A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 5:30 PM ON JANUARY 20, 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 Bishop Simms of Heart of God Ministries. 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 January 6, 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 Coots and seconded by Councilwoman Bullock. Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes from January 15, 2025, Workshop, copies of which had been distributed to each member. Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilwoman Hunter 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 and peace in the City. She invited everyone to join her on February 12th to tour the State Capital and talk to local legislators. She said Captain Liz of the Salvation Army will be driving a bus to the State Capital if anyone needs transportation. Aretha Vanhorn spoke regarding the speed bump on Larew, expressing hope that it will be put back after winter. She said that the City needs to unify.

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

Councilwoman Bullock said she is looking forward to attending the WV Municipal League Legislative Session soon. She said the Federal Corrections Institution is having a day of recruitment Wednesday, January 21st from 9 a.m. – 12 noon. Councilwoman Bullock thanked the Code Enforcement Office and the Board of Public Works for their help.

Councilman Buchanan said that he was glad that Council had the recent workshop on opioid funds. Councilman Williams said that Heart of God Ministries will be having a revival next week and thanked Bishop Simms for leading prayer before the meeting this evening.

Councilman Williams said that February 15th is Black History recognition at Heart of God Ministries. Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess did not have any comments. Councilwoman Coots also thanked Bishop Simms for all he does in the City.

The Mayor said that the "Dial 211" signs in the City directing people who wish to donate money to do so responsibly are great. He thanked Trena Dacal of the United Way for sharing this idea with the City. The Mayor said he would like to see an ordinance regarding panhandling on the next agenda requiring a permit and hopes that the ordinance is strictly

enforced. Councilwoman Hunter said the warming center is open and thanked all the departments that work out in the cold weather during this time of year. She said it is good to see people attending the meeting this evening even with the temperatures being as cold as they are. Councilman Reedy said he too thinks the City needs an ordinance on panhandling in place. He said there will be a brief Parking Commission Meeting after the Council Meeting. City Manager Jarrell thanked the staff and said an ordinance on panhandling is forthcoming soon.

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 Two Members Of City Council to Serve On City Of Beckley Land Reuse Agency. Mr. File said that four members of Council want to serve on the LRA. He explained that a quorum is needed to vote. He said that during the last Council meeting it was decided just two members of Council will serve on the LRA. He said that no member of Council can vote on a motion nominating that member to serve on the LRA. Councilman Buchanan asked if the initial term is for two years. City Manager Jarrell said yes. Councilman Buchanan made a motion for Councilwoman Bullock and Councilwoman Coots to serve on the LRA. Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess seconded the motion. The Council members in favor of the motion were Councilman Buchanan, Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess, and Councilman Reedy. The Council members opposed were Councilman Williams and Councilwoman Hunter. The motion passed. The Mayor asked if there were any questions or comments. Councilman Reedy said that he supports Councilman Buchanan's motion because he thinks that Councilwoman Bullock and Councilwoman Coots did their due diligence in attending the training that was offered and have worked closely with the Code Enforcement Office.

He said each of them made it known early on that if the City ever developed a LRA, they wanted to be part of it. Councilwoman Coots said that she appreciates Council believing in her and she knows that this will be a lot of work. Councilwoman Bullock also thanked Council for their vote and allowing her to serve on the LRA.

Next on the agenda was Discussion On Opioid Funds. City Manager Jarrell said that he will be working on letters to send to the qualified applicants this week, asking them to submit a one paragraph descriptive narrative of their project. He said that he and the LRA panel will be working on a grading matrix.

Next was the Public Hearing, Discussion, and Approval Of Lease Of First Floor Of 101 Main Street, Beckley, WV (Office Space Formerly Occupied By WVVA Television, Inc.).

Mr. File said this one year lease is for the first floor of the 101 Main Street location. The City will rent this floor to Lavender Hill Roost at the rate of $750/monthly and the utilities will be paid by the City. He explained that Lavender Hill Roost is the company that initiated the holiday market in this location and wishes to continue with similar activity renting smaller

spaces out on the first floor to some of the same vendors along with additional vendors. Mr. File opened the public hearing. There were no comments. Mr. File closed the public hearing. Council unanimously approved the lease on a motion made by Councilman Reedy and seconded by Councilman Williams. The Mayor asked if there were any comments. Councilman Reedy said that he liked the holiday market and hopes the growth continues throughout the year and is hopeful that with growth, the lessee may grow and get an additional space uptown next year. The lease is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Next, at 5:57 p.m. Council entered into Executive Session regarding terms of lease and/or real estate transaction on a motion made by Councilman Reedy and seconded by Councilman Williams. At 6:12 p.m. Council entered back into the Regular Council Meeting on a motion made by Councilman Buchanan seconded by Councilwoman Bullock. With there being no further business to discuss, the Mayor adjourned at 6:13 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Buchanan and seconded by Councilman Reedy.

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Mayor City Manager