

CITY OF BECKLEY



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BILLIE TRUMP
Recorder-Treasurer

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Dear Resident/Property Owner

There has been interest expressed by residents in the "doughnut holes" and other areas adjacent to Beckley city limits on how to obtain city services. The City of Beckley is willing to extend these services, police response, fire response with EMS, public works, code enforcement and more, only if the majority of the residents and landowners in these areas request to become part of the city.

There are several advantages to being part of the city. The Beckley Police Department has roughly the same number of officers as the Sheriff's Department, but Beckley is only about 15 square miles as opposed to the County being over 500 square miles. This provides for more rapid response to incidents and a greater presence in neighborhoods by city officers.

The Beckley Fire Department is fully staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week and provides not only fire and rescue services but emergency medical services as well. The department is currently being evaluated by the Insurance Services Organization and is likely to be rated in the top 10% of fire departments in the country.

Code enforcement is part of the fire department and administers the same building codes that are enforced in the county. Code enforcement protects residents by ensuring contractors are licensed and legitimate and are performing good work. Also, code identifies dilapidated structures for potential demolition and lots that are being neglected.

Public works identifies streets that need repair and effects those repairs as well as paving between 10 and 20 streets a year. They are also responsible for tearing down condemned structures in the city. In the winter months, public works have a fleet of 9 snowplows for keeping the streets open during snow events. They also conduct a free Spring and Fall pickup of items for city residents.

Each resident of Beckley is represented by a ward council person and two council persons at large. Residents also can address the council directly at the twice-monthly council meetings.

The only cost involved in coming into the city is a slight increase in property taxes.

The postcard included with this letter is only to gauge interest, it is not a binding agreement to come into the city. If enough responses indicate interest in coming into the city we will move to the next steps, however if the response isn't positive, we will not pursue the issue.

Sincerely,


Billie L. Trump