

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF BENWOOD,
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 12, 2023**

City Council of the City of Benwood met in Regular Session on Tuesday, December 12, 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: Ankrom, Fehr, Ferrera, Givens, Kazemka, Lunsford & Mele. Excused absence: Councilperson Longwell. Others present: Captain Bryan Handzus, 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 November 14, 2023 regular meeting minutes & the November 21, 2023 special meeting minutes & Councilperson Kazemka seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public present

MAYOR ITEMS

Mayor Yates would like to invite the children from the McMechen side of Benwood/McMechen housing to the Benwood Christmas Party.

Councilperson Givens made the motion to approve inviting the additional children & Councilperson Lunsford seconded the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF INVOICES RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION & OTHER SERVICES FOR THE PROPOSED COMBINED SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE II PROJECT DRAW 5

Ohio West Virginia Excavating \$299,850.25, Burgess & Niple \$22,148.00, Belomar Regional \$1,603.38, CSX \$3,650.29.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve of payment of invoices and Councilperson Kazemka seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

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APPROVAL TO APPOINT AUDIT COMMITTEE

The State of West Virginia requires city/municipalities to appoint an Audit Committee to review Audit Proposals.

Audit Committee will consist of five employees: Mayor Walter Yates, Chief Frank Longwell, Councilman Bud Lunsford, City Clerk Tiffany Ankrom & Assistant City Clerk Michele Yates.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve of the Audit Committee and Councilperson Mele seconded the motion.

APPROVAL OF HIRING A FULL TIME POLICE OFFICER BRAD SHUTLER

Officer Shutler will be starting part time in the Police Department.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve of hiring the officer and Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken and 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 \$232,388.12 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 first reading, seconded by Councilperson Mele. 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 Mele. 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 \$232,388.12 seconded by Councilperson Mele. Mayor Yates called for a roll call, vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

Revenue/Expense Report and Financial Report as of December 7, 2023:

Cash Operating Report: General Fund \$2,354,882.11; Coal Severance Fund \$77,207.59; Garbage Fund \$2,477.39; Fire Fund \$10,409.67; Water Fund \$373,823.02 and Sewer Fund \$106,184.06; Total operating cash \$2,920,556.06.

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

WATER & SEWAGE PLANT OPERATION

CSO Project is 52% completed

Dave McLaughlin met with Randy Watson from THRASHER to discuss a water filtration system to take out the Iron & Manganese from the drinking water along with taking out the PFAS.

Mr. Watson feels confident the State of West Virginia will pay for the PFAS project but the city would be financially responsible for the filtration system to eliminate the Iron & Manganese. If the filtration system was installed alongside the PFAS project it would save the city substantially.

The project is estimated at \$1.18 million. In order for the City of Benwood to apply for grants the water rates would need to be raised.

Attorney Gordon is looking into putting this on the ballot to let the residents decide.

CITY OFFICES, PROPERTY, FIRE & POLICE

Bagging gifts for Childrens Christmas Party Thursday @ 5pm

With the city's permission Benwood Volunteer Fire Department has been filling their vehicles through the city's gas pumps & the city would bill them. An issue with doing this is when the city files for a refund for sales tax on the fuel.

Council made the decision to no longer allow the BVFD to fill their vehicles with the city's gas.

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ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,


Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk/Treasurer


Mayor Walter W. Yates