A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 5:30 PM ON AUGUST 18, 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-Dingess, Sherrie Hunter, and Cody Reedy. The following City employees were present: IT Technician Matt Blake, IT Director Luke Miller, BPD Chief Dean Bailey, Fire Marshal/Code Official Chris Graham, Chief Ed Thompson of BFD, Beckley Events Director Trish Morgan. ABSENT: Mike Bolen and 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. Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes from August 4, 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 left turn signals on traffic lights are needed, speeding on Larew Avenue is still a problem, and a lady she knows has an electric bill that is too high and she needs help with it. Tom Moseley said that safety is still an issue in the City. He said that he isn't just referring to speeding although speeding is still very much a problem. He said action needs to be taken. Lorenzo Wood said that he is a business owner. He shared his story and said you never know what people are going through and encouraged business officials and others in places of leadership such as law enforcement to be kind to people.

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 thanked Executive Assistant to the Mayor and City Manager, Susan Miller, for all that she does. Councilman Buchanan also thanked Susan Miller for her work.

Councilman Williams thanked the Beckley Police Department for their assistance with an issue on his street last night. He also thanked the Code Enforcement Office. Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess said that she met with Chief Bailey of the BPD and the City Manager today. They discussed reoccurring issues and assured residents that things are being worked on. Councilwoman Coots expressed appreciation for Mr. and Mrs. Lusk who have volunteered their time and effort to groom and beautify Pinewood Drive. She expressed appreciation for their generosity. The Mayor said that he really appreciated the help of Susan Miller today. He said that he called her today regarding a phone call that he received on an issue that arose in the City today and within 10 minutes she had it taken care of. He said that he agrees with what Susan said. She said that when we are proactive we are more efficient. He expressed appreciation for Susan and all that she does for the City. He attended a ribbon cutting for the Summit-Kollective today and said that he was glad that he did. He encouraged everyone to be part of a community in the City.

He said the City is considering running a "Safe September" campaign and reminding drivers that they will be ticketed for running red lights and speeding. He said it was nice to see enrollment is up at the WVU Tech. He said that the students are here and the City needs to do its part in contributing to making this a great place for them. He thanked Director of Parks and Recreation Leslie Baker and the staff for the Honeybee Festival.

Councilwoman Hunter thanked the public for attending and she thanked Shelley Scarbro from the Code Enforcement Office for her help. She said that people are spending money getting permits from the City's Code Enforcement office. She said that this is a good thing to see. She thanked Sam Yurick who is one of the high school teachers (from Independence High School) who was recently selected to attend the Appalachian STEM Academy at Oak Ridge this summer.

Councilman Reedy did not have any comments.

City Manager Jarrell thanked his staff and thanked Susan Miller for helping keep him straight. He said that Parks and Recreation Director Leslie Baker's mom

is in the hospital which is why she isn't here tonight.

He said Mike Bolen, Director of Board of Public Works, is on vacation. He thanked Recorder-Treasurer Evan Dewey for taking care of the City's finances. City Manager Jarrell said that he made a change in the organizational structure in the operations of the City and moved Mitch Lehman, Outdoor Economic Development Director, to the City Manager's office and Mitch now reports to him. Mr. Jarrell said that Governor Morrisey will be in Council Chambers tomorrow at 10:00 a.m.

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES:

City Attorney 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, and 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 the first reading of this ordinance was during the August 4, 2026, Council Meeting. Mr. File read the ordinance by title, **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 opened the public hearing. Councilwoman Hunter said that the creek was high at Glen Morgan. There were no other comments. Mr. File closed the public hearing. The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the ordinance as presented. Councilman Williams made the motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Bullock.

Council unanimously approved the ordinance as presented and it is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next was the second reading of the **ORDINANCE APPROVING RECREATIONAL TRAIL LEASE AGREEMENT.** Mr. File said that the first reading was during the August 4, 2026, meeting and tonight is the second reading. Mr. File said 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.** Mr. File opened the public hearing. Director of Outdoor Economic Development, Mitch Lehman said that Gary Moorefield, an employee of the City of Beckley has been instrumental in trail development and is

here tonight. Mitch said that Gary's work is very much appreciated.

Mitch said that the City is 1 of only 15 municipalities in the country that have more than 10 miles of trail in their jurisdiction. There were no other comments. Mr. File closed the public hearing. The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the ordinance as presented. Councilman Reedy made the motion which was seconded by Councilwoman Hunter. Council unanimously approved the ordinance as presented and it is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS.

There were no resolutions.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING PERSONNEL ISSUE.

There was no executive session.

With there being no further business to discuss, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m. on a motion by Councilwoman Bullock seconded by Councilman Buchanan.

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Mayor
City Manager