A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 5:30 PM ON AUGUST 04, 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, Natalie Coots, Nancy Shoemaker-Dingess, Sherrie Hunter, and Cody Reedy. The following City employees were present: IT Technician Keith Carter, BPD Chief Dean Bailey, Jeanie Campbell from Code Enforcement, 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: Councilman Frank Williams, Fire Marshal/Code Official Chris Graham, and IT Director Luke Miller.

The Mayor led in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by prayer led by Councilwoman Bullock. 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 21, 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 Councilman Buchanan.

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 less patch work needs to be done on the roads and more resurfacing needs to be done. She complained about lifeguards at New River Park. Tom Moseley thanked Mr. Jarrell for visiting Hull Street. He said companies should not be allowed to advertise by hanging signs on telephone poles or power poles. He thanked the Board of Public Works for cleaning up the remnants of a nearby encampment and said speeding is still an issue on Hull Street. Christina Baisden said dogs have been running loose in Bowling Addition and on Mankin Avenue. She said the dogs have been killing cats. City Manager Jarrell said that he was made aware and the dogs were picked up on Sunday. He said that he and the County Commission agreed to purchase three more kennels to house more dogs. He said these dogs will be kept 5 – 15 days for testing.

Alicia Dowden said that Queen Elizabeth Drive has consistently been an ongoing issue for years as is the road behind Burger King near U-Haul. She said the basketball court at East Park on Broad Way Street needs fixed as only half of the court can be used. She thanked the Lilly Lion Roaring Initiative and said it was a nice event and a lot of youth attended. She also thanked the Eplings for hosting the free school supply giveaway. City Manager Jarrell said that the two streets she mentioned are not within the City limits. She said that is good to know. Lane Acord said that speeding is a serious concern on Hull Street. He said that he has left messages for his Council member but has not heard back from him. He requested a speed hump be installed.

Brief Comments from the Mayor, Council Members, and the City Manager. Councilwoman Bullock thanked all the Departments Heads (as did the other Council members). She said that Jack's Café is open and thanked the police department for their help recently in the Red Brush area. Councilman Buchanan said that he has also received several complaints regarding dogs running loose in neighborhoods.

He thanked the Board of Public Works for the patchwork they did on Klaus Street. Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess had no comments. Councilwoman Coots said she and Events Director Trish Morgan were able to work together recently on a Litter Sweep. She enjoyed dinner at Jack's Café and will be eating at Souled Up soon. She encouraged others to support local businesses. She thanked the Mayor and City Manager's Executive Assistant Susan Miller for always being the one that keeps everyone together and ensures that Council always has all the information it needs for Council meetings. The Mayor commented, saying that he agreed with Councilwoman Coots by saying that Susan Miller does an outstanding job. Councilwoman Coots thanked Chief Bailey of the Police Department for keeping the lot in front of Cook Out cleared out from people trespassing. The Mayor encouraged everyone to attend the Appalachian Festival this weekend. He encouraged everyone to regularly check for events on Beckley.events website. Councilwoman Hunter thanked the public for attending. She thanked Susan Miller for her work.

She said Drexel Salmons who is a beloved retired schoolteacher from Raleigh County is an author of the book, "*A Teacher's Best Scary Stories*". She said this book can now be purchased on Amazon. Councilman Buchanan said he was one of Mr. Salmon's pupils. Councilwoman Hunter said the 911 Memorial will be held this year. She said it is the 25-year anniversary. It will be held on Friday, September 11th at 9:11 a.m.

Councilman Reedy thanked City Manager Jarrell for his help regarding the dogs running loose in the City. He said he has mentioned several times when on Robert C. Byrd Drive pulling into 3rd Avenue and 4th Avenue there needs to be a left turn signal installed there. He asked City Manager Jarrell if he would work with the State regarding this issue. He said Pastor Lusk needs recognition for the beautification work that he has done on Maxwell Hill. Councilwoman Coots said that she has requested a Proclamation for him. She said he does this work voluntarily. City Manager Jarrell thanked his staff, Evan Dewey Recorder Treasurer, his Assistant Susan Miller for keeping him straight and Council for their

professionalism. He said the BPW is working on the basketball courts on Antonio Avenue and the BPW is working on paving and patching streets. He said Worley Road and Lincoln Street are about to be put out for bid for paving which will be paid for out of the City's Community Grant. He suggested that the Beautification Committee make recommendations to Council on who has the prettiest yard in each Ward. Councilwoman Hunter said that in 1982 the City awarded her parents a white dogwood tree for their beautiful lawn. She suggested that a tree be planted to honor the winner from each ward.

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES:

City Attorney Mr. File said tonight is the first reading of the **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CITY OF BECKLEY TO ENTER INTO PROPERTY TRANSFER AND DONATION AGREEMENT IN WHICH CITY WILL RECEIVE PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS SUR 4.75 AC GLEN MORGAN ADD., TAX MAP/PARCEL ID = MAP 24, PARCEL 00440000, TOWN DISTRICT.**

Mr. File said that Mr. Tim Buckland has offered to donate this property to the City. He said the property is in the vicinity of the Beckley Sanitary Board (BSB) sewage treatment plant. Mr. File said it would be beneficial to the City to obtain this property. Mr. File said that the City has agreed to accept this property if Council approves this transfer. He said if approved by Council tonight the second reading and public hearing of this ordinance will be during the August 18th Council Meeting. Mr. File read the ordinance by title, **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CITY OF BECKLEY TO RECEIVE BY GIFT REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS "SUR 4.75 AC GLEN MORGAN ADD".**

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the ordinance as presented. Councilman Buchanan made the motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Bullock. Councilwoman Bullock thanked Mr. Tim Buckland for donating the property. Council unanimously approved the ordinance as presented and it is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next was the first reading of the **ORDINANCE APPROVING RECREATIONAL TRAIL LEASE AGREEMENT.** Mr. File said that if approved by Council tonight the second reading and public hearing of this ordinance will be during the August 18th Council Meeting. Mr. File said the City and Beaver Coal Company have been working on this. The City and Beaver Coal Company own property adjacent to each other. The City will lease certain property from Beaver Coal Company for the purpose to construct, maintain, and operate recreational trails which will be open to the public for non-motorized recreational use (such as walking, jogging, hiking, cycling and horseback riding). Mr. File read the ordinance by title, **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CITY OF BECKLEY TO LEASE FROM BEAVER COAL COMPANY CERTAIN REAL ESTATE FOR PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING RECREATIONAL TRAILS OPEN TO PUBLIC FOR NON-MOTORIZED RECREATIONAL USE.**

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the ordinance as presented. Councilman Buchanan made the motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Hunter. Council unanimously approved the ordinance as presented and it is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next was the second reading and public hearing on the ordinance which Mr. File read by title, **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CITY OF BECKLEY TO TRANSFER MINNESOTA AVENUE TO THE WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS.** Mr. File said that this is a street that runs straight through the heart of campus at WVU Tech. He said that the WV Department of Highways will not be attempting to change the flow of traffic on South Kanawha Street. If approved, the State will be responsible for maintaining Minnesota Avenue. The State will regulate the flow of traffic through Minnesota Avenue. There are plans, eventually, for Minnesota Avenue to be extended to Beaver Avenue. Tonight, the City is asking for Council's approval to transfer Minnesota Avenue to the Department of Highways.

Mr. File read the ordinance by title, **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CITY OF BECKLEY TO TRANSFER MINNESOTA AVENUE TO THE WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS.** Mr. File opened the public hearing. Christina Baisden asked if South Kanawha will remain a two-way street. Mr. File said yes, the City will have no responsibility for Minnesota Avenue. Councilwoman Coots thanked Councilman Reedy for suggesting that these things be put in writing as to what will remain the same and who will maintain Minnesota Avenue. Mr. File closed the public hearing. The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the ordinance. Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess made the motion which was seconded by Councilman Buchanan. The Mayor asked if there were any questions/comments. Councilman Buchanan asked if the State will be responsible for the maintenance and snow removal of Minnesota Avenue. Mr. File said yes.

There being no further comments/questions Council unanimously approved the ordinance which is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS: ADOPTION OF THE FY 2026 ANNUAL ACTION FOR THE CITY OF BECKLEY'S HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDING. Evan Dewey, Recorder-Treasurer, said this is simply a document that requires annual approval that will allow the City to pull down its Federal HUD Funds. This plan explains how the funds will be utilized. The funds are for very specific expenses and very specific areas. He said not many changes were made to this year's annual action plan. He said it will be used for paving and reconstruction of roads. Evan said that these are expensive projects that Beckley would not otherwise be able to afford without this funding. The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Reedy made a motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Coots. The resolution was unanimously approved and is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS: AWARD OF PROPOSAL FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CONSULTING SERVICES. Councilwoman Hunter said after the reviewing process of the proposals, Urban Design Ventures scored the highest in Council's review in multiple areas including qualifications, experience, and price. Councilwoman Hunter made a motion to award the proposal for Community Development Consulting Services to Urban Design Ventures. Councilman Buchanan seconded the motion. Councilwoman Bullock asked if this company has history with doing business with the City. City Manager Jarrell said yes. Council unanimously approved the award to Urban Design Ventures. The proposal is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

NEW BUSINESS: CONTRACT RENEWAL FOR THE CITY MANAGER. Mr. File said the City is requesting that Council renew the employee agreement with its current City Manager, Phillip Jarrell. Mr. File said the agreement is basically the same terms as the original agreement was. He said the goal was to have the agreement in place at the beginning of the new fiscal year, July 1, 2026, but it did not happen because the City Manager's evaluation was still taking place. He said the evaluation was not completed in time to be included on the last agenda which is why it is on the agenda tonight. Mr. File said that Mr. Jarrell's salary will remain the same as it was, which is $110,000.00 annually. The agreement start date is August 4, 2026, and ends June 30, 2027. Mr. File said at that time Council can choose to renew the agreement or do as it wishes regarding hiring a new City Manager. The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the agreement which was made by Councilman Buchanan and seconded by Councilman Reedy. The Mayor asked if there were any questions or comments.

There being none, Council unanimously approved renewing the City Manager's employment contract which is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

With there being no further business to discuss, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:07 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Reedy seconded by Councilwoman Coots.

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Mayor
City Manager