

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF BENWOOD, CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING JUNE 10, 2025**

City Council of the City of Benwood met in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 10, 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,. Excused Absence Councilperson Longwell, Lunsford & Mele. Others present: Dave McLaughlin Director of Operations, 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 May 27, 2025 & Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Gary Helton with AFLAC was present to discuss scheduling a time to speak with city employees regarding new benefits; he will e-mail the City Clerk to schedule a time to meet with employees.

Joe Ridsen Jr., the Fire Chief of McMechen was present to discuss the EMS Service Agreement. Council would like to see the financials before signing a new agreement with McMechen EMS. This item will be placed on the next agenda.

**APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BENWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA, PROVIDING INCREASE IN THE COMPENSATION PAID FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES AND SUMMER PART-TIME EMPLOYEES (FIRST READING)**

Whereas, in recognition of the hard work and dedication of its employees, Council of the City of Benwood desires to increase the compensation paid to municipal full-time employees, permanent part-time employees and its summer part-time employees.

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

**APPROVAL OF GENERAL FUND BUDGET REVISION**

General Fund Budget Revision three showed an increase in revenue as well as an increase in expenses showing a total of \$1,114,174.00.

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

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**APPROVAL TO PURCHASE KEVLAR VEST FOR POLICE OFFICERS \$3,000.00**

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to purchase the Kevlar Vest & Councilperson Ankrom seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for a roll call; vote was taken & 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 DRAW 4**

Invoices for Ohio-West Virginia Excavating for \$212,706.26 & Burgess & Niple for \$35,939.82 for a total of \$248,646.08.

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

**DISCUSSION OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 722 WATER STREET**

The city was discussing putting in a parking lot at this location but may discuss putting it up for auction. Item will be tabled at this time.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to table this item & Councilperson Givens seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL TO PURCHASE LAWN GAMES FOR PARK**

Giant Tic Tac Toe \$32.99, 4-To-Score \$154.99, Adult & Kids Lawn Darts \$25.95, Giant Jenga \$89.85 totaling \$304.00.

Councilperson Ankrom made the motion to approve of purchasing lawn games & Councilperson Ferrera seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF CARDIO DRUMMING CLASS WITH SHAWNA LARESE ON JULY 31, 6-8pm ON BASKETBALL COURT**

Participants will sign a liability waiver to participate.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the Drumming Class & Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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**APPROVAL OF FAMILY POOL PASS DONATION**

Request was made to donate a family pool pass for a Bands and Dinner to benefit a terminal patient being held on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the family pool pass & Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BENWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY SITUATE AT 107 ROOSEVELT AVENUE, BENWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA (SECOND READING)**

Whereas, the Council of the City of Benwood has observed a certain structure situate in the City of Benwood located at 107 Roosevelt Avenue is an unoccupied, dilapidated structure; and Whereas, the power of attorney for Michael Dotson, owner of said structure, has been in contact with officials of the City of Benwood, and has offered to convey the property of the city for the sum of \$1,000.00 provided the city takes care of the real estate taxes both current and past due and the cost of closing including preparation of the deed by Counsel for the City of Benwood. Oil, gas and other minerals would be excepted and reserved from the conveyance.

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

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT**

**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 \$139,243.97 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 Ankrom. Mayor Yates called for a 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 Ankrom. 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 \$139,243.97 seconded by Councilperson Ankrom. Mayor Yates called for a roll call, vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

Revenue/Expense Report and Financial Report as of June 5, 2025:

Cash Operating Report: General Fund \$2,512,053.98; Coal Severance Fund \$82,566.30; Garbage Fund \$5,111.15, Fire Fund \$6,148.91; Water Fund \$314,579.67 & Sewer Fund \$417,787.38  
Total operating cash \$3,338,247.30.

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

**WATER & SEWAGE PLANT OPERATIONS**

CSO Phase III Project going well, had a few water breaks due to water lines not being listed on the map. One of the breaks caused Center Benwood to be on a 48 hour boil order.

Zoom meeting is scheduled for tomorrow June 11<sup>th</sup>, with Thrasher to discuss the water project.

**STREETS ALLEYS & GRADES**

Gas company worked on an area around 14<sup>th</sup> & Marshall that needs patched & grinded down.

Demolishing Grant is moving along, working on asbestos testing.

Poles at the park need painted, received an invoice from Martin Painting. This item will be on the next agenda.

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

The city will be receiving \$4,700.00 from the Marshall County Commission for the Block Grant.

Pool is running well.

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PFAS Bank Account is set up with WesBanco

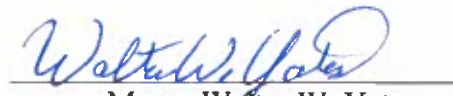
**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,

  
Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk/Treasurer

  
Mayor Walter W. Yates