

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF BENWOOD, CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING JULY 23, 2024

City Council of the City of Benwood met in Regular Session on Tuesday, July 23, 2024 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, Longwell, Lunsford & Mele. Excused absences were Councilperson Ankrom & Councilman Kazemka. Others present: Chief of Police Frank Longwell, Dave McLaughlin Director of Operations, Michele Campbell Assistant 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 June 25, 2024 & Special Meeting Minutes for July 15, 2024. Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF KELLY PAVING, INC. INVOICE \$24,881.00

Paving around the city garage located at 3 Industrial Park Road.

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

APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE 2024 REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES (FIRST READING)

Every year the city sends all new ordinances to Walter Drain Company to have the Codified Ordinance Book updated.

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

APPROVAL TO PAY BENWOODS PORTION OF INVOICES TO MCMECHEN VFD FOR EMS SERVICES

Invoices have been reviewed and approved.

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

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DISCUSSION & APPROVAL TO MAKE MODIFICATIONS TO THE 4TH STREET SHELTER

The 4th Street Shelter is deteriorating and needs to either be torn down or completely remodeled. Mayor Yates would like to have that area used for a Pickleball court & Councilperson Ferrera would like to see a small shelter like building put up also. Dave McLaughlin will work on getting a design created for the area and a building quote.

Councilperson Longwell made the motion to move forward with tearing the current shelter down at the end of the season & Councilperson Givens seconded the motion.

APPROVAL TO HIRE DEANTE SUGGS AS A FULL TIME POLICE OFFICER

The Police Department is down one officer since Detective Estrada resigned. Deante Suggs has passed the polygraph & lie detector testing & will start the Police Academy August 12, 2024.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the hiring of Deante Suggs & Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE 2024-2025 BUDGET REVISION #1

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to pass revision #1 & Councilperson Mele seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

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 \$178,745.27 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.

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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 \$178,745.27 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 July 18, 2024:

Cash Operating Report: General Fund \$2,141,807.25; Coal Severance Fund \$78,306.68; Garbage Fund \$7,654.18; Fire Fund \$9,518.85, Water Fund \$247,048.48 & Sewer Fund \$75,490; Total operating cash 2,559.825.

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.

WATER & SEWAGE PLANT OPERATION

Water & Sewer plants are running well

Crews on Boggs Run smoke testing the sewer system

STREETS, ALLEYS AND GRADES

Demolition of condemned houses will begin in August 2024

Crews out cutting grass & cleaning streets. Grass was cut for private residents due to rodent issues. Traps have been set out but nothing has been caught.

CITY OFFICE, PROPERTY, FIRE & POLICE

Attorney Gordon is working on Oil & Gas Lease to possibly add “change of different product” to benefit the city.

Chief Longwell notified council Industrial Park Road has finally all been paved. Thank you to Charlie Reynolds with DOH, Chief Longwell & Dave McLaughlin for making this happen.

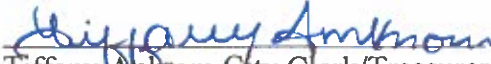
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ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,


Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk/Treasurer


Mayor Walter W. Yates