

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF BENWOOD, CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 12, 2024

City Council of the City of Benwood met in Regular Session on Tuesday, November 12, 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: Ankrom, Fehr, Ferrera, Givens, Kazemka, Longwell, Lunsford & Mele. Others present: Chief of Police Frank Longwell, Dave McLaughlin Director of Public Works, Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk & Eric Gordon City Attorney.

*****6:45 PM PUBLIC HEARING*****

To conduct a public hearing regarding a proposed Ordinance

Ordinance authorizing the acquisition and construction of certain improvements and extensions to the existing public wastewater facilities of the City of Benwood and the financing of the cost thereof, not otherwise provided, through the acceptance by the town of funding assistance, Series 2024 A in the aggregate principal amount of \$2,500,000 through the West Virginia SRF Program; authorizing execution and delivery of all documents relating to acceptance of such funding; approving, ratifying and confirming the funding assistance agreement relating to such funding assistance, Series 2024 A

No public present to contest the above proposed Ordinance.

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 October 22, 2024 & Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR ITEMS

Mayor Yates congratulated Dave McLaughlin for winning the County Commissioner seat.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF WATER/SEWER ADJUSTMENT

Resident at 11 N. Marshall St. is asking for a water/sewer adjustment due to someone stealing water from her outside water spicket.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve a one-time adjustment per the water/sewer ordinance & with the understanding a shut off valve needs to be installed so this doesn't continue to happen and Councilperson Kazemka seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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Resident at 1901 Ashland Ave asked for a water/sewer adjustment. The water was turned on at the residence before they moved in and there was a leak in the home.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to adjust customers water/sewer bill for nine days & Councilperson Kazemka seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THIRD READING AND ACT UPON A PROPOSED ORDINANCE ENTITLED:

Ordinance authorizing the acquisition and construction of certain improvements and extensions to the existing public wastewater facilities of the City of Benwood and the financing of the cost thereof, not otherwise provided, through the acceptance by the town of funding assistance, Series 2024 A in the aggregate principal amount of \$2,500,000 through the West Virginia SRF Program; authorizing execution and delivery of all documents relating to acceptance of such funding; approving, ratifying and confirming the funding assistance agreement relating to such funding assistance, Series 2024 A

To consider and act upon a proposed Supplemental Resolution relating to the Funding Assistance.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the Supplemental Resolution & Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for a roll call, vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

To consider and act upon a proposed Draw Resolution for the payment of invoices from the Funding Assistance.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the Draw Resolution & Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for a roll call, vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

To consider and act upon an Authorized Representative Resolution appointing a representative of the city to sign documents related to any DEP SRF form related to the Funding Assistance.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the Authorized Representative Resolution & Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for a roll call, vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF INVOICES RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION & OTHER SERVICES FOR THE PROPOSED COMBINED SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE III PROJECT

Drawdown for Phase III Project for \$317,975.31.

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Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the invoices and Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for a roll call, vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Ceremony for the lighting of the Christmas tree will be held on December 1st at 6:00pm. Cookies and drinks will be provided.

APPROVAL TO CHANGE COUNCIL MEETING TIME

Eric will prepare an ordinance to change the time of the meeting to 5:00 PM.

Councilman Ferrera made the motion to change the meeting time to 5:00pm and Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for a roll call, vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BENWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA
PROVIDING FOR A PAY INCENTIVE FOR ALL CITY EMPLOYEES
(FIRST READING)**

Whereas the Council of the City of Benwood, recognizes the exemplary work performed by its employees both whether it be full-time or part time employees;

Whereas, in consideration of the same, Council believes these employees are entitled to receive a one-time pay incentive.

**BE IT THEREFORE ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
BENWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA:**

SECTION ONE: All Full-time employees of the City of Benwood shall each receive a one-time pay incentive payment in the amount of \$1,000.00. All Part-time employees of the City of Benwood shall each receive a one-time pay incentive payment in the amount of \$450.00.

SECTION TWO: The Clerk of the City of Benwood is directed to make the pay incentive payment to each of the employees in their first pay check after passage of this Ordinance. The City Clerk is advised in tendering the incentive pay that the above amount is the gross amount and shall be net of all required deductions in said employees pay, i.e. taxes, social security.

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SECTION THREE: This Ordinance shall be effective from and after its date of passage.

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

DISCUSSION OF NEW SWN OIL & GAS LEASE

Councilperson Ankrom made the motion to table this item until the next meeting due to not having all the information and Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion.

APPROVAL OF \$50.00 PLEDGE FOR JOHN MARSHALL MONARCH BASKETBALL

Monarch Basketball Boosters asked for a donation for the 2024-2025 school year.

Councilperson Longwell made the motion to approve the pledge and Councilperson Ankrom seconded the motion.

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 \$186,762.82 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 \$186,762.82 seconded by Councilperson Longwell. Mayor Yates called for a roll call, vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

Revenue/Expense Report and Financial Report as of November 7, 2024:

Cash Operating Report: General Fund \$2,421,863.34; Coal Severance Fund \$80,785.67; Garbage Fund \$2,485.87, Fire Fund \$29,414.74, Water Fund \$279,648.76 & Sewer Fund \$125,517.58; Total operating cash 2,939,715.96.

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 break on High Street that has been repaired.

Sewer line in North Benwood that has been repaired.

STREETS, ALLEYS AND GRADES

Paul Pylypchuck has resigned from the city.

Veteran flags are being taken down & Christmas flags are being put up.

CITY OFFICE, PROPERTY, FIRE & POLICE

Finance Committee meeting scheduled for Monday November 18th at 4:00pm.

Children's Christmas Party has been scheduled for December 15th; doors open at 1:00pm & party is 2-4 PM.

Omni Strategic Technologies has ordered all the equipment to be installed for City Clerk's Office.

A settlement has been reached regarding the 2021 diving board incident.

Chief Longwell & Dave McLaughlin are working on an agreement with Southwest Energy to lease a portion of the empty lot by the Municipal Garage.

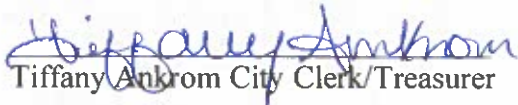
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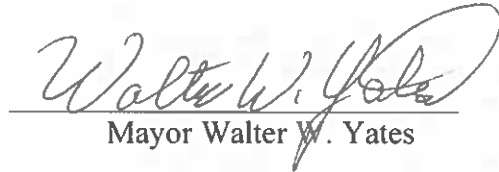
ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,


Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk/Treasurer


Mayor Walter W. Yates