

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF BENWOOD, CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 28, 2025

City Council of the City of Benwood met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 28, 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, Longwell, Lunsford & Mele. Others present: Chief 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 Regular Meeting Minutes for January 14, 2025 & Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION TO BUILD DOG PARK BY MUNICIPAL GARAGE

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to table this item until more research is done and Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Motion carried 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 \$141,907.14 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 \$141,907.14 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 January 23, 2025:

Cash Operating Report: General Fund \$2,157,922.75; Coal Severance Fund \$80,785.67; Garbage Fund \$245.41; Fire Fund \$17,375.63, Opioid Settlement Fund \$1,769.69; Water Fund \$321,127.88 & Sewer Fund \$377,890.40 Total operating cash \$2,957,117.43.

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

2in water line break in North Benwood by old city garage, leak was fixed without water being shut off.

24in water main break on 7th Street, city crew is unable to fix. Ohio West Virginia Excavating will be working to fix the break they are currently waiting for materials. The city purchased the material, and the contractor will bill us for the time and any additional materials.

STREETS, ALLEYS AND GRADES

Holes were patched on Boggs Run

Deegan Ave & Blanche Ave continue to have issues with the street sinking. Other cities are experiencing the same problem & unsure what is causing it. No oil or gas mining is currently being done under Benwood but there are abandoned coal mines. Attorney Gordon advised Dave McLaughlin to contact the Abandoned Mine Land with the Bureau of Land Management.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Met with representatives for the Union School building

Met with Senator Rose and Delegate Stevens to discuss the Bellaire Bridge as well as a meeting scheduled in March with Transportation Chair of the Senate to discuss funding to demolish the bridge.

CITY OFFICE, PROPERTY, FIRE & POLICE

Appalachian Outreach sent a thank you letter for the city's donation

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A resident at 519 Main Street asked for a handicap sign put in front of her house. The required information was given to council. Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the sign and Councilperson Givens seconded the motion.

W2 verification is almost complete and will be submitted by Wednesday.

Chief Longwell advised council the law has been changed on the parking lines. The red line now means no parking and there is now a green line for 15-minute parking for deliveries.

Attorney Gordon advised council the first disbursement of the PFAS settlement should be coming soon. The first disbursement will be a large sum estimated at \$575,000 gross before attorney fees and then smaller disbursements spread out over eight years.

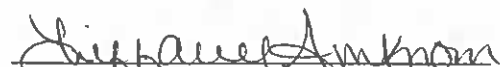
Property by new Municipal Garage is being advertised on the Regional Economic Development website.


ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,


Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk/Treasurer


Mayor Walter W. Yates