

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF BENWOOD, CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 11, 2025

City Council of the City of Benwood met in Regular Session on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at the City Building in the Council Chambers. Mayor Walter W. Yates called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The following council members were present: Ankrom, Fehr, Ferrera, Givens, Kazemka, Lunsford & Mele. Excused Absence 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 Regular Meeting Minutes for January 28, 2025 & Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL TO REMOVE “NO DOGS ALLOWED” SIGNS AT THE CITY PARK AND ALLOW DOGS WITH STIPULATIONS

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the removal of the signs at the park and Councilperson Mele seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; Councilmen: Ferrera, Givens, Mele, Fehr, Ankrom and Lunsford voted yes. Councilperson Kazemka voted no; motion passed. Councilperson Ankrom expressed that the pet owners need to be held accountable to pick up after their pets. During the summer the park is monitored by pool employees but during the winter months it's difficult to catch pet owners not picking up after their dogs.

APPROVAL TO HIRE FULL TIME LABORER

Dave McLaughlin would like to hire Tyler Druschel as a full-time laborer with benefits for the Street Department. Mr. Druschel is a certified welder and has work experience that qualifies him for the position. If hired, he will be on a six-month probation starting March 1st, contingent with getting his CDL. Starting hourly rate will be \$18.50 an hour & full benefits.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve of hiring Mr. Druschel & Councilperson Givens 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 \$143,349.06 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 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 \$143,349.06 seconded by Councilperson Mele. Mayor Yates called for a roll call, vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

Revenue/Expense Report and Financial Report as of February 6, 2025:

Cash Operating Report: General Fund \$2,281,012.45; Coal Severance Fund \$80,785.67; Garbage Fund \$2,156.98; Fire Fund \$17,471.63 Opioid Settlement Fund \$1,769.69; Water Fund \$304,313.62 & Sewer Fund \$421,352.20 Total operating cash \$3,108,862.24.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

Councilperson Ferrera moved to receive and file the Cash Operating Report and Financial Reports, seconded by Councilperson Mele. Mayor Yates called for a roll call; vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

WATER & SEWAGE PLANT OPERATION

The Phase 3 CSO Project started today February 11, on Water Street between 7th & 8th which may cause disruptions in center Benwood. Most of the construction will take place in the alleys as well as part of McMechen & Water Street. The project is expected to last all year.

Phase 4 CSO (Boggs Run) has been engineered and will be put out to bid soon.

Councilperson Kazemka asked if when the Phase 3 project reaches the park, could the contractor tie the states storm sewer into the city's storm sewer to prevent flooding. Dave McLaughin will inquire when the project reaches that area.

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CITY OFFICE, PROPERTY, FIRE & POLICE

Councilman Lunsford asked if a 15-mph sign could be installed by 1929 Ashland Ave due to people speeding. Dave McLaughlin said he would take care of it.

The city has received a bonus check from SWN for the Benwood dump lease for oil & gas in the amount of \$154,295.00.

The new website went live on February 11, 2025

The \$4,000 grant the city received last year from the Community Development Fund will be used to purchase security cameras for the park as well as a new pizza oven & hot dog roller for the concession stand. Working on the request for this year & will be submitting the letter soon.

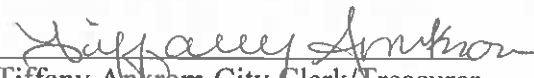
Working on the 2025-2026 Budget


ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,


Tiffany Ankom City Clerk/Treasurer


Mayor Walter W. Yates