

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF BENWOOD, CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING APRIL 23, 2024**

City Council of the City of Benwood met in Regular Session on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at the City Building in the Council Chambers. Mayor Walter W. Yates called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following council members were present: Fehr, Ferrera, Givens, Kazemka, Longwell, Lunsford & Mele. Excused absence Councilperson Ankrom. Others present: Chief of Police Frank Longwell, Dave McLaughlin Director of Public Works, Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk & Eric Gordon City Attorney.

**\*\*\*6:45 PM PUBLIC HEARING\*\*\***

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BENWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA, PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE IN THE RATES IT CHARGES TO PROVIDE WATER SERVICE.**

Randy Watson & Casey Young with THRASHER Engineering and A.C. Wiethe with Belomar Regional were present to discuss the upcoming water project, water rate increase and answer any questions from the public.

A.C. Wiethe discussed the Water Treatment Plant project & the total cost of the project. The project is estimated to cost \$5,000,000 million dollars. The City of Benwood will receive the following grants: \$3,000,000 from Drinking Water Treatment Revolving Fund for Emergent Contaminants 100% Grant, \$1,000,000 Drinking Water Treatment Revolving Fund Debt Forgiveness Grant and a \$1,000,000 grant from West Virginia State Infrastructure all grant funded for a total of \$5,000,000.

The City of Benwood's CPA compiled a financial analysis (Rule 42) and in order for the city to meet its debt obligation & operations it was a necessary to raise the rates. The water rate increase does not have anything to do with the upcoming project but does make the city eligible to receive federal grant funding.

Randy Watson discussed his portion of the Water Treatment Plant project. Where the city's wells are located is where they will be intercepting the main water lines and move the water through large filters that will remove the Iron & Manganese then through units that will remove the PFAS & PFOS also known as forever chemicals. Per Federal Mandate PFAS & PFOS have to be removed from the drinking water whether the city has to pay for it or it is grant funded.

Residents were present to express their concerns raising the water rates.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Walter W. Yates led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**MINUTES**

Councilperson Ferrera moved to approve the minutes for Regular Meeting for April 9, 2024 & Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**BENWOOD COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**APRIL 23, 2024**  
**PAGE 2**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**APPROVAL OF ESTIMATE FROM CUMMINS SALES TO FIX FLOODWALL GENERATOR \$5,695.24**

Generator stopped working during the second flood and needs to be repaired. Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the estimate and Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION TO APPOINT FIRE BOARD COMMITTEE**

Tabled until next meeting

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BENWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA, PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE IN THE RATES IT CHARGES TO PROVIDE WATER SERVICE (SECOND READING)**

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the ordinance & Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken. Councilperson Ferrera Yes, Councilperson Givens Yes, Councilperson Kazemka Yes, Councilperson Longwell Yes, Councilperson Mele No, Councilperson Fehr Yes, Councilperson Lunsford Yes. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION OF MPFRS RETIREMENT ORDINANCE (SECOND READING)**

Tabled for special meeting

**FINANCE & TAXATION**

An ordinance entitled: "An ordinance to pay a claim against the city for work and other claims." Be it ordained by the Council of the City of Benwood, that the sum of \$84,149.48 be appropriated out of the funds belonging to the city, to pay a claim against the city, and that an order signed by the Mayor and Recorder be drawn upon the Treasurer for the above amount and that this ordinance takes effect from and after its passage. (See Copies of Supporting Accounts Payable Registers Attached)

Councilperson Ferrera moved to adopt the above ordinance on second reading, seconded by Councilperson Longwell. Mayor Yates called for roll call vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

**BENWOOD COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**APRIL 23, 2024**  
**PAGE 3**

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CHECK REGISTER REPORTS**

Councilperson Ferrera moved to receive and file accounts payable check register reports totaling \$84,149.48 seconded by Councilperson Longwell. Mayor Yates called for a roll call, vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT**

Revenue/Expense Report and Financial Report as of April 18, 2024:

Cash Operating Report: General Fund \$2,274,658.51; Coal Severance Fund \$76,995.67; Garbage Fund \$26,275.97; Fire Fund \$9,421.76; Water Fund \$311,606.43 and Sewer Fund \$184,866.06; Total operating cash \$2,879,396.62.

Councilperson Ferrera moved to receive and file the Cash Operating Report and Financial Reports, seconded by Councilperson Longwell. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

**WATER & SEWAGE PLANT OPERATION**

Sean Lake & Gary Williams submitted a Daily Operation Report

**CITY OFFICE, PROPERTY, FIRE & POLICE**

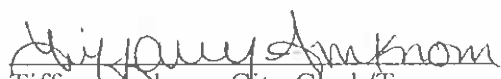
2022-2023 Audit showed a 27% increase in B&O tax revenue  
Memorial Banners are being approved and ordered  
South Marshall slide is states responsibility and should be finished early May  
Attorney Gordon is working on the title work needed for demo of house for CDBG grant


**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilperson Longwell moved to adjourn meeting, seconded by Councilperson Ferrera. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,

  
Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk/Treasurer

  
Mayor Walter W. Yates