A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 5:30 PM ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2026, IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIA WEB-X.

PRESENT: Mayor Ryan Neal, City Attorney Bill File, City Manager Phillip Jarrell, Mayor and 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: Director of Parks & Recreation Leslie Baker, IT Technician Matt Blake, IT Director Luke Miller, Director of Board of Public Works Mike Bolen, BPD Chief Dean Bailey, Fire Marshal/Code Official Chris Graham, Chief Ed Thompson of BFD, Beckley Events Director Trish Morgan.

The Mayor led in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by prayer led by Captain Liz Blusiewicz with the Salvation Army. 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 September 1, 2026, Regular Council Meeting, copies of which had been distributed to each member. Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on the motion by Councilwoman Hunter and seconded by Councilwoman Coots.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: The Mayor announced that if calling by phone, dial *5 to raise your hand. Once you have been enabled, you can unmute your microphone with *6. If connected by computer, mobile app or tablet, click the "hand icon" which may be under the 3 vertical dots, menu.

The Mayor asked if anyone was online requesting to speak. There were no online speakers. Mary West said Captain Liz with the Salvation Army is taking a bus from Beckley to a concert leaving at 4:45 p.m. on October 16, 2026. She said the community needs to support her. She asked if it is permitted for her to play music at a low volume in Council Chambers while waiting on the meeting to start. Tom Moseley said that safety is still an issue in Ward III. He said that a child was recently injured there. He said that regular safety meetings (as previously suggested by Councilwoman Hunter) are needed monthly. Lucille Jones said that speeding on Hull Street is a problem as it is on Scott Avenue and Saunders Avenue. Peggy Brown said that she has had an ongoing property issue problem for numerous years regarding a variance being denied. She said she has spoken to various people, and Department Heads have changed over the years, Councilman Buchanan (whom she said was helpful) but the issue at 423 Timber Ridge Drive remains. Councilwoman Bullock said that she and Councilman Buchanan will discuss this to determine whose Ward this is in and they will discuss it with her after the meeting tonight.

BRIEF COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, COUNCIL MEMBERS, AND THE CITY MANAGER. Councilwoman Bullock and the other Council Members gave their condolences to three employees during their time of the loss of a loved one. Jeanie Campbell, Leslie Baker, and Lisa Graham have recently had loved ones who have passed. She asked City Attorney Mr. File for an update on MacArthur Avenue. He said there is no update at this time. She and other Council Members thanked Department Heads for their work.

She congratulated WV Tech for receiving a donation of $1.8M in scholarship funds from the WV State Treasurer Larry Pack and his wife, Lisa. She told Trish Morgan, Director of Beckley Events, that the Kid's Classic was great. She said that she found a badge that former Councilwoman Denise Seay had and wanted to show it to Council. Councilman Buchanan thanked the man that operates the street sweeper every morning and said that he does a great job. Councilman Williams acknowledged the child that was injured in Ward III. He asked Mr. File whose responsibility it is when a neighbor's trees fall on someone else's property. Mr. File said that the homeowner's insurance policy on the damaged property may cover the damage to that property. Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess congratulated WV Tech on their gift from the WV State Treasurer Pack and said that she enjoyed the Kid's Classic also. Councilwoman Coots said that she enjoyed the Kid's Classic. The Mayor said that November 3, 2026, is Election Day and the same day as a regular City Council Meeting. He said the November 3rd Council Meeting is normally cancelled due to Council Chambers being used as a polling place and if anything urgent arises Council can select a different meeting date. He said the November 17th Council Meeting is still taking place. Council agreed with this idea, as did City Manager Jarrell and Mr. File.

The Mayor said that he enjoyed the Kid's Classic. He said Chili Night is October 3rd. He said that he and several other people think that the City should have a Town Hall Meeting with an open forum and invite the Raleigh County Commissioners and representatives from various organizations to provide clarity and answer questions from the public about what is being done to help with the homelessness issue and drug problem in the City as well as panhandling. He said that the City has put up signs for people to donate locally by dialing 211, but the State took the signs down. Council agreed with the suggestion. City Manager Jarrell said that he will work with the Convention Center to secure a meeting room there for a Town Hall Meeting. The Mayor said that a half marathon is coming up on September 24th beginning at the Exhibition Coal Mine and is hosted by Active Southern WV.

Councilwoman Hunter gave condolences to the employees of the City who have recently lost loved ones. She said that former longtime Manager of the Raleigh County Airport, Tom Cochran, recently passed and will be dearly missed. She offered condolences to Commissioner Greg Duckworth for the passing of his brother. She thanked Mary West for the Litter Sweep she held on Larew Avenue. She thanked Tom Moseley for his support of wanting a regular monthly safety meeting. She said a safety program is much needed. She told Robbie Powell, Owner of Jack's Café, that she appreciated his café recognizing Suicide Prevention Month and thanked Councilwoman Coots and the Mayor for being servers for that event at Jack's Café. She said she wants to see it and the other businesses uptown succeed. She said that she enjoyed the Kid's Classic. She said that there will be a Litter Sweep on September 24th from 4 – 6 p.m. beginning at Elevation Sports on the Rail Trail. She thanked Kevin Price and Brian Knight for their help at the 25th year anniversary memorial of 9/11 recently held uptown. Councilman Reedy said that a Town Hall Meeting is much needed even if one is held in each Ward.

City Manager Jarrell thanked his staff.

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES:

Mr. File said that tonight is the first reading of the ordinance authorizing the City to purchase 105 Hartley Avenue. If passed tonight, the second reading and public hearing will be during the October 6, 2026, Council Meeting. He said that this ordinance was requested through a resolution adopted by the Beckley Sanitary Board (BSB) on September 9, 2026. He said that Larry and Patricia Hylton agreed to sell this property to the BSB for $15,000. Mr. File read the ordinance by title, **1ST READING OF ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CITY OF BECKLEY TO PURCHASE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 105 HARTLEY AVENUE, BECKLEY, RALEIGH COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA**. Councilman Williams made the motion to approve the ordinance which was seconded by Councilman Buchanan. The ordinance and resolution are hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, Mr. File said that tonight is the second reading and public hearing of this ordinance which amends the Vape/Smoke Shop Ordinance that was passed on September 12, 2025. The ordinance on the agenda tonight clarifies that if the existing ownership of a vape/smoke shop changes, or business name changes, either change shall be considered abandonment under this provision. He read the ordinance by title **ORDINANCE AMENDING BECKLEY CITY CODE CHAPTER 15, SECTION 38 (c) (3), ABANDONMENT.** Mr. File opened the public hearing. There were no comments. Mr. File closed the public hearing. Council unanimously approved the ordinance on the motion by Councilwoman Coots and seconded by Councilman Reedy. The ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS. RESOLUTION FOR THE BJA FY25 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM. Mr. File said that this is a grant in the amount of $24,642 from the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs under the BJA FY25 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance (JAG) Program. He said the funds are to be used to purchase two unmanned arial systems (drones) and a Grappler Police Bumper Kit to be used by the Beckley Police Department. Councilwoman Bullock asked Chief Bailey of BPD what the Grappler Police Bumper Kit is. Chief Bailey said that it is to be used to safely bring a vehicle that is involved in a pursuit to a stop. He said the BPD will test it before implementing it. There were no other comments. Council unanimously approved the resolution on the motion by Councilman Buchanan and seconded by Councilwoman Bullock. The resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS: **DISCUSSION OF SCHEDULING A WORKSHOP REGARDING FEES, ORDINANCES, ETC.** City Manager offered the date of October 13th at 4pm for a Workshop to discuss these topics. Council agreed to the date and time.

NEW BUSINESS: Next was **AWARD OF BID FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF LINCOLN STREET FROM JOHNSTOWN ROAD TO THE VERY END OF RUSSELL STREET AND WORLEY ROAD FROM BLAIR STREET TO S. EISENHOWER DRIVE IN THE CITY**. Councilwoman Hunter said that after review Mr. Asphalt's bids were the least expensive in the amount of $65,979.90 for Lincoln Street and the amount of $143,941.36 for Worley Road. The total amount for both streets to be paved by Mr. Asphalt is $209,921.26. Councilwoman Hunter made a motion to approve the bid from Mr. Asphalt seconded by Councilman Reedy. Councilman Buchanan asked if this paving will be completed this year. Mr. Jarrell said yes. Council unanimously approved the bid which is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next was the **APPOINTMENT OF AN AUDIT COMMITTEE.** Recorder-Treasurer Evan Dewey said this committee is required by the State Auditor's Office in order to solicit and obtain an approved vendor to complete the City's annual audit. Procuring audit services is the main purpose of this audit committee. Once the committee is selected, the daily work will be done by Evan, the Department Heads, and City Hall. It will consist of Mr. Jarrell, Evan Dewey (lead contact for the audit firm), City's Comptroller Adam Scruggs, Beverly Rinehart, and one member of Council. Evan said that the RFP will need to go out as soon as possible so this committee will need to meet this week. Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess volunteered to serve on this committee. Councilwoman Bullock moved to approve the committee as recommended including Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Coots and unanimously approved.

Next was **APPROVAL OF ASSET DISPOSAL/AUCTION.** Evan said that he isn't sure this needs to be brought before Council but saw where it was brought before Council last year, so he is bringing it before Council this year to be consistent. It is simply a list of vehicles and equipment that will be listed for auction on govdeals.com. He said it's the same process each year and is to get rid of the assets no longer being used and make some income from them. Councilman Buchanan made the motion to approve the Asset Disposal/Auction List which was seconded by Councilman Reedy. The Mayor asked if the money received from this will go to the general fund. Evan said yes. Council unanimously approved the Asset Disposal/Auction List which is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

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 6:16 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Buchanan seconded by Councilwoman Hunter.

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Mayor City Manager