

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF BENWOOD, CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MAY 15, 2024**

City Council of the City of Benwood was held in Special Session on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at the City Building in the Council Chambers. Mayor Walter W. Yates called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The following council members were present: Ferrera, Givens, Kazemka, Longwell, Lunsford & Mele. Excused absence Councilperson Ankrom & Fehr. Others present: Chief of Police 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 minutes for Regular Meeting for April 23, 2024 & Discussion & Approval of Special Meeting Minutes for April 29, 2024. Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**APPROVAL OF 2024-2025 GENERAL FUND BUDGET  
(FIRST READING) PENDING CERTIFIED CANVAS**

Due to the Bus Levy being on the ballot for May 14<sup>th</sup> elections, city council had to wait to pass the 2024-2025 General Fund budget.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to pass the budget on the first reading, Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF 2024-2025 COAL SEVERANCE BUDGET  
(FIRST READING) PENDING CERTIFIED CANVAS**

Due to the Bus Levy being on the ballot for May 14<sup>th</sup> elections city council had to wait to pass the 2024-2025 Coal Severance budget.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to pass the budget on the first reading, Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL TO HIRE LIFEGUARDS & CONCESSION EMPLOYEES**

There are 19 Lifeguards & 26 Concession workers that have been interviewed.

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Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to hire the summer pool employees and Councilperson Mele seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

**APPROVAL OF POOL PASS DONATION FOR ST. JOHNS HOME FOR CHILDREN**

St. John's Home for Children asked if the city would donate 10 single passes for their foster boys and 4 single passes for staff.

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

**DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF INVOICES RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION & OTHER SERVICES FOR THE PROPOSED COMBINED SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE II PROJECT (DRAW 10)**

Councilperson Mele made the motion to table until next meeting due to Belomar Regional not being present & Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**\*\*ADDENDUM\*\***

**DISCUSSION OF EMS SERVICE AGREEMENT**

Due to needing additional information Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to table this until the next meeting, Councilperson Kazemka seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**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 \$222,277.13 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 second reading, seconded by Councilperson Longwell. Mayor Yates called for roll call vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

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**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CHECK REGISTER REPORTS**

Councilperson Ferrera moved to receive and file accounts payable check register reports totaling \$222,277.13 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 May 9, 2024:

Cash Operating Report: General Fund \$3,024,152.89; Coal Severance Fund \$78,306.68; Garbage Fund \$30,673.79; Fire Fund \$9,421.76; Water Fund \$282,996.33 and Sewer Fund \$145,659.84; Total operating cash \$3,024,152.89.

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**

Sewer Project completed & paving is finished

High Street Paving will be complete May 16, 2024

**STREETS, ALLEYS AND GRADES**

Swimming Pool is filled & chlorine is slowly being added.

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

Andee Ferrera is continuing to work on sending delinquent accounts to DataMax Collections Agency

Received the first batch of Military Banners that will be hung before Memorial Day.

Chief Longwell stated the highway paving project will be completed by May 16, 2024

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,

  
Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk/Treasurer

  
Mayor Walter W. Yates