

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF BENWOOD,
CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING JULY 25, 2023**

City Council of the City of Benwood met in Regular Session on Tuesday, July 25, 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, Longwell & Lunsford. Excused absence: Councilperson Ankrom, Councilperson Kazemka & 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 June 27, 2023 regular meeting minutes & the Special Meeting Minutes for July 14, 2023 and Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jake Boyd with Benwood Volunteer Fire Department was present to address council to discuss his willingness to work with the city to resolve any issues & answer questions. Some members would like to sell an engine to get personal protection gear and a new thermal energy camera.

MAYOR ITEMS

No items to discuss

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF WATER/SEWAGE ADJUSTMENTS

Resident at 419 Main Street had a busted pipe in his basement, the water didn't enter the sewer system.

Resident at 4815 Eoff St. had a water line break between the meter & residence. Water did not enter the sewer system.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve both adjustments according to the ordinance, Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

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APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WV MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS & FIREFIGHTERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (FIRST 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 Givens seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF GENERAL FUND BUDGET REVISION

Mayor Yates asked to have this tabled until Monday July 31, at 6:00pm.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to table this item to the later date, Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion.

APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE OF BACKFLOW PROGRAM (FIRST 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 Longwell seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BENWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA SETTING FORTH THE TERMS OF A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BENWOOD MAKING THE CHIEF OF POLICE A POSITION APPOINTED BY COUNCIL AND PROVIDING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON ITS PROPOSED ADOPTION (SECOND READING)

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

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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 \$128,068.17 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 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 \$128,068.17 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 July 20, 2023:

Cash Operating Report: General Fund \$1,946,596.28; Coal Severance Fund \$72,875.81; Garbage Fund \$8,686.11; Fire Fund \$19,092.40; Water Fund \$436,179.48 and Sewer Fund \$128,303.48; Total operating cash \$2,891,044.41.

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 & Sewer lines are going in on South Marshall.

CITY OFFICES, PROPERTY, FIRE & POLICE

Chief Longwell has hired a new part time dispatcher Brennen Daniels.

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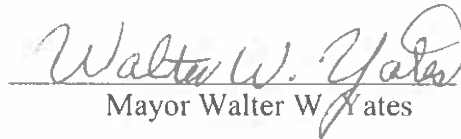
ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,


Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk/Treasurer


Mayor Walter W. Yates