

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

City Council of the City of Benwood met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 23, 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: Ankrom, Fehr, Givens, Kazemka, Longwell & Lunsford. Excused absence: Councilperson Ferrera & Councilperson Mele. Others present: 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 Kazemka moved to approve the minutes for Special Meeting & Regular Meeting for January 9, 2023 & Councilperson Ankrom seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**APPROVAL OF PURCHASING RAINY-DAY TREASURY BONDS**

Rainy-Day Treasury Bonds and CD's have matured, the interest collected from the investments is \$162,000.

Howard Bertram CFP with WesBanco has CD's available ranging from 4.6-4.8% interest for 1 year. As well as US Treasury Bonds available at 5.35% interest for 6 months.

Katrina Bonar City of Benwood Account Representative with WesBanco offered a Money Market Account with an interest rate of 4.5%.

Councilperson Givens made the motion to invest \$3,174,000 in US Treasury Bonds and Councilperson Lunsford seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF PURCHASING WATER TREASURY BONDS**

Water CD's & Treasury Bonds currently invested are maturing January 26, 2024 & February 22, 2024.

Howard Bertram CFP with WesBanco has CD's available ranging from 4.6-4.8% interest for 1 year. As well as US Treasury Bonds available at 5.35% interest for 6 months.

Katrina Bonar City of Benwood Account Representative with WesBanco offered a Money Market Account with an interest rate of 4.5%.

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Councilperson Longwell made the motion to reinvest the maturing Water CD's & US Treasury Bonds and Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA PLACING ON THE BALLOT OF A MUNICIPAL ELECTION DURING THE WEST VIRGINIA PRIMARY ELECTION ON MAY 14, 2024, THE ISSUE OF RENEWING A TAX LEVY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2024, AND JULY 1, 2025 TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE CITY'S SHARE OF FUNDING FOR ANY DEFICIT OF OPERATING COST AND THE COST OF ACQUIRING CAPITAL, EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES FOR THE SAME PERIOD FOR A SYSTEM OF URBAN MASS TRANSIT TO BE PROVIDED BY THE OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (FIRST READING)**

Councilperson Givens made the motion to approve the two-year Tax Levy Ordinance for Ohio Valley Regional Transportation Authority Councilperson Kazemka 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 \$66,670.29 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 Longwell moved to adopt the above ordinance on first reading, seconded by Councilperson Kazemka. Mayor Yates called for roll call vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

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

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CHECK REGISTER REPORTS**

Councilperson Longwell moved to receive and file accounts payable check register reports totaling \$66,670.29 seconded by Councilperson Kazemka. 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 January 18, 2024:

Cash Operating Report: General Fund \$2,220,158.52; Coal Severance Fund \$77,207.59; Garbage Fund \$7,869.40; Fire Fund \$9,253.76; Water Fund \$368,136.80 and Sewer Fund \$180,598.78; Total operating cash \$2,858,797.07.

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

**WATER & SEWAGE PLANT OPERATION**

An elbow came off main water line during CSO Phase II construction. Water shut off overnight due to needing cement poured behind elbow for support. City Crew delivered water to residents that were affected.

**STREETS, ALLEYS & GRADES**

WV Department of Highways will be working on paving Route 2.

CDBG is moving forward, next step is the environmental inspection. City of Benwood now owns 1424 Marshall St. and is on the list to have demolished.

**CITY OFFICES, PROPERTY, FIRE & POLICE**

Jared Gillespie with Low & Associates, LLC finished 2022-2023 Financial Reports & PSC Reports.

City Clerk Tiffany Ankrom & Assistant City Clerk Michele Yates will be attending Election Training 2/13/24 in Charleston.

Zoning Board will meet January 29, 2024 at 6:00pm

Allocate funds for the 2025-2026 Budget to take down Bellaire Bridge

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**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,

  
Tiffany Ankrom/City Clerk/Treasurer

  
Mayor Walter W. Yates