A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 5:30 PM ON JANUARY 06, 2026, IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIA WEB-X.

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

The Mayor led in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by prayer by Pastor Vondie Cook of Cross Point 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 5:30 p.m. The Mayor said that there was a quorum.

Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes from December 16, 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 and seconded by Councilwoman Coots.

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.

The Mayor asked if anyone was online requesting to speak. There were no online speakers.

Mary West said she hopes to see more unity in the new year. She invited everyone to join her on February 12th to tour the State Capital and talk to local legislators. Captain Liz of the Salvation Army thanked Council, the Mayor, and Matt Lindsey of Board of Public Works for taking time during the holiday season to ring the bell for the Red Kettle Campaign. Paul Brown thanked Councilman Williams for his help recently regarding getting a sign on his property removed. Mr. Brown said that we need to pay attention to one another because he said someone was recently abducted in our area.

Next were **Brief Comments from the Mayor, Council Members, and the City Manager.**

All Council members that participated in the Red Kettle Campaign for the Salvation Army, as well as the Mayor said they enjoyed participating.

All Council members and the Mayor wished everyone a happy new year. Councilman Reedy asked City Manager Jarrell if he would reach out to the WV DOH to discuss the possibility of getting a left turn signal added to the traffic lights at 4th Street and at 3rd Avenue. Mr. Jarrell said yes. City Manager Jarrell thanked the staff and wished everyone a happy new year.

The Mayor reminded everyone of the upcoming Workshop on Thursday, January 15th at 4:00 p.m. regarding opioid funds in Council Chambers.

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES: There were no ordinances.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

Council unanimously approved a Resolution authorizing the installation of an honorary sign for Sandra Raimey Jackson on Terrill Street on a motion by Councilwoman Hunter and seconded by Councilwoman Coots. A copy of the resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes. Pastor Sandra Jackson thanked everyone for the honor.

Council unanimously approved a Resolution authorizing the installation of an honorary sign for Bobbi Lee Tunstalle on Deegans Street on a motion by Councilwoman Coots and seconded by Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingees.. A copy of the resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes. His niece, Terra Hopkins, spoke on behalf of Mr. Tunstalle, thanking everyone involved in helping make this happen. Councilwoman Coots said that she appreciated the positive impact that Mr. Tunstalle had on many students.

Council unanimously approved a Resolution authorizing the installation of an honorary sign for Albert Scott Nelson on Antonion Avenue on a motion by Councilman Buchanan and seconded by Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess. A copy of the resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes. Mr. Nelson's grandson, Michael Webster spoke on his behalf about the work ethic that his grandfather taught him.

Council unanimously approved a Resolution authorizing the installation of an honorary sign for Eunice Jones on Green Street on a motion by Councilman Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Coots. A copy of the resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes. Bishop Jones thanked everyone for this honorary sign.

OLD BUSINESS: Next was the Selection By Council Of The Members Of City Council to Serve On City Of Beckley Land Reuse Agency. Mr. File said that the committee can have a total of eleven members and as few as five members. City Manager Jarrell recommended that two members of City Council serve on the LRA. He said, in his opinion, at most, three members of Council could serve to keep it from being a Council quorum. After brief discussion among Council on how many members should serve, Mr. File said that tonight Council should vote to decide on the number of Council members that will be serve on the LRA and at the next Council Meeting Council can vote on which Council members will be on the LRA. On a 4:3 vote, Council approved two members of Council serving on the LRA on a motion by Councilman Buchanan seconded by Councilman Reedy. The opposing members were Councilwoman Bullock, Councilman Williams, and Councilwoman Hunter. The Council members who are interested in serving on the LRA are Councilwoman Bullock, Councilman Williams, Councilwoman Coots, and Councilwoman Hunter.

NEW BUSINESS: Appointment of Josh Harld to the Planning Commission (3-year term). Council unanimously approved this appointment on a motion by Councilman Buchanan seconded by Councilwoman Bullock.

POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 6:12 p.m. Council unanimously agreed to enter into Executive Session on a motion by Councilman Reedy and seconded by Councilwoman Hunter. At 6:55 p.m. Council unanimously agreed to enter back into the Regular Council Meeting on a motion by Councilwoman Hunter and seconded by Councilman Buchanan.

With there being no further business to discuss, the Mayor adjourned at 6:56 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Reedy and seconded by Councilwoman Bullock.

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Mayor City Manager