

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF BENWOOD, CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MARCH 12, 2024

City Council of the City of Benwood met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 12, 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, Ferrera, Longwell, Lunsford & Mele. Excused absences were Councilperson Fehr, Councilperson Givens & Councilperson Kazemka. Others present: Chief Frank Longwell, Dave McLaughlin Director of Public Works, Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk & Eric Gordon City Attorney.

*****6:45pm PUBLIC HEARING*****

The City of Benwood will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 6:45 p.m. at the City Building, 430 Main Street, Benwood, West Virginia. The purpose of the meeting is to present the environmental scope of the Phase III Combined Sewer System Improvements. The proposed Phase III project further separates the combined sewers in Center Benwood Area bounded to the West by River Street, McMechen Street to the East, 4th Street to the North and 8th Street to the South. Construction consists of approximately 8,500 l.f of new gravity sanitary sewers and the existing combined sewers will be repurposed as storm sewers. Three Combined Sewer Overflows will be eliminated and reducing hydraulic impacts of wastewater on Lift Station B identified in the City's Long-Term Control Plan. The total estimated project cost is \$3,750,000. Project is proposed to be funded by the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, Infrastructure & Jobs Development Council funds and the WDA Economic Enhancement Funds.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm, no public present to comment.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MINUTES

Councilperson Ferrera moved to approve the minutes for Regular Meeting for February 27, 2024 & Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION OF WATER/SEWAGE ADJUSTMENTS

Resident at 103 Roosevelt unknowingly had their water softener break & continuously cycle. Due to the water softener being in the basement and wasn't aware of the issue the resident is asking for an adjustment.

Since water did enter the sewer system the resident is not eligible for a sewage adjustment.

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Councilperson Ankrom made the motion to adjust the residence water & put on a payment plan, Councilperson Mele seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF INVOICES RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION & OTHER SERVICES FOR THE PROPOSED COMBINED SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE II PROJECT (DRAW 8)

Ohio-WV Excavating, Inc. \$287,666.71, Burgess & Niple \$23,752.80 and Belomar Regional \$4,456.66.

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

DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF ENGINEERING AMENDMENT COVERING THE BOGGS RUN SEWER SEPARATION PROJECT

This project will be Phase 4 of the CSO and is fully funded by grants.

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

DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF DONATING 2024 POOL PASS TO SHERRARD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to donate a pool pass & Councilperson Mele seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BENWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY SITUATE AT 722 WATER STREET (FIRST READING)

Property located at 722 Water Street is for sale, owner is asking \$13,500. If the city purchases this residence, it would benefit the Community Center by adding additional parking and room to add an ADA elevator.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the ordinance & 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 \$150,333.87 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 \$150,333.87 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 March 7, 2024:

Cash Operating Report: General Fund \$2,322,299.08; Coal Severance Fund \$76,995.67; Garbage Fund \$11,714.73; Fire Fund \$9,421.76; Water Fund \$319,472.04 and Sewer Fund \$147,575.49; Total operating cash \$2,887,478.77.

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

Unable to find new & or replacement parts for utility meters. Gary is working on getting proposals for new system.

Sean Lake & Gary Williams submitted a Daily Operation Report.

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Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to place report on file and Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion; motion carried.

STREETS, ALLEYS & GRADES

CDBG Project is moving forward

CITY OFFICE, PROPERTY, FIRE & POLICE

Working on completing the 2024-2025 budget

City received an oil & gas check from Dudley Land Company check \$1,727.55 for the city's gas rights

Council was asked to approve a 3rd party invoice for Fee Corp for work that was done on CSO Phase 3 project for \$23,106.33. Matt Newlon Project Engineer with Burgess & Niple advised council that the city would be reimbursed once the funding for this project was received.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the invoice & Councilperson Mele seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Grand Vue Park is creating a Community Activity Bus starting this summer and would like to add Benwood to their stop. Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to have the Community Activity Bus to stop in Benwood, Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion.


WV Municipal Bond Commission bond payments will start being automatically withdrawals starting June 1st, 2024.

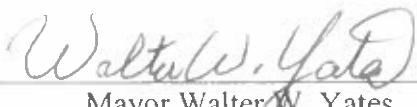
ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,


Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk/Treasurer


Mayor Walter W. Yates