

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF BENWOOD, CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 25, 2025

City Council of the City of Benwood met in Regular Session on Tuesday, February 25, 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: Fehr, Ferrera, Givens, Kazemka, Longwell & Mele. Excused Absence Councilperson Ankrom & Lunsford. Others present: Police Chief Frank Longwell, Gary Williams Water Supervisor, 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 February 11, 2025 & Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Ashlei Beard, resident at 2220 Marshall Street, was present to address council regarding her high utility bill. Ms. Beard received her utility bill in the amount of \$1,460.00. The meter was profiled and showed 250 gallons of water was used every hour for six days. The water department also checked for leaks at the meter & there were not any found. The owner of the property stated that there were no leaks found inside the residence. Gary Williams agreed to meet Ms. Beard on February 26th at her residence to investigate further.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF WATER/SEWER ADJUSTMENTS

Resident at 1406 Marshall St. requested an adjustment due to a broken valve past the water meter. Gary Williams investigated the leak and found there was a repair that was not done properly which broke and caused the leak. Water did not enter the sewer system.

Resident at 1406 High St. requested an adjustment due to pipe freezing in downstairs shower. Water leaked on the floor and did not enter the sewer system.

Councilperson Longwell made the motion to approve both adjustments per the ordinance Councilperson Ferrera seconded the motion, motion carried.

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**APPROVAL OF QUOTE FROM MARTIN PAINTING & COATING CO. FOR \$8,557.00
FOR PAINTING AT THE POOL**

Scope of work includes: Covering & protecting anything that doesn't get painted, pressure wash the bottom of swimming pool, apply two coats of PPG epoxy white paint with non-skid on the steps & ramps and apply a strip designating the deep end in safety red.

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

**APPROVAL OF C S LOY QUOTE TO PATCH & POUR CONCRETE AT THE POOL &
SHELTER FOR \$18,500**

The estimate is for cutting out & removing 4'x6' concrete slab out of the pool area. Will install rebar & replace with concrete with smooth finish. Jack hammer out & haul away 3'x5', 20'x25' & 33'x16' areas at the city park. Will grade, rebar, form & place 6" of concrete with broom finish.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the quote & 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 \$74,623.12 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 \$74,623.12 seconded by Councilperson Longwell. Mayor Yates called for a roll call, vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

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Revenue/Expense Report and Financial Report as of February 20, 2025:

Cash Operating Report: General Fund \$2,410,974.98; Coal Severance Fund \$81,811.44; Garbage Fund \$8,878.01 Fire Fund \$17,471.63 Opioid Settlement Fund \$1,769.69; Water Fund \$320,899.71 & Sewer Fund \$453,591.91 Total operating cash \$3,290,969.59.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

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

WATER & SEWAGE PLANT OPERATION

Sean Lake is keeping up with sewer plant operations.

7th street 24in line repaired

Installed new injectors at the water plants

CSO Phase III contractors broke a couple water lines due to the lines not being on their maps.

Sean Lake is testing new solution blocks to treat sewage before it goes to Wheeling at a cost of \$900 for three blocks and each block lasts three months compared to spending \$15,000 for bioxide.

Deegan Avenue & Ashland Ave pavement is moving back into place due to the weather warming up.

Councilperson Givens asked if there could be a 15-minute parking sign put in front of the Post Office.

CITY OFFICE, PROPERTY, FIRE & POLICE

A portion of the retaining wall on Boggs Run has collapsed and the area around it is continuing to fall into the creek. FEMA has agreed to pay \$42,562 to have that area fixed. Councilperson Ferrera would like to see if we can get an estimate to have a retaining wall installed down to the bridge. Dave McLaughlin recommended not doing a wall to the bridge due to the natural slope of the bank and the unlikeliness there would be a collapse.

The House of Friendship is a historic non-profit senior assisted living residence in Wheeling. They are hosting an event called Elmhurst Big Hats & Bow Ties & are asking for a donation.

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Councilperson Longwell made the motion to make a \$50 donation and Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Motion carried.

While in Charleston, Dave McLaughlin met with Senator Rose, Delegate Stephens & the Treasury Secretary Pack to discuss demolishing the Bellaire Bridge. Mr. McLaughlin met with the owner of AMG Eric Goldstein he stated that if the city can have the Bellaire Bridge demolished AMG will be able to discard the steel with lead paint.

AMG purchased half of the old mill to manufacture plastics and fabricated steel.

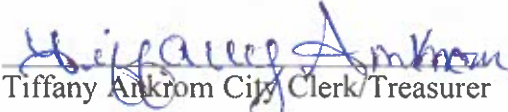
Chief Longwell stated Covia sand plant received three new contracts and will be producing a lot more material. They will have 250-300 trucks a day coming out of the plant as well as train cars.

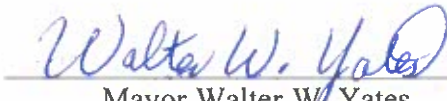
ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,


Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk/Treasurer


Mayor Walter W. Yates