A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 5:30 PM ON FEBRUARY 17, 2026, IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIA WEB-X.

PRESENT: Mayor Ryan Neal, City Manager Phillip Jarrell, 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 Matt Blake, 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 Director Trish Morgan, and Director of Parks & Recreation Leslie Baker. ABSENT: Councilwoman Sherrie Hunter. Evan Dewey attended the State Auditor's Workshop.

The Mayor led in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by prayer led by Councilman Williams. 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 reminded speakers to speak directly into the microphone in order to be heard on the recording. The Mayor said that there was a quorum. Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes from February 3, 2026, Regular Council Meeting, copies of which had been distributed to each member. Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilwoman

Shoemaker-Dingess 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 asked when the asphalt plant opens because she wants the speed bump on Larew Avenue installed. Debra McCray signed up to speak but declined when it was her turn.

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

Councilwoman Bullock thanked Council for voting for her to be on the LRA. She asked City Manager Jarrell if he had an update on the East Beckley Post Office. He said no, he will let her know as soon as he does. He thinks it is being renovated to be used as a post office. She said that the Family Worship Center will be having their food pantry this Saturday and acknowledged the passing of Reverend Jesse Jackson. Councilman Buchanan thanked Councilman Williams for inviting him to the Black History

Program last Sunday at Heart of God Ministries and for the service award presented to him. Councilman Williams congratulated the 3 recipients of proclamations honoring their service to the community and authorizing honorary signs being installed in the City. He said there will be a blood drive at the Salvation Army Thursday. Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess had no comments. Councilwoman Coots said that the Mobile Food Pantry will be at Epling Stadium this Friday at 10:00 a.m. and volunteers are needed at 9 a.m. The Mobile Food Pantry For Veterans will be next Friday at Epling Stadium at 10:00 a.m. She thanked the Beckley PD for their help recently in Ward I. The Mayor said that it was nice to see the attendance at the meeting. City Manager Jarrell thanked the staff for their work and welcomed the public to the meeting.

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES:

Mr. File said that tonight is the second reading of the ordinance which the Mayor just read by title, "An Ordinance Creating Chapter 15, Article III, Section 401-413 ("Land Reuse Agency") Of The Codified Ordinances Of The City Of Beckley, West Virginia". He said that Land Reuse

Agencies are one of the tools that municipalities and counties may use to facilitate the return of vacant, abandoned, and tax-delinquent properties to productive use, and are authorized by the West Virginia Land Reuse Agency Act, W.Va Code 31-18E-1 et seq. Mr. File opened the public hearing. There were no comments. Mr. File closed the public hearing. Councilman Reedy made a motion to adopt the ordinance and Councilman Williams seconded the motion. The Mayor asked if any members of Council had any questions or comments. There were no comments. Council unanimously approved the ordinance which is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS: The Mayor asked Mr. File to present the Resolution Of The Common Council Of The City Of Beckley To Permit The Open Burning Of Vegetation. Mr. File read paragraphs 1 through 4 of the resolution. Council unanimously approved the resolution on a motion by Councilman Williams seconded by Councilman Reedy. The resolution is incorporated into these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS: City Manager Jarrell thanked Donald Morgan, Chief Code Officer, and Chief Thompson of the Beckley Fire Department. They worked with Gavin Ward, the Fire Prevention Department, Code Enforcement, and City Manager Jarrell. He is recommending the Fire Marshal duties and Code Enforcement be combined. He said there will be one supervisor, and the employees will be cross trained so the fire prevention employees can also be code enforcement officials and vice versa. This allows for twice the amount of code officials. City Manager Jarrell recommended Captain Chris Graham for Fire Marshal/Chief Building Code Official. Council unanimously approved the appointment of Chris Graham on a motion by Councilwoman Coots seconded by Councilman Reedy. Council members congratulated Captain Graham.

Next, City Manager Jarrell appointed Marilyn Timbers to the Beckley Housing Authority. He said she has been a resident of the Housing Authority for over twenty years.

Council unanimously approved the appointment on a motion by Councilman Williams seconded by Councilwoman Coots.

Councilman Williams said it was a hard decision for him, but these three people are well deserving. Councilman Williams thanked the City for allowing him the opportunity to nominate three individuals to receive city proclamations. The first was a Proclamation honoring Pastor Debra McCray. She thanked Councilman Williams for the nomination and she thanked Council. Next was a Proclamation honoring the late Pastor David Allen. His wife spoke thanking Councilman Williams and Council for honoring her late husband. Next was a Proclamation honoring Bishop Ernest Stewart. He had a previous engagement and couldn't attend. His daughter spoke and thanked Councilman Williams and Council for honoring her father.

These three Proclamations are

incorporated into these minutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION. There was no Executive Session.

With there being no further business to discuss, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m. on a motion by Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess and seconded by Councilman Williams.

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Mayor
City Manager