

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF BENWOOD,
CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 8, 2023**

City Council of the City of Benwood met in Regular Session on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 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. Excused absence: Councilperson Ankrom & Councilperson Mele. Others present: Police Chief Frank Longwell, Dave McLaughlin Director of Public Works, Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk & Eric Gordon City Attorney.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MINUTES

Councilperson Ferrera moved to approve the July 25, 2023 regular meeting minutes & and Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rose & George Yates were present to address council to discuss Re-zoning Residential Property to Commercial Property.

Attorney Gordon is looking into the Re-zoning process.

MAYOR ITEMS

Our Lady of Peace is asking for a donation of a 2024 family pool pass for a fundraiser.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the donation and Councilperson Givens seconded the motion.

Marshall County Commission & the Marshall County Board of Health invited council to the Ground Breaking Ceremony Thursday, August 17, 2023 at 10:00am.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF OPENING OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR FLOODWALL

City received qualification information from Terradon, Alpha Associates and S&S Engineers. A committee consisting of five individuals will review the qualifications for engineering services and grade them according to their qualifications and send them a letter requesting an interview.

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APPROVAL OF HANDICAP PARKING FOR 427 MCMECHEN STREET

Resident at 427 McMechen Street is asking for handicap parking and has submitted the required information.

Councilperson Givens made the motion to approve of the handicap parking and Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion.

OLD BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WV MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS & FIREFIGHTERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (SECOND READING)

Benwood Police Department currently has three officers this would benefit and it would allow the officers to retire at age 50 with 20 years of service. It would save the city .5% in retirement contributions for each officer.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the ordinance on first reading and Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE OF BACKFLOW PROGRAM (SECOND READING)

In compliance with West Virginia state code 16-1-9, 16-1-9a, 16-1-17, and 16-1-18, the City of Benwood Water Department has implemented these rules and guidelines to help improve our water quality and keep our citizens safe. We will be conducting periodic surveys to evaluate the degree of hazards at each of the businesses in the City of Benwood to determine what backflow protection, if any, is needed.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the ordinance on the first reading and Councilperson Lunsford seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

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 \$268,465.76 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)

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

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.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CHECK REGISTER REPORTS

Councilperson Ferrera moved to receive and file accounts payable check register reports totaling \$268,465.76 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 August 3, 2023:

Cash Operating Report: General Fund \$2,025,388.50; Coal Severance Fund \$74,324.47; Garbage Fund \$1,366.21; Fire Fund \$19,092.40; Water Fund \$423,617.68 and Sewer Fund \$72,200.02; Total operating cash \$2,895,300.13.

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

Water break on Roosevelt Ave was repaired.

Councilperson Mele asked to have the road repaired due to past water line breaks & recent break.

A-1 Blacktop & Repair submitted an estimate for \$3,500.00 to resurface approximately 23'x12' with 2in top coat & seal down edges. As well as mill down edges to approximately 23'x10' resurface & seal down edges.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to accept the estimate and Councilperson Gives seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

CSO Phase II project is underway, when cutting through the street they found railroad ties buried in cement. Bringing in equipment to cut through the debris.

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CITY OFFICES, PROPERTY, FIRE & POLICE

Wheeling's rate to treat the city's sewage increased as of August 1, 2023.

The city will be looking into doing an emergency rate increase to cover cost due to the negative financial impact this rate increase will cause to the Sewer Department.

Construction on the Boggs Run overpass will be completed within three weeks.

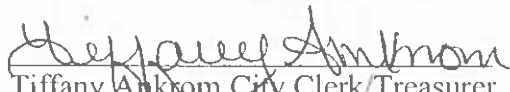
Overpass on 4th Street will be temporarily closed due to deck collapsing. State is coming in to fix the issue.


ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,


Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk/Treasurer


Mayor Walter W. Yates