

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF BENWOOD,  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 14, 2023**

City Council of the City of Benwood met in Regular Session on Tuesday, November 14, 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, Kazemka, Lunsford & Longwell. Excused absence: Councilperson Ankrom, Councilperson Mele. 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 October 24, 2023 regular meeting minutes & and Councilperson Lunsford seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

David West with Johnson Boiler Works was present to discuss building a garage for storage. There are multiple zoning variances Mr. West is asking to be changed. Mayor Yates said council will discuss this in executive session & get back with him.

**MAYOR ITEMS**

No comment

**NEW BUSINESS**

**APPROVAL OF PAYING INVOICES FOR BENWOOD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The following invoices were submitted by the BVFD to be paid out of the Fire Fees.

F.A.S.T. of the Allegheny Mountains \$1,561.60 for replacing air pump with auto drain & testing pump on @ 80 PSI/off @ 100PSI and installation of two Sutphen 2 ½ 0-400 gauges. Keystone Fire Apparatus, Inc. \$19,681.25 to replace & test numerous parts on the 1996 Pierce Pumper.

Bill Bailey Insurance Quarterly Premium \$6,801.00 Invoice#99393 to be paid out of the City of Benwood's Budget for the Fire Department.

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

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

Ohio West Virginia Excavating \$371,871.12, Burgess & Niple \$21,054.00, Belomar Regional \$823.32, Berry, Kessler, Crutchfield, Taylor & Gordon \$208.00 and City of Benwood \$1,000.00.

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

**DISCUSSION OF CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas party will be for residents only, no guest.

Received quotes to have Ballon Artist & Tattoo Artist for Christmas party.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the Scenario 3 quote to have two Tattoo Artist for \$1,010 and Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion.

**APPROVAL OF OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSPORT AUTHORITIES REQUEST TO PLACE OVRTA'S LEVY ON THE MAY PRIMARY BALLOT**

Councilperson Ferra made the motion to place OVRTA'S Levy on the May Primary Ballot for two years & Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION OF HIRING A FULL TIME POLICE OFFICER**

Chief Longwell asked to table until next council meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BENWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A DEED FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY SITUATE AT 1422 MARSHALL STREET, BENWOOD WEST VIRGINIA (SECOND READING)**

Owner of property located at 1422 Marshall Street has advised he is willing to convey any interest he has in the property to the City of Benwood without compensation, with the understanding he will be held harmless of the cost of removing the structure.

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Councilperson Ferrera 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.

**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 \$265,195.44 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 \$265,195.44 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 November 8, 2023:

Cash Operating Report: General Fund \$2,445,505.55; Coal Severance Fund \$77,207.59; Garbage Fund \$3,023.78; Fire Fund \$14,095.18; Water Fund \$389,272.84 and Sewer Fund \$85,174.31; Total operating cash \$3,009,851.47.

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.

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**WATER & SEWAGE PLANT OPERATION**

Sewer Separation project going well, work is completed up to 14<sup>th</sup> Street, began boring under the railroad tracks near resident's house.

Meeting with Thrasher Engineering on the PFAS & PFO project.

**STREETS, ALLEYS AND GRADES**

Floodwall Project is moving forward with the design phase.

Christmas flags & lights are being hung up.

Memorial Plaque has been placed by Mike & Bonnie Smith Memorial Tree

December 3, 2023 there will be the lighting of the Christmas Tree, light refreshments and music.

**CITY OFFICES, PROPERTY, FIRE & POLICE**

Seargent Barton has resigned & Chief Longwell is currently looking for a Certified Police Officer to fill vacant position.

Councilperson Longwell made a motion to go into executive session at 7:51pm & Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion.

Councilperson Longwell made the motion to come out of executive session at 7:57pm and Councilperson Ferrera seconded the motion.

Decision from executive session was to appoint a Zoning Board to discuss any zoning changes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,

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Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk/Treasurer

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Mayor Walter W. Yates