A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 5:30 PM ON DECEMBER 16, 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, Kip Buchanan, Frank Williams, Natalie Coots, Nancy Shoemaker-Dinges, and Cody Reedy. The following City employees were present: IT Director Luke Miller, IT Technician Keith Carter, BPD Chief Dean Bailey, Chief Code Enforcement Officer Donald Morgan, 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: Sherrie Hunter

The Mayor led in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by prayer led by Beckley Events Coordinator Jill Moorefield. 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 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 Councilwoman Bullock 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 requested more police presence and for cameras to be placed on Larew Avenue to help with the issue of drivers speeding there.

Regina Thomas Executive Director of (the former Women's Resource Center) A.W.A.Y. spoke about the services the non-profit organization provides. Calvin Moore said speeding on Hartley Avenue is an issue and paving on Hartley Avene needs to take place to fix potholes which are in front of his house. He said that drivers do not stop at the stop sign on Blair Street and it is a safety issue. He said Hunter Street also has issues with drivers speeding.

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

Councilwoman Bullock thanked City Manager Jarrell for working with Julian Brooks regarding the repair of S. Fayette and S. Kanawha Streets.

Councilwoman Bullock thanked all the department heads for working with her when she calls them and wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Councilman Buchanan congratulated Jill on her upcoming retirement and thanked all the department heads for their work.

Councilman Williams thanked all the department heads and said that he is proud to be a part of this Common Council and looks forward to accomplishing a lot in 2026.

Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilwoman Coots expressed excitement as she shared that the City may possibly be getting a Skate Central for people to skate, hold birthday parties, and play laser tag. She thanked Regina Thomas for all that the A.W.A.Y. organization does for the community.

Councilwoman Coots said that the Holiday Market uptown is great and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

The Mayor announced that a Workshop will be held on Thursday, January 15th at 4:00 p.m. regarding opioid funds in Council Chambers.

Councilman Reedy wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

City Manager Jarrell thanked the staff for all its work and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES**:

There were no ordinances.

**ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS:**

There were no resolutions.

**OLD BUSINESS**: There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS**: Next was the selection by Council of Members of City Council to Serve On City Of Beckley Land Reuse Agency. City Manager Jarrell said that his recommendation is that two members of Council serve on this committee. The Mayor said that since Councilwoman Hunter is absent tonight this may need to be moved to an upcoming Council meeting. Mr. File said that would be fine.

Mr. File said that the committee can have a total of eleven members and as few as five members and the City Manager recommends that this committee have a maximum of seven members, with two of those members being members of City Council.

Councilwoman Bullock suggested that all four members of Council be on the committee and the committee would follow the necessary requirements for posting meetings, etc. due to four members of Council possibly serving on the committee. Councilman Reedy expressed concern with most of the Council serving on this committee. Councilman Williams said perhaps three members of Council could be on the committee. Councilwoman Coots said a vacant building ordinance is needed for the City and is in favor of the (LRA) Land Reuse Agency. City Manager Jarrell suggested the committee consist of as few members as possible. The Mayor said that this gives Council a lot to think about over the holidays and hopes to see this back on an upcoming agenda soon.

**POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING NEGOTIATIONS FOR PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE AND A PERSONNEL ISSUE.** There was no executive session.

With there being no further business to discuss, the Mayor adjourned at 6:08 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Reedy and seconded by Councilwoman Coots.

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Mayor
City Manager