A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 6:30 PM ON JUNE 10, 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, 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 Captain Christopher Lana, 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. ABSENT: Councilman Buchanan.

The Mayor led in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by prayer led by Pastor Tommy Dove with Amazing Grace Worship Center. 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 except Councilman Buchanan. The Mayor said that there was a quorum. Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes from the May 27, 2025, 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 Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dinges.

The minutes from the June 5, 2025, Workshop will be on the June 24th agenda.

Next on the Agenda were Brief Comments From the Mayor, Council Members, and the Interim City Manager. Councilwoman Bullock inquired about putting a traffic light by the soccer field. She said that she knows it would be up to the DOH but perhaps the City could work with the DOH to encourage them to see the need. Councilman Williams made an inquiry regarding the two properties on Neville Street. He wanted to know if the City has plans to purchase them. Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess did not have any comments. Councilwoman Coots said that she has asked for a workday for Council three times and there is a lot of work needing to be done. She said ordinances need to be updated especially regarding vape shops in the City. She said there are too many and it is of great concern for our youth especially.

Councilwoman Hunter said she was also concerned about the number of vape shops in our City.

She thanked Board of Public Works (BPW) for their help with recycling in the City. Councilman Reedy thanked the BPW for installing the 2-hour parking decals and said now that the decals are up, warnings can be issued to those violating the 2-hour limit. Once warnings are issued for a few weeks, citations should be issued. He said that he has mentioned this a couple of times in the past and the need is still growing. The Greyhound Bus Station needs to provide trip schedules and a Beckley Police (BPD) Officer needs to be at the bus station with a K-9 dog when buses arrive and find out why they are here. He said too many trips are being made bringing guns and drugs into our City and we need to protect our City. Mr. Jarrell said that he appreciates the staff. He thanked Chief Bailey for the quick response of the Beckley Police Department (BPD) at Woodrow Wilson's recent graduation ceremony. He thanked the Director of BPW Mike Bolen for the paving work. He thanked the BPD and the BFD for their teamwork in using a

drone to rescue lost people at the Piney Gorge and at the Babe Ruth Field.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. File said tonight is the second reading and public hearing 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. Mr. File pointed out that if this ordinance is adopted, it will be effective on August 1, 2025. The meetings will start at 5:30 p.m. with the first Council meeting in August being on August 5, 2025. The second Council meeting will be on August 19, 2025. Mr. File opened the public hearing. Two comments were made from the public supporting the ordinance. Mr. Filed closed the public hearing. Council unanimously approved the ordinance on a motion by Councilman Reedy seconded by Councilwoman Hunter. The ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

NEW BUSINESS: Chief Code Enforcement Officer Morgan read A Notice Of Application For WV ABCA License for 2004 Harper Road. A copy of the application is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, Interim City Manager Jarrell asked Council for permission to approve the renewal of the property and liability insurance the City has with Traveler's Insurance for an annual rate of approximately $1,880,664.

Council unanimously approved the renewal on a motion by Councilwoman Coots seconded by Councilwoman Bullock.

Next, Interim Recorder-Treasurer Jessica Chandler asked Council for approval of Vendor Contract For Tiffany Hart as the Interim Representative for the WV Governor Highway Safety Program. Jim Cannady who recently held this position has been appointed to the Department of Homeland Security. This contract expires September 30, 2025. Council unanimously approved the approval on a motion by Councilman Williams seconded by Councilman Reedy.

Next on the agenda was the Approval Of 2024-2025 Budget Revision For The General Fund which includes any adjustments the City of Beckley has had throughout the year. Interim Recorder-Treasurer Jessica Chandler said that it is the FY2024-2025 Budget Revisions.

She said part of the savings comes from not filling some vacant positions. She said that it is due to the State Auditor by Friday, June 13, 2025. She said that the new FY begins July 1, 2025. Councilwoman Hunter said the budget reflected $497K allocated for the Welcome Center (which closed a while back). This amount wasn't reflected in the budget for the Welcome Center but an increase for Black Knight was reflected from $497K to $1.2M. Jessica said that wasn't included in the General Fund, it was part of the Parks & Recreation's budget for FY 2025-2026. She said the FY2024-2025 General Fund Revision being presented today has nothing to do with the Welcome Center or Parks & Rec., this is just the General Fund. Council approved the 2024-2025 Budget Revision for the general fund on a motion by Councilman Reedy seconded by Councilwoman Coots. The only Councilperson in opposition to the FY2024-2025 Budget Revision was Councilwoman Hunter. The Resolution and Request for Revision To Approve the Budget are hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next was the Approval of FY2024-2025 Budget Revision For The Coal Severance Fund. Council unanimously approved a motion to approve the budget revision by Councilman Williams seconded by Councilman Reedy. The Resolution and Request for Revision To Approve the Budget are hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next on the agenda was the Resolution For Employee Longevity Increase. Mr. File summarized the longevity increases listed in items A-E on the Resolution. Council unanimously approved the Resolution as presented on a motion by Councilwoman Hunter seconded by Councilman Reedy. Councilman Williams asked what the total amount is for this. Jessica said it is approximately $165K. A copy of the Resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Councilwoman Bullock asked a question regarding the General Fund Budget Revision. She asked when changes to the FY 2025-2026 General Fund Budget can begin being discussed. Jessica said that it starts July 1, 2025.

Next listed on the agenda was the Resolution For The City Of Beckley's Bank Depositories. Jessica Chandler said the City has all its accounts with City National Bank. The banks listed on the Resolution are the banks allowed by the WV State Treasurer's Office that qualify in our area. Council unanimously approved the Resolution as presented on a motion by Councilwoman Hunter seconded by Councilman Reedy.

The Resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

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 voiced the need for additional speed humps and for them to be spaced out correctly on Larew Avenue. She said that the City and DOH need to communicate to get a left turn signal on the traffic light on Robert C. Byrd Drive to turn onto 3rd Avenue. She said the City's driving impaired ordinances need to be updated. Tom Mosley expressed his concern about Councilman Williams violating the Open Meetings Act by addressing Mr. Mosley's public comments. Mr. Mosley said he has the right to speak for three minutes in the open forum at City Council Meetings and has never said anything negative publicly about Mr. Williams. He said that he has not dragged Mr. William's name through the mud as Mr. Williams recently stated. Christiania Baisden said she does not see in the Open Meetings Act where it states that Council cannot respond to public comments. She said she expressed concern to the City when the fourth vape shop opened in the City.

Danielle Stewart gave Council a copy of pictures of Board of Public Works employees working on installing asphalt stormwater barriers on Vine Street. She said he has concerns about work being performed by City employees, on the City's time, for City employees, as well as for the Interim City Manager. She said work has recently taken place on Christoper Drive, Vine Street, and Olympia Drive all these streets have employees of the City that live there or a family member of a City employee who lives there. She has concerns as to why Maxwell Woods will soon be worked on instead of other areas that are not privately owned in the City. Kelli Gunnoe spoke in opposition to all the vape shops in the City and said ordinances need updated to include evaluation of the signage stores use to attract our youth. She said there are twelve new vape shops in the City limits alone. She said they are selling psychedelics such as Kratom and Delta 8's and they sell to youth. Chris Crookshanks also spoke in opposition to the vape shops in the City.

Reverand Calivn Moore spoke about the continuation of flooding on his property at 703 Hartley Avenue which he says has caused structural issues with the foundation of his house and he wants the situation resolved.

Council unanimously approved entering into Executive Session on a motion by Councilman Reedy seconded by Councilwoman Coots. Council entered Executive Session for lease negotiations at 7:15 p.m. Council unanimously approved entering back into the Regular Council Meeting on a motion by Councilwoman Coots seconded by Councilwoman Hunter at 8:24 p.m.

With there being no further business to discuss, Council unanimously approved adjourning the meeting on a motion by Councilwoman Hunter seconded by Councilman Williams. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

The Parking Commission Meeting was cancelled.

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Mayor

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Interim City Manager