A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 5:30 PM ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2025, IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIA WEB-X.

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

The Mayor led in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by prayer by Pastor Sam Peterson with Faith Community 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 5:31 p.m. The Mayor said that all members of Council are present.

Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes from the September 2, 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 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. Mary West requested more speed humps/bumps on Larew Ave. She thanked the BPW and Code Enforcement for their help on Larew. Paula Carol raised concern for minors riding four wheelers on N. Highland Street. She wasn't happy with the response time from the police, the resolution, or the situation. Scott Barber raised concern regarding the four wheelers on N. Highland St. He felt that the police did not resolve the situation fairly or promptly. Niki Kelly spoke concerning National IT Professional Day, acknowledging Bill Kelly for his contributions to the City's technological advancements. She stated that he formed the IT Department at Beckley and upgraded it over the years. Through his efforts, she stated, every department throughout the City has been able to operate more safely and efficiently. Thomas Parham at 315 Hunter St. spoke of problems with a vacant house at 309 Hunter Street and wants help with the problem. He stated that 303 Worley Road

was full of cats and dogs and requested an ordinance regarding cats and dogs. He wants the alleyway between Gregory/Hunter Streets addressed. Todd Cornett spoke on behalf of the Delaney Wykle Fund and is requesting to put in a dog park at Maxwell Hill Community Center. He is asking that a committee be formed to work towards building a dog park. Lastly, Rachel Cornett spoke in favor of a memorial for Delaney Wykle that is family oriented, including a dog park, playground, picnic tables, and restrooms.

Next were **Brief Comments From the Mayor, Council Members, and the City Manager.** Councilwoman Bullock expressed her appreciation for the quality of the 9/11 Memorial held downtown. Councilman Buchanan thanked Captain Morgan for resolving the Orchard Avenue problems. He also addressed the speeding issues on North Vance and the need for a petition for speed humps. Councilman Williams told Chief Code Enforcement Officer Morgan that he is looking forward to the demolitions in East Park/Ward 3. He also thanked BPW for looking at the multicultural building. Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess thanked both Todd

and Rachel Cornett for the dog park idea. She said that two dog waste stations were put in Ward II and will be relocated to the parks in Ward II. Councilwoman Coots also expressed appreciation for the 9/11 Memorial downtown. She also addressed the speeding complaints on Maxwell Hill Road. Mayor Neal said the Fundraiser, "Boots vs. Badges" raised approximately $3K. He said it was a great community event, and a lot of children were in attendance. Councilwoman Hunter stated that the 9/11 Memorial Service went well. Mountainview Christian Schol wanted to participate, and she was excited to have kids wanting to be involved. She said that Mountaineer Food Bank will be at Epling Stadium tomorrow. She commented on the process for Code Enforcement to enforce court orders. She asked that a bigger flag be ordered for Rural Acres/Maxwell Hill area and the cost for the flag can be taken from her discretionary fund.

Councilman Reedy thanked BPW and Mr. Jarrell for paving and curbing. He said that he was excited for the work on the Neville Street parking lot, and said the dog park will revitalize the Maxwell Hill Park. City Manager Jarrell spoke

regarding what was accomplished for parking in downtown. He thanked the staff for the paving efforts and for looking at vacant properties. Mr. Jarrell spoke on a collaborative effort with WV Tech students to determine the best use of the BK tennis courts. He expressed support for a dog park.

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES:

There were no ordinances.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

Next was the Resolution to Permit Open burning of Vegetation from October to December 2025. Mr. File stated that this resolution is bi-annual and is responsible for controlling the burning of vegetation in City limits, it is in accordance with the WV Code Section 20-3-5. The resolution states that open burning of vegetation will be allowed in the corporate limits of the City of Beckley between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. from the 1st day of October 2025, until the 31st day of December 2025. Prior to the open burning of vegetation, the owner of the property in which the burning will take place must notify the City of Beckley FD. The open burning should not affect the health, safety, comfort, and property of any person. If the open burning is

determined to not meet this criteria, BFD is authorized to order open burning to cease. The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Councilwoman Coots made the motion to approve seconded by Councilwoman Hunter. 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.

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OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS: Next was the receipt and award of bids for the demolition of various structures, asbestos inspections, and asbestos abatement. Mr. Jarrell explained his wishes for Council to vote on the bids at that Council Meeting instead of waiting to vote at the next meeting. This will expedite the work. The only bid received was from Empire Salvage for $80,975.00 for the demolition of seventeen properties. Council unanimously approved a motion by Councilman Reedy seconded by Councilwoman Hunter. The bid from Empire Salvage is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next was the receipt and award of bids for the reconstruction of Mercer St., Nixon Dr., and Dorcus Ave. The only bid was from Southern WV Paving. Mercer

Street would cost $169,000. Nixon Drive would cost $7,600.00 and Dorcas Avenue would cost $64,000. The bid from SWV Paving is hereby incorporated into the these minutes.

Chief Code Enforcement Officer Morgan presented the notice of application for a WVABVA Class B License for 406 2nd Street, B&B Discount.

He stated no action is required from Council. Lastly, a Proclamation for Constitution Week was read by the Mayor. Council proclaimed September 17-23, 2025, as Constitution Week in Beckley.

POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Mayor asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session. Councilman Reedy made the motion seconded by Councilman Buchanan which was unanimously approved by Council. Council entered Executive Session at 6:17 pm. At 6:44 p.m. the Mayor asked for a motion to enter back into the Regular Council Meeting which was made by Councilwoman Coots, seconded by Councilman Williams. Council unanimously approved. The Mayor stated no action was taken in Executive Session. With there being no further business to discuss, Council unanimously approved adjourning the meeting on a motion by Councilman Reedy seconded by Councilwoman Hunter. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m. The Parking Commission Meeting will follow the Council Meeting.

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Mayor
City Manager