

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF BENWOOD, CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 22, 2024**

City Council of the City of Benwood met in Regular Session on Tuesday, October 22, 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: Ferrera, Givens, Kazemka, Lunsford & Mele. Excused absences were Councilperson Ankrom, Fehr & Longwell. Others present: Chief of Police 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 October 8, 2024 & Councilperson Kazemka seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Carrie White with Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Experts was present to discuss creating an Entrepreneurship Ecosystem for Marshall County. It will be a three-year project that includes research, trainings & networking events. The goal is to bring together stakeholders to create an easy to use, business startup system.

Cody Cumpston was present to introduce himself and advise council he is running for House of Delegates, District 6

**MAYOR ITEMS**

Mayor Yates asked council for a \$100.00 donation for the Moundsville Honor Guard Benefit Steak Fry that is being held on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, from 5-8 pm at the American Legion Post 3.

Councilperson Mele made the motion to approve the donation & Councilperson Ferrera seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**APPROVAL OF THE HEALTH PLAN INSURANCE QUOTE**

Health Insurance Policy will increase 15% on the renewal date 12/1/2024. The total increase is \$73,018.00. As of October 22, 2024 \$64,995.00 left in the HRA account. November 30, 2024 the remaining money will be stay in the HRA account as a savings to the city.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the insurance quote and Councilperson Kazemka seconded the motion.

**BENWOOD COUNCIL MINUTES  
OCTOBER 22, 2024  
PAGE 2**

**DISCUSSION OF UNITED ELECTRIC PROPOSAL FOR FLOOD WALL STATION #2  
& #3**

Councilperson Kazemka made the motion to table this item & Councilperson Gives seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for a roll call; vote was taken & motion passed.

**DISCUSSION TO REQUEST BIDS FOR REPLACING 4<sup>th</sup> STREET SHELTER**

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to table this item & Councilperson Mele seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for a roll call, vote was taken and 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 \$143,755.33 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 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 \$143,755.33 seconded by Councilperson Mele. 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 October 17, 2024:

Cash Operating Report: General Fund \$2,301,492.05; Coal Severance Fund \$79,724.62; Garbage Fund \$5,643.82, Fire Fund \$29,239.34, Water Fund \$293,921.61 & Sewer Fund \$134,717.74;  
Total operating cash 2,843,739.18.

**BENWOOD COUNCIL MINUTES  
OCTOBER 22, 2024  
PAGE 3**

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

**CITY OFFICE, PROPERTY, FIRE & POLICE**

Councilperson Givens stated the stop sign on Water Street is helping deter speeders.

City Clerk Ankrom continues to work with FEMA on the April 2024 flooding incidents. As well as getting single audit information together for Jared Gillespie, CPA with Lowe & Associates, PLLC.

Chip Calissie with Omni Strategic Technologies has ordered computers and equipment for City Clerks Office.

City of Benwood's new website is almost finished. Asking council to review and advise if any changes are needed.

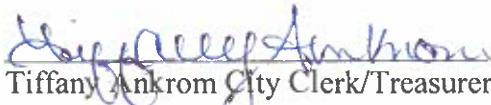
Chief Longwell stated the fire department was dispatched to an out-of-control fire behind Dollar General due to three homeless camps. The camps were removed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,

  
Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk/Treasurer

  
Mayor Walter W. Yates