A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 5:30 PM ON AUGUST 19, 2025, IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIA WEB-X.

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

The Mayor led in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by prayer by Dr. Joe Golden. 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 5:30 p.m. The Mayor said that all members of Council are present with the exception of Councilwoman Coots.

Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes from the August 5, 2025, Regular Council Meeting, 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 Hunter.

Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes from the August 6, 2025, Scheduled Workshop, copies of which had been distributed to each member. Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess seconded by Councilman Williams. Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes from the August 12, 2025, Special Council Meeting, copies of which had been distributed to each member. Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilman Buchanan seconded by Councilwoman Bullock.

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 requested more speed humps/bumps on Larew Ave. and asked others to file complaints regarding the rate hikes from utility companies. She thanked Council for their work. Tom Moseley said garbage in the streets needs picked up and perhaps decorative signs to deter speeding could be installed. Kristi Dumas thanked

Council for compromising on the new meeting dates and time for City Council meetings. She said that she thinks access to elected officials is limited. Christina Baisden said that she did not like being removed from the last Council meeting and she said no one has responded to the letter she gave to Council at the last meeting. Danielle Stewart said she was thankful for the workshop regarding opioid funds but thinks it was a failure, and a community assessment needs to take place before any funds are disbursed. Next were Brief Comments From the Mayor, Council Members, and the City Manager. Councilwoman Bullock thanked Dr. Stuart for the invite to the Student Convocation she attended Monday. She said property owners need to be held accountable, and the City needs grants for sidewalks. She said the LRA (Land Reuse Agency) is still needed. Councilman Buchanan did not have any comments. Councilman Williams said he also enjoyed the Student Convocation at WVU Tech yesterday. He thanked Code Enforcement for their help and said that other roads have issues and that Council needs to list common goals so people

know that Council is moving forward. He said God needs to be put first. Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess did not have any comments. The Mayor encouraged everyone to attend a fundraiser, "Boots vs. Badges" on August 23rd at 3pm at Epling Stadium. It will be a softball game between the BFD and the BPD. Free admission for children. Admission is $5.00 for adults and all proceeds go to charity. He also shared upcoming Beckley events. Councilwoman Hunter recognized the Academy of Careers and Technology for being named to USA TODAY's inaugural list of America's Top Vocational Schools 2025. It can be viewed on USA TODAY's website. She said that there needs to be a process to expedite code enforcement issues. She said that if you own a vehicle and it needs to be towed, and you cannot afford it, contact her and she can help. She shared a recent compliment on the Exhibition Coal Mine shared with her at an event she attended in a nearby city. Councilman Reedy did not have any comments. City Manager Phillip Jarrell said that he, Dr. Stuart, and Dr. Poling are working on some projects. He gave Council a copy of some of the pictures

featured in the ACCA Magazine which had some of the cars that were in the car show in downtown Beckley.

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES:

Next, Mr. File summarized and read by title, "An Ordinance Authorizing City Of Beckley To Lease Property At 100 Washington Street, Beckley, Raleigh County, WV To Southern WV Multi-Cultural Museum and Community Center, Inc." City Attorney File said that the lease is attached to the Ordinance as Exhibit "A". Mr. File said the first reading of this ordinance was during the August 5th Council Meeting and tonight is the second reading and public hearing.

Mr. File opened the public hearing. Danielle Stewart spoke in favor of the ordinance saying the location could be used for kids. Christinia Baisden spoke in favor of the ordinance. Mr. File closed the public hearing. The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the ordinance as presented. Councilwoman Hunter made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Bullock. The Mayor asked if there were any comments. Councilman Williams said that he has one more document that he will be submitting to the insurance company tomorrow. He said that he is

glad this issue is coming to an end. Councilman Williams and Councilwoman Bullock spoke on how instrumental Elsie McCray was in helping secure $178K in grants for this building. Councilman Williams said they host a lot of activities there and do not charge for them. He said they accept donations. Interim Recorder-Treasurer Jessica Chandler said that she thinks the utilities are approximately $3K/year. Mr. File said the landlord (City of Beckley) will pay the utilities and the tenant is required to maintain a policy of liability insurance. Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess asked if Councilman William's is still listed as the Chairperson for the Multi-Cultural Center. Mr. File said that he consulted with the Ethics Commission and was advised Councilman Williams can sign the lease as an officer of the 501c(3) tenant, vote on the ordinance at this meeting, ask questions, and make comments on this matter.

Council unanimously approved the ordinance on a motion by Councilwoman Hunter seconded by Councilwoman Bullock.

The ordinance and lease are

hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, Mr. File said the first reading of the next ordinance was during the August 12th Special Council Meeting. He read the ordinance by title, Ordinance Amending City Of Beckley Code Chapter 2, Sec.2-204. Order Of Proceedings at Regular Meetings. Mr. File said that tonight is the fourth meeting held experimenting with this revised order of procedure, and it seems to be working well. He said several other municipalities in the State follow a similar order of procedure for their City Council Meetings. Mr. File summarized that if anyone signed up to give public comments who have documents/handouts, they are to ask the Mayor for permission to share the documents/handout. If granted permission, the documents are to be given to the security officer who will distribute the documents to Council members, City Manager, City Attorney, and to the Recorder-Treasurer. Mr. File opened the public hearing. Kristi Dumas spoke in opposition to the ordinance. Mary West spoke in favor of the ordinance. Danielle Stewart said that she is happy to see that the City is now coming into compliance. Tom Moseley said that he likes the public comment section being at the beginning

of the agenda. Christina Baisden spoke in opposition to the ordinance. With there being no further comments, Mr. File closed the public hearing. The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the ordinance as presented. Councilman Williams made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Bullock. The Mayor asked if there were any comments. Councilman Williams said he will be glad to give his phone number to anyone who thinks they need to contact him. He would like to see a public comment section on the agenda for workshops. The Mayor said that people can be recognized during workshops, but public comments are not permitted at workshops. Councilwoman Bullock said Council members are approachable, and you are welcome to come see her. The Mayor said Council is approachable and he and Council members, as well as the City Manager are available before and after Council meetings. Councilwoman Hunter said that she thinks the back and forth between Council and the public is confusing and she thinks workshops should allow for public comments. Mr. File said that this ordinance does not prohibit Council from answering

questions if they choose to. Councilman Williams clarified by asking if Council members can answer questions from the public during Council meetings. Mr. File said yes. Councilwoman Bullock said the Open Meetings Act states that Council does not have to permit public comments during Council Meetings. Mr. File said City Council meetings are not town hall meetings. He said that these meetings are to conduct City business in a structured manner. Council unanimously approved the ordinance, which is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS – Next was the Resolution for The WV Governor's Highway Safety Program in the amount of $375,700 to be used for the Southern Regional Highway Safety Program. Interim Recorder-Treasurer Jessica Chandler said that Officer Jamie Wilhite oversees this program and it is used for DUI check points and for helping ensure traffic light signals, such as stopping at red lights, are being enforced. The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Councilman Reedy made a motion seconded by Councilman Williams. The Mayor asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. Council unanimously approved the resolution which is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, was the resolution for The WV Governor's Highway Safety Program in the amount of $979,200.00 to be used for the law enforcement liaison project. Interim Recorder Treasurer Jessica Chandler said that this is used for driver training. She said that Tiffany Hart oversees this program. The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Councilman Williams made a motion seconded by Councilman Reedy. The Mayor asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. Council unanimously approved the resolution which is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS: Next, was the consideration for the awarding of bid for the paving of Mercer St., Nixon Drive, and Dorcus Avenue. City Manager Jarrell said that one bidder protested, the low bidder was disqualified, and the other bidder was over budget. He asked a staff member to reach out to HUD to see if additional funding could be allotted for this paving project to the City and was told no. Mr. Jarrell recommended that the bids be rejected and put back out for rebidding. The Mayor asked for a motion to reject the current bids and put this project out for rebidding. Councilwoman Hunter made a motion seconded by Councilman Reedy, and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

There was no Executive Session.

With there being no further business to discuss, Council unanimously approved adjourning the meeting on a motion by Councilwoman Hunter seconded by Councilman Reedy. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

_____

_____

Mayor
City Manager