A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 5:30 PM ON FEBRUARY 3, 2026, IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIA WEB-X.

PRESENT: Mayor Ryan Neal, City Manager Phillip Jarrell, Recorder Treasurer Evan Dewey, Mayor & City Manager's Executive Assistant Susan Miller, and City Attorney Bill File. Council Members: Janine Bullock, Kip Buchanan, Frank Williams, Natalie Coots, Nancy Shoemaker-Dinges, and Cody Reedy. The following City employees were present: IT Director Luke Miller, IT Technician Keith Carter, BPD Chief Dean Bailey, Chief Code Enforcement Officer Donald Morgan, Chief Ed Thompson of BFD, Director of Board of Public Works (BPW) Mike Bolen, Beckley Events Director Trish Morgan, and Director of Parks & Recreation Leslie Baker. ABSENT: Sherrie Hunter.

The Mayor led in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by prayer 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 January 20, 2026, Regular Council Meeting, copies of which had been distributed to each member. Council 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 City needs to unify and support one another. She invited everyone to join her on February 12th to tour the State Capital and talk to local legislators. She said Captain Liz of the Salvation Army will be driving a bus to the State Capital if anyone needs transportation.

Tom Moseley thanked Councilman Williams for his help in getting illegal dumping cleaned up in Ward III. He said that he hopes Council was receptive to the email he sent them regarding making the public aware of certain ordinances, laws, etc.

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

Councilwoman Bullock said she attended the WV Municipal League Legislative Session last week and thanked Susan for helping her preregister for the conference and book her hotel reservations. She said Mayor Goodwin of Charleston, invited her and City Manager Jarrell to visit. She along with all Council members thanked the Board of Public Works (BPW) for plowing the snow during the recent snowstorm. She also thanked BPW for picking up the garbage on Springdale. Councilwoman Bullock expressed excitement and appreciation for being voted to serve on the LRA. She and all Council members welcomed the new Events Director, Trish Morgan. Councilman Buchanan thanked the BPW and welcomed Trish. Councilman Williams invited everyone to attend Heart of God Ministries on February 15th at 3:00 p.m. for its Black History Program. Councilman Williams said the City and Council needs to work as a team and remember that together everyone achieves more. Councilwoman Coots agreed. The Mayor introduced Events Director Trish Morgan. City Manager Jarrell thanked the staff for their work.

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES: Mr. File said that tonight is the first reading of the ordinance titled, "An Ordinance Creating Chapter 15, Article III, Section 401-413 (:Land Reuse Agency") Of The Codified Ordinances Of The City Of Beckley, West Virginia". He said that this has been discussed numerous times by Council and the ordinance lists the names of the members serving on the LRA. He said that Land Reuse Agencies are one of the tools that municipalities and counties may use to facilitate the return of vacant, abandoned, and tax-delinquent properties to productive use, and are authorized by the West Virginia Land Reuse Agency Act, W.Va Code 31-18E-1 et seq. Mr. File said the second reading of this ordinance will be during the next Council meeting on February 17th. Councilman Reedy made a motion to adopt the ordinance and Councilwoman Bullock seconded the motion. The Mayor asked if any member of Council had any questions or comments. Councilwoman Bullock said that she is excited to get started. There were no other comments. Council unanimously approved the ordinance which is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS: The Mayor read the resolution by title, "Resolution Authorizing NRGRDA To Prepare & Submit A Request For Certification Of A Build WV District On Behalf Of The City Of Beckley". City Manager Jarrell said this is a program by the State of WV whereas if one is constructing housing or commercial buildings, one can get tax incentives and several other things including tax credits at the end of the year. He said that the NRGRDA has completed the housing study that is required for Build WV. City Manager Jarrell said this is why he asked NRGRDA to apply for this for the City of Beckley. He said a current project, Hargrove Apartments, is a Build WV Project. However, it falls under Fayetteville. He said the City of Beckley's Build WV will have a twenty-mile radius restriction. Mr. Jarrell said that he is hopeful that future construction projects work with the NRGRDA. Mr. Jarrell said that he is requesting Council's approval on this application. He said Build WV's website should be able to answer any questions. Josephine Moore, Policy & Government Outreach Coordinator for NRGRDA, spoke. She said that this is specifically for housing due to a housing shortage. Nicholas, Summers, Fayette, and Raleigh Counties were included in the housing study that NRGRDA performed. Build WV is trying to assist with the housing shortage. She said it offers tax credits and tax exemptions for areas that have been designated as a Build WV district. She said that if this resolution is passed, it will allow NRGRDA to compile all the necessary pieces to submit the application for the City. Summersville, Fayetteville, and Hinton are all Build WV districts. Ms. Moore said this resolution doesn't require any money from the City, it's simply asking for approval to initiate the process. Councilman Williams made a motion to accept the resolution which was seconded by Councilman Reedy. The Mayor asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Council unanimously approved the "Resolution Authorizing NRGRDA To Prepare & Submit A Request For Certification Of A Build WV District On Behalf Of The City Of Beckley" which is incorporated into these minutes.

Next, Mr. File read by title, "Resolution Approving An Intergovernmental Agreement Between The Raleigh County Commission, The City Of Beckley, And The Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority". Mr. File said this is an annual resolution that the City has adopted for several years. He said it allows for proper disposal of demolition waste from the demolition of abandoned buildings in the City. Councilman Reedy made a motion to accept the resolution which was seconded by Councilman Williams. The Mayor asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. Council unanimously approved the resolution which is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS: City Manager Jarrell said that 2-hour free parking in the S. Fayette/McCreery Street parking lot was discussed during the recent Workshop. He said that seventy-four spaces are there and thirty-five are rented. He would like to move the thirty-five rented spaces to one side of the parking lot and make the rest of the parking lot 2-hour free parking. Councilman Reedy said this may take some time to work on. Councilman Reedy made a motion to table this item. Councilwoman Coots seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Council.

Next on the Agenda was approval of the Opioid Funding Guidelines For The First Year. City Manager Jarrell said that Council has the guidelines in their binder including the changes he recommends. Council was also given an Opioid Settlement Grant Template to be used for year one disbursement, and a letter he wants to send to the respondents of the original request for opioid funds. He expressed appreciation to Council and the Opioid Advisory Panel regarding the Opioid funds. City Manager Jarrell explained each of the guidelines. Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess made a motion to approve the Opioid Funding Guidelines For Year One, the Opioid Settlement Grant Template Year One Disbursement, and the letter Mr. Jarrell intends to send to the respondents of the original request for opioid funds. Councilwoman Coots seconded the motion. The Mayor asked if there were any questions or comments. Councilman Williams said the Workshops regarding opioid funds were helpful. Councilwoman Coots thanked the members who served on the Advisory Panel. There were no other comments.

Council unanimously approved the Opioid Funding Guidelines. The guidelines are incorporated into these minutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL LAWSUIT.

Council unanimously approved entering into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation on a motion by Councilman Reedy seconded by Councilman Williams. Council entered into Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. Council unanimously approved returning to the Regular Council Meeting on a motion by Councilman Williams seconded by Councilwoman Shoemaker-Dingess at 6:22 p.m. The Mayor said, as always, during Executive Session, no votes were taken and no decisions were made. Josie Moore asked if she could quickly clarify something regarding Build WV. The Mayor said yes. Josie said that Build WV is specifically for housing, it is not for commercial development. It is specifically for projects tied to housing and the individual projects are approved at the State level. She said that there are opportunities at the City and County level for negotiations to lower rates for B&O taxes. Council and the Mayor thanked Josie for being here.

With there being no further business to discuss, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m. on a motion by Councilwoman Coots and seconded by Councilman Reedy.

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Mayor City Manager