A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 5:30 PM ON MARCH 03, 2026, IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIA WEB-X.

PRESENT: Mayor Ryan Neal, City Manager Phillip Jarrell, Mayor, City Manager's Executive Assistant Susan Miller, Recorder Treasurer Evan Dewey, 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 Keith Carter, BPD Chief Dean Bailey, Code Official/Fire Marshal Chris Graham, Chief Ed Thompson of BFD, Director of Board of Public Works (BPW) Mike Bolen, Beckley Events Director Trish Morgan. ABSENT: Director of Parks & Recreation Leslie Baker

The Mayor led in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by prayer led by Pastor Sam Peterson of Faith Community 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 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 17, 2026, Regular Council Meeting, copies of which had been distributed to each member. Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilman

Buchanan and seconded by Councilwoman Hunter.

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 cameras be installed on Larew Avenue due to drivers speeding. Tom Moseley said speeding is an issue on Hull Street.

Amanda Hammons of the Beckley Day Report Center updated Council with supporting data on its progress since it opened on December 1, 2024. She thanked the City for its support.

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

Councilwoman Bullock thanked City Manager Jarrell and City Attorney Mr. File for their work on the LRA and said the certificate was received establishing the LRA. She said she anticipates the East Beckley Post Office opening soon.

Councilwoman Bullock told Councilwoman Hunter that she did a good

job speaking today at the Rotary Club meeting.

Councilman Buchanan thanked the Board of Public Works for the work they have been doing to patch potholes in the City and said that Queen Ann Drive (near Walmart and Bridgeport Equipment & Tools) needs attention as the road is full of potholes. He asked when the tentative opening date is for the golf course at Black Knight. The Mayor said April 1st. Councilman Buchanan thanked City Manager Jarrell for his help recently on taking care of emails. He recently visited a dog park in Oak Hill and said he hopes to see one in Beckley soon. Councilman Williams thanked the department heads for their work and thanked Council for working together. Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess said speeding on Woodlawn Avenue is an issue and that the potholes in the City need attention as soon as possible. Councilwoman Coots said that she thinks things are moving in the right direction for the City. She presented a short reading on "Noticing the Good" and encouraged everyone to notice that which is good.

The Mayor said that Governor Morrisey will be at the Tamarack tomorrow at noon. He said the Future Forward event is April 8th at the Beckley Raleigh County Convention Center. Councilwoman Hunter said the National Day of Prayer is from 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. on May 7th and thanked Beckley Events Director, Trish Morgan for reaching out to her regarding this. She said the time is approaching to submit for the curbside recycling grant which is up to a maximum of $150K. She said Mr. Kizer's fence in Ward V is partially down. She said that Mark Baker and Candy Cozort told her that the City is welcome to place a no panhandling signage on his property. Councilman Reedy said that Queen Ann Drive needs repaired. He said it is great to see WVU Tech interns working in the City. He thanked President Stuart and City Manager Jarrell for working to make this happen. City Manager Jarrell thanked the staff and thanked department heads for working on their budgets.

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES:

There were no ordinances.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

There were no resolutions.

OLD BUSINESS: Next was discussion on panhandling signage. City Manager Jarrell said that he is working with the DOH to try to get approval for the signage the City has regarding panhandling. He said an application has been submitted to get the overpass near Captain D's on Robert C. Byrd Drive painted. On one side it will read "NRG Towns" and the City logo will be on the other side.

NEW BUSINESS: City Manager Jarrell said one bid was received for a new triple combination pumper-fire truck for the BFD and he would like to put this out for rebidding. Next was the approval of Mutual Aid Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding Between The City Of Beckley Fire Department And Beckley Water Company. Chief Thompson said that this MOU formalizes an informal agreement that has been in place for some time. It simply allows BFD to respond to calls regarding hazardous materials and Beckley Water Company will reimburse the BFD for the cost of all materials, response supplies and expendables used during any response to Beckley Water facilities, as itemized by the BFD. Council unanimously approved the

motion to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement/MOU by Councilman Reedy seconded by Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess. A copy of the MOU is incorporated into these minutes.

Next on the agenda was approval of a

Memorandum Of Understanding Between

The WV Land Trust, Inc. And The City

Of Beckley, Raleigh County, WV.

Beckley Outdoor Economic Development

Director Mitch Lehman said that this MOU is a renewal of the MOU from 2023. This agreement expires in 2 years. It covers the 613.24 acres of Pineycreek Preserve which was annexed into the City and allows Beckley to commit resources to protect, develop, and manage the property. Council unanimously approved the MOU on a motion by Councilwoman Coots seconded by Councilman Reedy. The MOU is incorporated into these minutes.

Next, City Manager Jarrell said he would like to have a Workshop on Tuesday, March 10th at 5:30 p.m. to discuss a traffic study on Rt. 3. Councilwoman Coots said that the intersection on Rt. 3 is the fifty-fourth most dangerous intersection in WV. He said that he will invite Jina Belcher, Executive Director of NRGRDA, and John Tuggle, Executive Director of Region 4 Planning & Development Council. He also suggested a Workshop on Thursday, March 12th at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the FY2026-2027 Budget. Council agreed that these Workshops are needed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION. At 6:02 p.m. Council unanimously agreed to enter into Executive Session regarding a personnel issue on a motion by Councilman Reedy seconded by Councilman Williams. At 6:42 Council unanimously agreed to enter back into the Regular Council meeting on a motion by Councilwoman Coots seconded by Councilman Williams. The Mayor said that no votes were taken and no decisions were made during Executive Session. With there being no further business to discuss, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m. on a motion by Councilwoman Hunter and seconded by Councilman Buchanan.

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Mayor
City Manager