A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 5:30 PM ON JULY 21, 2026, IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIA WEB-X.

PRESENT: Mayor Ryan Neal, City Attorney Bill File, City Manager Phillip Jarrell, Mayor, City Manager's Executive Assistant Susan Miller, and Recorder-Treasurer Evan Dewey. 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, Beckley Events Director Trish Morgan, Board of Public Works Director Mike Bolen, and the Director of Parks & Recreation Leslie Baker. ABSENT: Chris Graham, Fire Marshal/Code Official.

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. Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes from July 07, 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 Hunter 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 that a lot of dogs are not on a leash in the City and they are making the City look and smell bad because their waste is not being cleaned up. Tom Moseley said speeding is still an issue on Hull Street. He thanked the BPD officers that came to Hull Street. Mr. Moseley said that he is opposed to the City conveying Minnesota Avenue to the West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT). Dr. Douglas Terry invited Council to speak to the English class he teaches at WVU Tech. Thomas Parham said Beckley Water left a hole in his driveway after doing work there. Councilwoman Bullock said she would contact the water company again for him. He said 509 Hunter Street does not have water/utilities there. He said there are two dogs there and the yard is filthy. Councilwoman Bullock told him that Code Enforcement is aware and working on this situation. He said the lady's restroom needed attention when they rented shelter #1 at New River Park on

June 26, 2026. Ms. Baker, who is the Director of Parks and Recreation, told him that she would look into the matter. He wants an apology and a partial refund. Joyce Parham also spoke regarding issues at 509 Hunter Street. She said she paid $50 to have the lawn cut there and should not have to. She said various animals, including rats, are there and it is unsafe for surrounding houses. She said this house should not be occupied but it is. She said she talked to the Code Endorcement Office and is waiting to see what the judge rules to get this location taken care of. Regina Pannell said there is a problem with dogs that are loose in the City, one of which keeps using her yard, leaving a mess. She said speeding on F Street is a problem.

She said there is a big hole that fills with water and freezes in the winter and it may cause a vehicle to hit her house.

Brief Comments from the Mayor, Council Members, and the City Manager. Councilwoman Bullock thanked all the Departments Heads (as did the other Council members), and she

shared a recent article in the Register-Herald regarding Councilwoman Hunter's recent retirement from the Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority and congratulated her again. She thanked the BPD and BFD for handling the phone calls, concerns, and complaints regarding fireworks. Councilman Buchanan congratulated Councilwoman Hunter on her retirement and told Coach Parham that it was good to see him at the meeting. Councilman Williams thanked everyone for attending and encouraged the City to unify. He also thanked the first responders responsible for rescuing the individuals who were rescued from their vehicle during the recent flood. Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess thanked the public for bringing their issues to Council meetings and encouraged them to continue. Councilwoman Coots said on 8-01-26 from 2:30 – 5:00 p.m. is National Night Out at Wildwood Apartments. She said on 8-02-26 from 2:0 – 4:00 p.m. Seay Earehart who is the Artist from the hit TV show Stranger Things, will be at the Beckley Art Center. She said that from what she had been told, the top floor at Jack's Café was packed last week with

people line dancing. Robbie Powell said it was packed and the game room had a lot of people too. He said Jack's Café will be opening soon. The Mayor told Coach Parham that it was good to see him. He thanked Michelle Rotellini and Joe Guffy of the Beckley—Raleigh County Chamber of Commerce for posting events from Beckley and the surrounding areas on Beckley.events and encouraged everyone to post their event there and to use the site frequently. Trish Morgan, Director of Beckley Events, said the Appalachian Festival is August 1st – 9th and the Arts & Crafts Fair is August 7th and 8th. Councilwoman Hunter thanked the Mayor's and City Manager's Executive Assistant Susan Miller. She said that Susan is the glue that holds everything together for the City. Councilwoman Hunter said Dr. Terry's idea of Councilmembers and City leaders speaking to his English class is a great idea. She said that the Exhibition Coal Mine was a Reader's Choice Award. Ms. Baker, Director of Parks and Recreation, said that rainy weather helps attract people as they consider the tour an indoor event. She said that the Parks and Recreation Department was recently

contacted by someone who hosts a national podcast and is interested in featuring the Exhibition Coal Mine on the podcast. Councilwoman Hunter thanked Councilwoman Bullock for sharing the newspaper article regarding Councilwoman Hunter's retirement. Councilman Reedy said he wanted to echo the other Council members and thanked the Department Heads for always taking his calls and resolving issues as they arise.

City Manager Jarrell thanked his staff. He thanked the public for attending. He said five police officers will soon be recognized for their hard work. He said the BFD recently completed its entry level recruitment process which Chief Thompson elaborated on and said implementing the use of a QR Code was helpful.

Director of Parks & Recreation Leslie Baker said the day the tornado touched down in our area turned into three of the busiest days at the Exhibition Coal Mine. The City Manager thanked Chief Thompson of the BFD & Chief Bailey of the BPD for handling all the extra phone calls regarding fireworks. He thanked

Luke Miller, Director of IT, for the conversion of office phones and the completion of fiber project. He thanked Evan Dewey, Recorder-Treasurer, and his staff for their work on year-end processing.

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES:

City Attorney Mr. File said tonight is the first reading of the ordinance which he read by title, **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CITY OF BECKLEY TO TRANSFER MINNESOTA AVENUE TO THE WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS.** He said, if adopted tonight, the second reading and public hearing will be during the August 4, 2026, Council Meeting. He said that the WV Department of Highways will maintain Minnesota Avenue and South Kanawha Street will remain a two-way street. The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the ordinance. Councilwoman Hunter made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Coots. The Mayor asked if there were any questions/comments. Councilwoman

Coots thanked City Manager Jarrell for negotiating this for the City. Councilwoman Bullock asked City Manager Jarrell if he knows how long the Campus Corridor Project will take. City Manager Jarrell said that he does not know the time frame, but drawings are being carried out by the engineering firm. Councilman Williams asked if there will be a round-a-bout. City Manager Jarrell said yes. With there being no further comments or questions Council unanimously approved first reading of the ordinance which is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

There were no resolutions.

OLD BUSINESS: AWARD OF BID FOR (2) 2027 FORD TRUCK F150 SERIES POLICE RESPONDERS FOR THE BECKLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT AND (7) FORD POLICE INTERCEPTOR CRUISERS FOR THE BECKLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT. Councilman Reedy said after close review of the bids, the lowest bid was from Stephen's Auto Center for $416,412.00. Councilman Reedy made a motion to award the bid to Stephen's Auto Center which was seconded by Councilman Williams. The bid is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

NEW BUSINESS: **APPROVAL OF**

THE FY 2026-2027 GENERAL FUND

BUDGET REVISION. Recorder-Treasurer Evan Dewey said the City is required to update the estimate of the City's beginning balance with the State Auditor's Office. This revision increases the beginning balance by $2M. He said that since the budget and all revisions must keep the budget balanced, the City will increase 3 line items to achieve that. The first line item is the Contingencies. The increase in the Contingency is $1.1M. He said this will max out the contingency allowable amount of 10% of the City's total budget. Evan said having this allows flexible spending if necessary. This gets the City closer to a having a rainy-day fund. He said if the City meets its projected revenues throughout the year, the City can utilize the contingency fund. He said to keep in mind that this figure is budgeted, not cash, so if the City does not meet its projected revenues, then the contingency fund should not be utilized. The next line item is the Government Capital Outlay. This line will increase by $200,000. This will help with one-time expenses that have arisen in the last couple of months. This will include the HVAC system for Council Chambers and HVAC systems for other

buildings owned by the City. This will also help with the asbestos abatement in some of the properties owned by the City, so they are functionable. The third line item is Public Safey Outlay. This line will increase by $643K. This is a placeholder for our debt service for fire station #3. In 2029 the City has a $3.8M debt service bill that will be due. The City needs to make sure that it can make this payment. Having this money set aside could potentially allow the City to explore better financing options in the event of the balloon payment decreasing. This covers debt services from past years and allows flexibility in the future. Evan said the City's budget is fully funded and these are one-time items which provide flexibility if revenues continue to meet projections. Council members thanked Evan for the detailed explanation. Councilwoman Bullock said it is good to see increases on the revision. The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the FY 2026-2027 General Fund Budget Revision. Councilman Reedy made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Coots. There were no questions/comments.

Council unanimously approved the BY 2026-27 General Fund Budget Revision which is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next was the appointment of Elizabeth (Beth) Shoemaker to the Planning Commission (3-year term). Councilwoman Coots made the motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Bullock. Councilwoman Shoemaker-

Dingess recused herself from voting due to being Beth Shoemaker's sister. There were no questions or comments. Council unanimously approved appointing Beth Shomaker to the Planning Commission. Next was the appointment of Jill Moorefield, Andrew Wheeler, and Sara Torres to the Beautification Commission (3-year terms). Councilwoman Hunter made a motion seconded by Councilman Reedy to appoint Jill Moorefield to the Beautification Commission. There were no questions or comments. Council unanimously approved the appointment of Jill Moorefield to the Beautification Commission. Next was the appointment of Andrew Wheeler to the Beautification Commission. Councilman Reedy made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Coots to appoint Andrew Wheeler to the Beautification Commission. There were no questions or comments. Council unanimously approved the appointment of Andrew Wheeler to the Beautification Commission. Next was the appointment of Sara Torres to the Beautification Commission. Councilwoman Coots made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess to appoint Andrew Wheeler to the Beautification

Commission. There were no questions or comments. Council unanimously approved the appointment of Andrew Wheeler to the Beautification Commission.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING A PERSONNEL ISSUE. At 6:18 p.m. Councilwoman Hunter made a motion to enter into Executive Session which was seconded by Councilwoman Coots and unanimously approved by Council. The Mayor said that during Executive Session no votes are taken and no decisions are made. At 6:32 p.m. Councilman Buchanan made a motion to enter back into the Regular Council Meeting seconded by Councilwoman Coots and unanimously approved by Council. The Mayor said the Parking Commission Meeting is cancelled. With there being no further business to discuss, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Buchanan seconded by Councilwoman Bullock.

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Mayor
City Manager