A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 5:30 PM ON DECEMBER 02, 2025, 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, Frank Williams, Natalie Coots, Sherrie Hunter, and Cody Reedy. The following City employees were present: IT Director Luke Miller, IT Technician Matt Blake, BPD Chief Dean Bailey, Chief Ed Thompson of BFD, Director of Board of Public Works (BPW) Mike Bolen, Beckley Events Coordinator Jill Moorefield, and Director of Parks & Recreation Leslie Baker. ABSENT: Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess and Councilman Kip Buchanan.

The Mayor led in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by prayer led by Susan Claytor of St. Stephens Episcopal 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 the November 18, 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.

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

Mary West requested more police presence and for cameras to be placed on Larew Avenue to help with the issue of drivers speeding there. Tom Mosley said the Holiday Market in uptown Beckley is great and the City needs to keep the momentum going after the holidays. He said that speeding is an issue in the City. James Watkins, Garage Supervisor at Board of Public Works (BPW), City of Beckley employee asked for a $2./hr. pay raise for the employees at the BPW. Councilman Williams said he will look into the matter. Leslee Anderson said that the City needs to offer housing for women who are abused. She said there are programs for women who are physically abused but there is no help for women who are abused in nonphysical ways. Kellie Gunnoe of the United for Prevention Coalition thanked everyone involved in helping her get the FOIA information.

She said that Kratom is being packaged to appeal to the youth and it is not safe. She said that vape shops should have a permit to sell it. Timothy Schofield said that part of the United Apostolic Church building (former Lincoln School) needs to be demolished and contains asbestos. He said that he has been waiting for one year and has not been given a resolution or communicated with regarding this. Councilwoman Hunter apologized to him. She said that she thought it was included in the structures for the DLAP Grant. Chief Code Enforcement Officer Morgan said that he has checked to see if more funds are available for this, but it is doubtful. He said that WV Brownsfield might be able to assist but it's doubtful that the Historic Preservation Authority will be able to assist. Calvin Moore said that he still has not received any help from the City regarding the structural damage to his house on Hartley Avenue due to storm drainage issues. Mr. File said that he and Mr. Moore's attorney have been in contact. Mr. Moore also said that signage is needed regarding parking in the lot across from Beckley Water.

He said that he received a ticket and did not know he should not have parked where he did due to a lack of signage. Paul Brown asked if the no parking sign that was recently installed at his property on Temple Street could be removed.

Next were **Brief Comments from the Mayor, Council Members, and the City Manager.** Councilwoman Bullock congratulated Director of Beckley Events Jill Moorefield on her upcoming retirement and thanked her for her years of service and thanked her for all the great work she has done for the City. Councilwoman Bullock asked City Manager Jarrell if he had an update on the sidewalks on S. Fayette and S. Kanawha Streets. He did not have an update. She said a Workshop is still needed regarding the (LRA) Land Reuse Agency. She congratulated Byrd White on being the recipient of the Spirit of Beckley Award this year. Councilman Williams also thanked Jill Morefield for all her work. He said the City needs to move faster on issues but thinks the City is headed in the right direction. He said that Mr. Moore's situation has gone on too long. He said Mr. Schofield's situation needs attention also. Councilwoman Coots said that the Holiday Market is great and the City needs to keep the momentum going after the holidays. She also congratulated and thanked Jill. Councilwoman Coots said that she agrees with Councilman Williams that the City needs to move quicker on issues. She said that she was not aware of the structural issue that Mr. Schofield mentioned. She said the Christmas lights in uptown Beckley look great. Councilwoman Coots thanked Kellie Gunnoe for the article on Kratom. The Mayor said that the Thanksgiving Day Run/Walk at the Soccer Complex was a great event and over 400 people attended.

The Mayor read the Nutcracker Proclamation. A copy of the Proclamation is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Councilwoman Hunter apologized to Mr. Moore and Mr. Schofield for it taking so long regarding the issues they spoke of. She thanked Jill for her work. She congratulated the Woodrow Wilson High School Cheer Champs. She said the lights uptown and at the Exhibition Coal Mine look great. She said the 25mph sign on Teel Road is down and asked Board of Public Works Director Mike Bolen to repair it. She also said that various streetlights are out in the same area.

Councilman Reedy thanked Jill for all her work and congratulated her on her retirement and said that he is looking forward to the Christmas parade Saturday.

City Manager Jarrell thanked the staff. He invited everyone to attend the Holiday Market uptown and thanked the BPW for hanging the Christmas lights and for starting to install the signs regarding panhandling. He congratulated Luke Miller on being promoted from within. Luke worked in the IT Department for the City and is now the IT Director.

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES: There were no ordinances.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS: Next, Mr. File read by title the Resolution to Approve The Lease of the 2nd Floor of 213 S. Kanawha Street, Beckley, WV To Piney Creek Watershed Association, Inc. Mr. File explained that this is a twelve-month lease, terminating on December 31, 2026. The rent is $12/year. Mr. File opened a public hearing. Nate Sydnor and Jim Fetters of Piney Creek Watershed thanked the City and expressed appreciation for this lease agreement. Councilwoman Hunter thanked Mr. Fetters and Mr. Sydnor for all the great work that Piney Creek Watershed does. With there being no further comments, Mr. File closed the public hearing. The resolution was unanimously approved by Council on a motion made by Councilwoman Hunter and seconded by Councilwoman Coots. The resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS: City Manager Jarrell said that Greg Duckworth of the Raleigh County Commission who is also on the Opioid Board will be glad to attend a Workshop on opioid funds. Council offered Saturday January 10th or Tuesday, January 13th as dates for a Workshop on the opioid funds. The City Manager will determine the date and time. Councilwoman Bullock asked how many applications the City has received. City Manager Jarrell said it has received over twenty applications.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING NEGOTIATIONS FOR PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE. Council unanimously agreed to enter into Executive Session at 6:26 p.m. on a motion made by Councilman Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Bullock. Council unanimously agreed to enter back into the Regular Council Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on a motion made by Councilwoman Coots and seconded by Councilman Williams.

With there being no further business to discuss, the Mayor adjourned at 7:32 p.m. on a motion by Councilwoman Hunter and seconded by Councilman Reedy.

_____ _____

Mayor City Manager