

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF BENWOOD,
CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 10, 2023**

City Council of the City of Benwood met in Regular Session on Tuesday, September 26, 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: Ankrom, Fehr, Ferrera, Givens, Kazemka, & Mele. Excused absence: Councilperson Longwell & Councilperson Lunsford. Others present: Chief of Police Frank Longwell, Dave McLaughlin Director of Public Works, Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk & Eric Gordon City Attorney.

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

- 1) **Council of the City of Benwood desires to lease a portion of the Property Situated at 1567 Marshall Street to Emily Monti for \$500 a month.**

No public present to comment

- 2) **Council of the City of Benwood desires to lease a portion of the former Municipal Garage to RF Mobile Service LLC for \$3,000 a month.**

No public present to comment

- 3) **Ordinance of the City of Benwood Providing for an Increase in the Rates it Charges to Provide Sewage Services**

Public was present to discuss Sewer Rate Increase, no objections.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MINUTES

Councilperson Ferrera moved to approve the September 26, 2023 regular meeting minutes & and Councilperson Mele seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR ITEMS

No comment

NEW BUSINESS

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**APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE FOR AN \$.25 CENT INCREASE IN PAY FOR
EMPLOYEE PAUL PYLYPCHUK FOR OBTAINING HIS CDL**

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

**APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE FOR EMPLOYEE SEAN LAKE FOR OBTAINING HIS
WASTE WATER CERTIFICATION AND IN CONSIDERATION OF THE SAME THE
CITY OF BENWOOD BELIEVES IT APPROPRIATE TO GIVE HIM A PROMOTION
TO WASTE WATER SUPERVISOR AND A \$.25 INCREASE IN PAY.**

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

**DISCUSSION OF RESOLUTION TO LEASE A PORTION OF 1567 S. MARSHALL TO
EMILY MONTI**

Whereas the Council of the City of Benwood believes it is in the best interest of the City of Benwood to lease a portion of the aforesaid property for the sum of \$500.00 per month.

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

**DISCUSSION OF RESOLUTION TO LEASE A PORTION OF THE FORMER
MUNICIPAL GARAGE TO RF MOBILE SERVICE LLC**

Whereas the Council of the City of Benwood believes it is in the best interest of the City of Benwood to lease a portion of the aforesaid property for the sum of \$3,000.00 per month.

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

**APPROVAL TO HIRE PART-TIME DISPATCHERS JAKE BOYD & TYLER
STAUFFER**

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to hire part-time dispatchers and Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Motion carried 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

A.C. Wiethe from Belomar Regional Council was present for Mayor Walter W. Yates to sign the resolution authorizing payment of invoices relating to Phase II CSO Project. Mayor Yates called for a roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED SEWAGE RATE INCREASE (SECOND READING)

The City of Benwood, commissioned an accounting firm to analyze the municipal sewage rates and to recommend rates that will allow it to operate without running a deficit.

The proposed rate increase is as follows: \$22.80 per 1,000 gallons for first 2,000 gallons; over 2,000 gallons \$21.35 per 1,000 gallons. Minimum Charge for Metered Water Supply \$45.60 for 2,000 gallons; Flat-Rate Charge for Non-Metered Water Supply \$88.30 a month. Effective immediately after passage.

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

APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE FOR A PAY INCENTIVE FOR CERTAIN CITY EMPLOYEES (SECOND READING)

Council of the City of Benwood, recognizes the recent exemplary work performed by certain employees namely David McLaughlin, Gary Williams, Todd Longwell, Mike Mamula, Sean Lake, Paul Pylypchuck & Jon Howard.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to pass the Ordinance in the first reading and 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 \$115,861.77 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

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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 Givens. 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 \$115,861.77 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 October 6, 2023:

Cash Operating Report: General Fund \$2,267,561.58; Coal Severance Fund \$74,324.47; Garbage Fund \$2,124.50; Fire Fund \$32,187.38; Water Fund \$394,197.16 and Sewer Fund \$120,741.41; Total operating cash \$2,886,708.72.

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

Marshall County Fall Trash Clean up is scheduled for Benwood October 13th & 14th

CSO Phase II Project is 75% completed

Street Sweeper belt broke & has been replaced

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Neighborhood Development Services is moving forward with purchasing and demolishing the Union School building. Environmental-Asbestos testing will be done soon.

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Dave West owner of Johnsons Boiler works would like to build a warehouse in the empty lot on Marshall Street to use for storage. Per the city ordinance the building would have to be a business and offer something for sale to the public. The building specifications state the building will be built to the alley; per the ordinance it has to be at-least 25ft from the alley & if not it would need a property variance. Also, the building can only occupy a percentage of the property and the specs show it would occupy more than allowed.

Community Development Block Grant is moving along, Attorney Gordon is checking the titles for liens on properties that have been signed off on from property owners. Next step will be submitting it to Belomar Regional Council.

CITY OFFICES, PROPERTY, FIRE & POLICE

City Clerk's office busy with citations

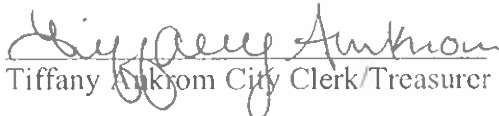
Party in the Park scheduled for Halloween 10/31 6:30-8:30pm after trick or treating. Live band, free food & drinks and fireworks. Sponsored by Schutz Funeral Home.


ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,


Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk/Treasurer


Mayor Walter W. Yates