A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 5:30 PM ON MARCH 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, Recorder Treasurer Evan Dewey, and City Attorney Bill File. Council Members: Janine Bullock, Kip Buchanan, Frank Williams, Natalie Coots, Nancy Shoemaker-Dinges, and Sherrie Hunter. 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 Director Trish Morgan, and the General Manager of the Beckley Sanitary Board (BSB) Jeremiah Johnson. ABSENT: Councilman Reedy, Director of Parks & Recreation Leslie Baker and Code Official/Fire Marshal Chris Graham.

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 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 Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Hunter.

Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes from March 10, 2026, Rt. 3 Traffic Study Workshop, 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 Coots.

Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes from March 12, 2026, FY2027 Budget Workshop, 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 said the public and the City need to work together and encouraged everyone to vote. Chris Yeargo of WV Disabled, Inc. said that buildings, restaurants, and sidewalks all need improvement to help people with disabilities and that businesses should comply and provide equal access for partnership.

Colin Scott voiced his support for upgrading the skate equipment/ramps at Freedom Skate Park using safter materials rather than metal ramps. He asked how many names a petition must have for it to be considered. Tom Moseley said speeding is an issue on Hull Street and throughout the City. He expressed appreciation for the restoration of the trains on display at New River Park. Amanda Hammons of the Beckley Day Report Center updated Council on the work and progress being done there. She asked how to request a letter of support from the City. City Attorney said she should send a request to the City Manager's office who will then have it reviewed by Council.

Next were **Brief Comments from the Mayor, Council Members, and the City Manager.** Councilwoman Bullock asked City Manager Jarrell if he had an update on the East Beckley Post Office. He said that the individual from the US Postal Service sent him an email and he forwarded it to her. She and all members of Council thanked Recorder Treasurer Evan Dewey for his presentation on the FY2027 Budget. Councilwoman Bullock said that March is Women's History Awareness Month and acknowledged that the City of Beckley has 4 women serving on Council. Councilman Buchanan thanked the Board of Public Works for the work they have been doing to patch potholes in the City and thanked Mr. Dewey and Mr. Jarrell for their work. Councilman Williams thanked the department heads for their work and thanked Council for working together. Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess invited people to participate in the Empty Bowls Project March 28th from 11 am – 1 pm at the United Methodist Church. She told Mr. Yeargo that she formerly worked for an organization that may be helpful. She said that she would share information with him. Councilwoman Coots thanked Beckley Sanitary Board's General Manager Jeremiah Johnson for his help recently. She also thanked the employees in all the departments in the City. The Mayor reminded everyone of the Future Forward event at the Beckley Convention Center on April 8th from 7 am – 5 pm and encouraged Council to attend. He said that the City will have a booth set up there and would like to see Council members plan on spending time at the booth. Councilwoman Hunter thanked Mary West for helping encourage Governor Morrisey while he recently visited Tamarack. She thanked Mr. Yeargo for making people aware of the needs of the WV Disabled, Inc. organization. She thanked the Executive Assistant to the Mayor and to the City Manager, Susan Miller. She said that she is the glue that holds the City together. She thanked Chief Thompson of the BFD for his recent report. She welcomed the 3 new police officers that were recently sworn in. She congratulated WVU Tech's Robotics Team. She said that they placed 13th in the world. Councilwoman Hunter said that she would like to see the City of Beckley update an Inoperable Motor Vehicles on Residential Property Ordinance (if it has one). She said if it does not have one, she would like to see one composed and brought before Council. She gave Council a copy of what Chesapeake, VA has in place for this issue.

City Manager Jarrell thanked the staff and thanked department heads for working on their budgets, he thanked Susan Miller for assisting him and thanked Evan Dewey for his presentation on the Budget. City Manager Jarrell said that he met with and talked to several people today regarding the Campus Corridor Project which is going out for bid next month. He said that President Stuart of WVU Tech is working on it. Mr. Jarrell said that he has plans for the work. If any Council member wants to discuss them, they can call and make an appointment with him. Mr. Jarrell said that he will check on an ordinance regarding inoperable motor vehicles on residential property. Recorder Treasurer Evan Dewey thanked Council for their remarks on his presentation and said it was a team effort and thanked all department heads and Mr. Jarrell for working with him on the budget.

He reminded Council to feel free to reach out to him with any questions regarding the budget. Since Councilman Williams and Councilman Reedy were not at the Budget Workshop, he said they can watch the recording online and all members of Council have the information regarding the budget that he gave out at the workshop in their binders.

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES: There were no ordinances.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

Next was the Consideration And Adoption Of Resolution Requesting Beckley Common Council Purchase On Behalf Of Beckley Sanitary Board Real Estate Identified as 107 Hartley Avenue. City Attorney Mr. File said that the Beckley Sanitary Board (BSB) does not own property and when it needs to purchase property it goes through the City of Beckley's Common Council. At the last Board Meeting that the BSB had, it adopted a resolution asking Council to proceed in purchasing property located at 107 Hartley Avenue. The consideration is $15,000 and is in the area where there is a stormwater/sewer project that will be taking place. This piece of property needs to be purchased for this project. The BSB is responsible for paying for the property, but it will be purchased by the City of Beckley. The seller of the property is Jimmy Ruff. Mr. File said that this is something the City and the BSB have done in the past and it needs to be adopted. Mr. File said that if anyone has any questions, they are free to ask Jeremiah Johnson, General Manager of the BSB. Councilwoman Bullock asked if this is phase 1 of the Hartley Avenue project. Mr. Johnson said that it is in the phase 2 area of the project. Council unanimously approved the resolution as presented on a motion made by Councilman Williams seconded by Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess. The resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next was the Adoption Of Resolution Authorizing City Of Beckley To Contribute $25,000.00 To The Southern Conservation District (SCD) For The Maintenance Costs Associated With The Little Whitestick Flood Control Channel And The Cranberry Creek Flood Channel. City Manager Jarrell said that this is an agreement that the City has had with the SCD for over twenty years. The SCD maintains the viaducts and those types of items and the two creeks in front of the malls. Mr. Jarrell said that it would cost more if the City had to maintain them utilizing the Board of Public Works department in the City. He said the SCD has lost some contributors and the cost of making repairs has increased. He said that the SCD has lost a grant from the State also. Council unanimously approved the resolution on a motion made by Councilman Buchanan seconded by Councilwoman Hunter. Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess asked if the County is contributing. City Manager Jarrell said yes, as is the BSB. The resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next was the Resolution To Adopt The Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. Evan Dewey said that this is the budget that was presented to Council during the March 12th Workshop. The packet of budget documents that were in Council's binders contain some of the same documents that have to be sent to the State Auditor's Office before March 28th. He said that nothing has changed since the Workshop. Once Council approves, the information required from the auditor's office can be submitted. The Resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS: Approval Of Lease On The Building Located At 313 Neville Street, Beckley, WV. Mr. File said that this is the property formerly occupied by Fruits of Labor. The City Manager has negotiated a lease with Jack's Café, LLC and would like to begin this lease on April 1, 2026. It is a 2-year lease with a 2- year option to renew. The terms of the lease are that for the first 4 months it would be rented for $1.00 per month. The next 4 months the rent would be $500.00 per month. The next 4 months the rent would be $1,000.00 per month The final 12 months of the lease the rent would be $1,500.00 per month.

All rent payments are due on the first day of each month and are to be paid at City Hall. Jack's Café will be responsible for the monthly utilities, and they will insure their own equipment. The Lessee, not the City, will pay for the utilities. Council unanimously approved the lease with Jack's Café, LLC on a motion by Councilman Buchanan seconded by Councilwoman Coots. Councilman Williams said that this is much needed in uptown. Councilwoman Hunter asked if other businesses will be in the building. City Manager Jarrell said that he supplied Council with the business plan. On the ground floor there will be a small restaurant; the basement will have video games and possibly golf simulators. He said the City is considering partaking in events on the top floor (which is not ADA accessible). City Manager Jarrell said that the utilities in this building are significant and the owner, Robbie Powell, is responsible for paying those beginning April 1st. City Manager Jarrell said the owner is also responsible for the maintenance of the interior of the building. Councilwoman Hunter asked if the parking lot across from the location will be used exclusively for this business. Mr. Jarrell said no, there will be 2-hour free parking there. Councilwoman Coots said that she hopes that the City remembers to participate and patronize the businesses.

A copy of the lease is hereby 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 6:13 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Buchanan and seconded by Councilwoman Hunter.

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Mayor City Manager