, Council unanimously approved adjourning the meeting on a motion made by Councilwoman Bullock seconded by Councilman Williams.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

The Parking Commission Meeting was cancelled.

_____ _____

Mayor Interim City Manager