

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF BENWOOD, CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING JUNE 11, 2024**

City Council of the City of Benwood met in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 11, 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, Givens, Kazemka, Longwell, Lunsford & Mele. Excused absences were Councilperson Ankrom & Councilperson Ferrera. Others present: Chief of Police Frank Longwell, 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 Mele moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for May 28, 2024 & Special Meeting Minutes for May 30, 2024. Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

John Davis Fire Chief of McMechen Fire Department was present to discuss the calls and services the paid ambulance service is providing. They are looking to hire more staff, starting pay: Driver \$15.00, EMT \$17.00 & Medic \$19.00

**NEW BUSINESS**

**APPROVAL OF 2023-2024 FINAL BUDGET REVISION**

Councilperson Kazemka made the motion to pass the final budget revision and Councilperson Mele seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF INCREASED COST ON INVOICE FROM OHIO-WEST VIRGINIA EXCAVATING**

Ohio-West Virginia Excavating's estimate was under estimated for the paving on Marshall Street. The increase is \$4,540.23 for a total of \$22,453.05.

Councilperson Longwell made the motion to approve the invoice and Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

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**APPROVAL TO SIGN CSO PHASE III PROJECT AGREEMENTS (BEL-O-MAR REGIONAL COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT, ERIC GORDON LOCAL LEGAL AGREEMENT, MICHAEL GRIFFITH ASSOCIATES & STEPTOE & JOHNSON BOND COUNCIL AGREEMENT)**

The above agreements are needed for everyone that is involved with the Phase III CSO Project.

Councilperson Longwell made the motion to approve the resolution & Councilperson Mele seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken & motion passed.

**DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF I.T. AGREEMENTS**

Councilperson Mele made the motion to table this item until additional estimates are received. Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BENWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA PROVIDING FOR AND APPROVING THE CITY OF BENWOOD ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MCMECHEN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THE MARSHALL COUNTY COMMISSION TO PROVIDE EMS SERVICE (SECOND READING)**

Agreement between City of Benwood, McMechen Volunteer Fire Department and Marshall County Commission to have a paid ambulance service housed in McMechen. City of Benwood is responsible to pay up to \$74,000 & Marshall County Commission is responsible to pay up to \$68,000 for a period of one year. MVFD shall provide all other funds necessary to provide EMS service for the one-year period. MVFD shall provide paid EMS coverage from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM as well as per call dispatch of volunteers from 8:00 PM to 8:00 AM 7 days a week, for the cities of Benwood, McMechen and the County.

Councilperson Mele made the motion to pass the ordinance and Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BENWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA, PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE IN THE COMPENSATION PAID TO FULL TIME EMPLOYEES (SECOND READING)**

Whereas, in recognition of the hard work and dedication of its employees, Council of the City of Benwood desires to increase the compensation paid to municipal full-time employees.

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Councilperson Mele made the motion to approve the ordinance & Councilperson Lunsford seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken & motion passed.

### **APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA, PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE IN THE COMPENSATION PAID TO THE MAYOR (SECOND READING)**

The Mayor of the City of Benwood shall receive a raise in compensation of Two Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$2,400.00) per year. The yearly salary of the mayor shall thereafter be set at \$14,400.00 per year.

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

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **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 \$74,536.71 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 Kazemka. 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 \$74,536.71 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 June 6, 2024:

Cash Operating Report: General Fund \$2,397,265.97; Coal Severance Fund \$78,306.68; Garbage Fund \$5,894.57; Fire Fund \$9,468.45 & Water Fund \$277,200.28; Total operating cash 2,789,172.10.

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.

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

Raccoons living in vacant house, checking to see if house is on the tear down list.

To remove the asbestos at the former Union School is estimated to cost \$900,000. Checking to see if grant funding is available.

Walgreens located in Benwood is having issues with their current contractor & not sure if they will be re-opening.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,

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Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk/Treasurer

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Mayor Walter W. Yates