

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF BENWOOD, CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MARCH 26, 2024

City Council of the City of Benwood met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 26, 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, Ferrera, Givens, Kazemka, Lunsford & Mele. Excused absences were Councilperson Longwell. Others present: 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 minutes for Regular Meeting for March 12, 2024 & Councilperson Mele seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL FROM MID ATLANTIC MAINTENANCE

Mid Atlantic Maintenance submitted a proposal to paint parking stalls back to existing, ADA symbol & paint for \$3,200.00.

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

DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA ALTERING & AMENDING SECTION 933.02C OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BENWOOD (FIRST READING)

Whereas the Council of the City of Benwood has recently had the opportunity to construe Section 933.02(C) of the Codified Ordinances of said City; and

Whereas the Council of the City of Benwood believes it is warranted and in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Benwood to provide qualification of the terms "appliance and similar situations" provided in said section.

Be It Therefore Ordained by the Council of the City of Benwood, West Virginia:

BENWOOD COUNCIL MINUTES

MARCH 26, 2024

PAGE 2

Section One: Section 933.02(C) shall be amended to read as follows: "There shall be no leak adjustment for leaking commodes, dripping faucets, malfunctioning appliances, and other similar situations. Water softeners and hot water tanks shall not be considered appliances or "similar situations" prohibiting leak adjustments under this section. Furthermore, leak adjustments shall be given for no more than one month for each incident of unusually high-water usage."

Section Two: This Ordinance shall be effective from and after its date of passage.

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

DISCUSSION & APPROVAL TO HIRE MANAGER & ASSISTANT MANAGERS FOR 2024 POOL SEASON

There was four applicants Sara Criswell, Jessica Waterhouse, Hayden Daniels & Gerald Ames.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to hire Jessica Waterhouse as the Manager, Sara Criswell & Gerald Ames as Assistant Managers. Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION & APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR UTILITY METERS

Councilperson Mele made the motion to advertise & Councilperson Ferrera seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BENWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY SITUATE AT 722 WATER STREET (SECOND 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 Lunsford seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

BENWOOD COUNCIL MINUTES

MARCH 26, 2024

PAGE 3

DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BENWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA APPROVING THE 2024-2025 GENERAL FUND BUDGET (SECOND READING)

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to pass the 2024-2025 General Fund Budget & Councilperson Mele seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BENWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA APPROVING THE 2024-2025 COAL SEVERANCE BUDGET (SECOND READING)

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to pass the 2024-2025 Coal Severance Budget & Councilperson Mele 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 \$130,033.58 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 \$130,033.58 seconded by Councilperson Mele. 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 21, 2024:

BENWOOD COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 26, 2024
PAGE 4

Cash Operating Report: General Fund \$2,407,600.24; Coal Severance Fund \$76,995.67; Garbage Fund \$18,633.47; Fire Fund \$9,421.76; Water Fund \$321,792.08 and Sewer Fund \$184,258.77; Total operating cash \$3,014,274.21.

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 Phase II is 85% finished

Sean Lake & Gary Williams submitted a Daily Operation Report that will be in the next council packet.

CSO Phase 3 will go out to bid fall of 2024 & begin early 2025

STREETS, ALLEYS & GRADES

Raingear for the employees is needed at a cost of \$600.00.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the purchase and Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Slip on Marshall Street

CITY OFFICE, PROPERTY, FIRE & POLICE

Received 2022-2023 Audit with one write up. Write up was for not having a Water Reserve Account. The Water Reserve Account was established in October 2023.

Sherrard Robotics asking for a donation of a Family Pool Pass to raffle off to help support their trip.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the donation and Councilperson Ankrom seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Mele spoke with Betsy Frohnapfel with Marshall County Commission; Marshall County would like to discuss the possibility to establish an ambulance service within the city at no cost to the city. April 28, 2024 is the next meeting.

BENWOOD COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 26, 2024
PAGE 5

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,


Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk/Treasurer


Mayor Walter W. Yates