A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 5:30 PM ON APRIL 07, 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, Chief Ed Thompson of BFD, Director of Board of Public Works (BPW) Mike Bolen, Beckley Events Director Trish Morgan, and the Director of Parks & Recreation Leslie Baker.

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 said that there was a quorum. He asked Council members to speak directly into their microphone so they can be heard on the recording. Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes from March 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.

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 that speed humps be installed on Larew Avenue and said that the everyone needs to unify. Heather Williams works from the BPD in the Piers Program and shared how she's been able to help many people on the streets during her first year in this position.

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

Councilwoman Bullock said a sorority will be in town April 16th at 6pm. She said Ward 5 is having a spring cleanup and thanked Councilwoman Hunter and the Make It Shine Committee.

Councilman Buchanan thanked the Board of Public works for their hard work on the spring cleanup.

Councilman Williams thanked department heads and council for their work.

Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess thanked department heads and said she is happy to see potholes getting repaired. Councilwoman Coots thanked department heads and said that on April 25th at 10a.m. there will be an event in the Veterans Museum in the former Sheriff's Office. 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. He summarized a Proclamation he presented at Just For Kids earlier this week and summarized a Proclamation he presented to Josie Moore for Week of the Young Child highlighting the need for quality childcare in our area. Councilwoman Hunter said any Ward is welcome to hold a litter sweep. She thanked the Color Guard and Mick Bates for the Upper Big Branch Memorial held this week by the courthouse.

She said that a lot of people are getting permits for construction and she is happy to see the increase. She said more stringent ordinances are needed regarding litter and trash along the City streets. Councilman Reedy said Black Knight's golf course looks good and Queen Ann Drive still needs to be resolved. City Manager Jarrell thanked the department heads.

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES: Next was the Ordinance Authorizing City of Beckley To Lease Building and Property Located At 313 Neville Street To Jack's Café, LLC. Mr. File said tonight is the first reading and if approved the second reading and public hearing will be in two weeks. He said a resolution has already been approved for this lease. He summarized the ordinance and read it by title, Ordinance Authorizing City Of Beckley To lease Building And Property At 313 Neville Street To Jack's Café, LLC. The ordinance was unanimously approved by Council on a motion made by Councilman Reedy seconded by Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess. The ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next was the Ordinance Authorizing City of Beckley To Purchase 107 Hartley Avenue In City Of Beckley For Benefit Of Beckley Sanitary Board. Mr. File said that tonight is the first reading of this ordinance. If passed tonight the second reading and public hearing will be in 2 weeks. Mr. File read by title, Ordinance Authorizing the City Of Beckley to Purchase 107 Hartley Avenue In City Of Beckley For Benefit Of Beckley Sanitary Board. He said that Beckley Common Council is being asked to 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 real estate and when it needs to purchase property it goes through the City of Beckley's Common Council. At the last Council meeting, Council adopted a resolution to purchase property located at 107 Hartley Avenue for the consideration of $15,000. This piece of property is in an area where a stormwater/sewer project is to occur. This piece of property is being purchased for this project. The BSB is responsible for paying for the property. Council unanimously approved the ordinance on a motion by Councilwoman Hunter seconded by Councilman Buchanan. The ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS: Next was the Resolution Authorizing The City Of Beckley To Utilize USDA's Reporting System. City Manager Jarrell said this simply allows him and other City employees, including Evan Dewey, Angela King, and Jessica Lane to use the USDA's reporting system. The resolution was unanimously approved by Council on a motion made by Councilman Williams and seconded by Councilman Reedy. The resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS: Receipt & Award Of Bids For The Demolition Of Various Structures, Asbestos Inspection & Asbestos Abatement Within The City Of Beckley. The only bid received was from Empire Salvage for twelve structures in the amount of $55,862.50. The 12 structures included are: 209 Lincoln Street, 551 Orchard Avenue, 308 Ridgecrest Avenue, 113 Adkins Street, (REMOVED) 304 Kessinger Street, 213 6th Street, 813 S. Oakwood Avenue, 153 Prillerman Avenue, 229 Mool Avenue, 103 Totten Street, 227 7th Street, 133 Washington Street, and 218 Westmoreland Avenue. City Manager Jarrell said that one structure was removed from the list. Councilwoman Hunter asked how much of this will be paid by the DLAP Grant. Mr. Jarrell said $40,000.00 and the remainder will come from the general fund. The DLAP funds need to be spent before July 1st. Council unanimously approved the bid on a motion made by Councilman Buchanan and seconded by Councilwoman Bullock. A copy of the bid is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next was the Discussion & Approval Of Soaring Hope Animal Resue Agreement (SHARP). Recorder-Treasurer Evan Dewey said that until now the City and the County had a joint agreement with SHARP, but the City and County agree that it makes more sense for each to have a separate agreement with SHARP. SHARP is requesting an increase of $500.00 in the amount of their monthly contribution which ends in April (this month) from the City. In the past the City made a monthly contribution to SHARP in the amount of $2,000.00. He said the reason for the request to increase the contribution is due to additional operating costs. The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the increase from $2,000.00 per month to $2,500.00 per month. Councilman Reedy made the motion which was seconded by Councilman Williams. The Mayor asked if there were any questions or comments. Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess said that it would be nice to see a comparison as to how much is being contributed by the City to the Humane Society and how much is being contributed by the City to SHARP. She asked Mr. Dewey if this financial information had been submitted to the City. He said they have not submitted those yet, but he can request it. He asked if the comparison should be for a fiscal year or calander year. Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess said a fiscal year. She said that she thinks that the last financials that the Humane Society submitted were from 2023. Mr. Dewey said that when organizations request contributions, the City requires them to submit their financials. She said consideration may need to be made as to whether some of the money may need to be redirected. She said that SHARP is doing all it can to continue operating yet has increased demand for its services. Councilwoman Coots said that SHARP received 4 phone calls from the Humane Society because the Humane Society couldn't take in any more dogs at the time. Councilwoman Coots said that SHARP took in thirty puppies in one weekend. She said that she also thinks the City needs to look at what it's doing and with whom. She also thinks a comparison needs to be made. Councilwoman Bullock asked Mr. Dewey if he thinks Council should vote on this tonight or wait. City Manager Jarrell said that at this point the Humane Society has not asked for anything. Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess said the Humane Society receives money from the City every month. City Manager Jarrell said that was for the last budget year. What is being discussed now for SHARP is for the upcoming budget year. Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess said the City has allotted the same amount for the Humane Society for the upcoming budget year as it did for the current budget year. Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess said that the Humane Society gets a lot of money from the Beckley Area Foundation (BAF). Mr. Dewey said that the City has not yet set a dollar amount for the Humane Society for the upcoming budget year. He said within the next month all the requests for contributions will be brought before Council for voting. He said that SHARP's request is being brought before Council now because the agreement expires this month. Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess said that the Humane Society received $80K from BAF and SHARP isn't receiving anything similar. City Manager Jarrell said that he thinks that all contributions made by the City should begin on July 1st of each year. Councilwoman Coots asked if that would create a gap for SHARP since the current agreement ends this month.

Mr. Dewey said no, the City could make the payment. This is just referring to the actual agreement itself. Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess said that she thinks SHARP needs an increase. Mr. Dewey said that he thinks what is being brought before Council by SHARP is to vote on the increase or a different amount. Council unanimously approved the City of Beckley increasing its monthly contribution amount from $2,000.00 per month to $2,500.00 per month to Soaring Hope Animal Rescue Partners.

Next was the Allocation Of Beckley Area Foundation (BAF) Flying Eagle Economic Development Funds. Mr. Dewey said the BAF provides the City with different types of grants. This grant is to be brought before Council each year, and it is in the amount of $7,272.00. It is very broad in what it can be used for as long as it is for economic development. Mr. Dewey said that he and the City Manager recommend that these funds be used on the main street properties. Council unanimously approved the allocation as described on a motion made by Councilwoman Coots and seconded by Councilman Williams.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING POTENTIAL SALE/TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE. Councilwoman Hunter made a motion to enter Executive Session at 6:08 p.m. which was seconded by Councilwoman Coots and passed unanimously. At 6:25 p.m. Councilman Williams made a motion to enter back into the Regular Council Meeting which was seconded by Councilwoman Hunter and passed unanimously. The Mayor said that as always, during Executive Session, no votes were taken and no decisions were made. With there being no further business to discuss, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:26 p.m. on a motion by Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess and seconded by Councilman Williams. .

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Mayor City Manager