A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE BECKLEY CONVENED AT 5:30 PM ON APRIL 21, 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 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 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 April 7, 2026, Regular Council Meeting, copies of which had been distributed to each member. Councilman unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilman Williams 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 community and City need to unify and asked for more speed humps to be installed on Larew Avenue as well as a camera. Elizabeth Roe requested 2 speed humps be placed between 212 and 214 Church Street. She submitted a petition with signatures from residents supporting this request to the City Manager. Tom Moseley asked for speed humps on Hull Street. He said speeding in the City is a problem.

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

Councilwoman Bullock thanked the Mayor for attending the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity's Annual Provine Council this past weekend at the Beckley-Raleigh County Convention Center. Over seven hundred people attended. She thanked Kelli Gunnoe with the WV Prevention Coalition for a great "Tall Cop Say Stop"

Workshop it held recently. She said it focused on vape shops. Councilwoman Bullock said that there will be a community cleanup in Ward V on May 16, 2026, at 9 a.m. She thanked Councilwoman Hunter for her assistance in coordinating this for Ward V. She also thanked Department Heads for their work.

Councilman Buchanan thanked the department heads and all Council members congratulated Councilman Reedy and his wife for the recent birth of their son. He said the Master's Golf Tournament went great at Black Knight.

Councilman Williams also thanked the Mayor for attending the event at the Convention Center this past weekend. He asked City Manager Jarrell if he would send him a list of what streets are planned on being paved. City Manager Jarrell said that he would and that patch work is currently taking place.

Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess said speeding in the City is a problem. She said Woodlawn has a speeding issue.

Councilwoman Coots also said that speeding is an issue and that people need to be watchful for pedestrians.

She said her husband was recently struck by a distracted driver while he was

crossing a street in the vicinity of his employment at Beckley Auto Mall. He fortunately was not injured, but it could have been a disaster.

The Mayor thanked Councilwoman Bullock and Councilman Williams for inviting him to the well-attended event at the convention center this weekend. He said the ribbon cutting at the Stanaford Grove Piney Creek Preserve Trail was nice today. Director of Parks and Recreation Leslie Baker briefly spoke about it and thanked those who attended. He thanked Events Director Trish Morgan for the booth she coordinated for the City at Future Forward. Councilwoman Hunter thanked those responsible for helping with the litter sweeps in the City. Councilwoman Hunter said that tomorrow is Earth Day and thanked everyone who participates in litter sweeps and announced upcoming dates and times of litter sweeps in the community. She said that the official name is Historic Black Knight Municipal Park and she is glad to hear that golf is going well there. She thanked all those who helped with the warming center this past winter. She said that multiple traffic studies consistently report that when cities and towns use the

solar powered digital speed limit signs (that display the driver's speed under the speed limit sign) it helps decrease speed. She said that the City needs to spend money to help combat this problem with ideas such as this as well as a marketing campaign in high traffic areas.

Councilman Reedy said that he doesn't have any comments that can't wait until the Parking Commission Meeting after the Council Meeting.

City Manager Jarrell thanked the Department Heads.

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES:

Next was the second reading and public hearing of the Ordinance Authorizing City of Beckley To Lease Building and Property Located At 313 Neville Street To Jack's Café, LLC. Mr. File said the first reading was on April 7th. He read the ordinance by title and summarized the ordinance. Mr. File opened the public hearing. Mary West said that the community needs to support this business. There being no other comments, Mr. File closed the public hearing. The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the ordinance as presented. A motion was made by Councilwoman Hunter and seconded by Councilman Williams.

Councilwoman Bullock asked if there is an opening date yet. City Manager Jarrell said no. Council unanimously approved the ordinance. The ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next was the second reading and public hearing of 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 the first reading was on April 7th. He summarized the ordinance that the Mayor read by title and Mr. File opened the public hearing. There were no comments. Mr. File closed the public hearing. The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the ordinance as presented. A motion was made by Councilman Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Coots. Council unanimously approved the ordinance. The ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

Next was the Resolution Authorizing The City Of Beckley To Contribute $50,000.00 From Its General Fund to the Land Reuse Agency (LRA). Mr. File said the LRA is requesting the City contribute $50,000.00 from its General Fund to the LRA to be used as startup costs for the LRA. Councilman Wiliams made a motion to accept the resolution as presented which was seconded by Councilman Buchanan. Councilman Williams asked how many times the LRA has met so far. Councilwoman Coots said twice with four more meetings coming soon.

The officers for the LRA are as follows: Chairperson Councilwoman Coots, Vice Chairperson Ann Worley, Secretary Jina Belcher, and Treasurer is Evan Dewey. With there being no further comments Council unanimously approved the resolution. The resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS: Next was the Approval of The Levy Rates For Fiscal Year 2026-2027. Recorder-Treasurer Evan Dewey said that first there was a Budget Workshop, followed by a Council meeting in which Council approved the proposed budget. Next the budget was published twice in the Register-Herald. Councilman Reedy made a motion to approve the FY 2026-2027 Levy Order which was seconded by Councilwoman Bullock. The Council unanimously approved the motion. The FY 2026-2027 Levy Order and Rate Sheet are hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next was the Approval of The Leslie Equipment 2024 HAMM HD 12VV Compaction Equipment Sourcewell Contract – Acct. # 2107 $45,100.00. City Manager Jarrell said that this is an asphalt roller. The one the City currently has is twenty-five years old. Councilman Reedy made a motion to approve the purchase which was seconded by Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess. Council unanimously approved the purchase.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING POTENTIAL SALE/TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE. Councilman Buchanan made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 6:07 p.m. which was seconded by Councilwoman Coots. Council unanimously passed entering Executive Session. At 6:53 p.m. Councilman Reedy made a motion to enter back into the Regular Council Meeting which was seconded by Councilwoman Coots.

Council unanimously approved entering back into the Regular Council Meeting. 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 6:52 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Hunter.

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Mayor
City Manager