

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF BENWOOD, CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MARCH 11, 2025

City Council of the City of Benwood met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 11, 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. Excused Absence Councilperson Lunsford & Mele. Others present: Police Chief Frank Longwell, 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 February 25, 2025 & Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Ashlei Beard, resident at 2220 Marshall Street, was present to address council regarding her high utility bill. Ms. Beard had a water spigot on the side of her house running without her knowledge. received her utility bill in the amount of \$1,460.00. The meter was profiled and showed 250 gallons of water was used every hour for six days. Gary Williams, Water Supervisor met with resident & checked the basement. There was no floor drains & had no recent repairs. Mr. Williams spoke with the neighbor Mr. Hill. Mr. Hill stated he was walking by and seen water coming out of the hose bib & he then called the Benwood Police Department. Police Dispatcher instructed Mr. Hill to turn water off. Mr. Hill proceeded to tell Mr. Williams that so much water had spilled that it went through his foundation and ruined his floors. Mr. Hill stated he would be contacting Lowes regarding this issue due to his basement being waterproof with prior work they had completed. Mr. Williams recommendation is to adjust sewage due to no water entering sewer system.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF WATER/SEWER ADJUSTMENTS

Resident at 2220 Marshall St. requested an adjustment due to spigot running without her knowledge. Gary Williams investigated the leak and found there were no drains in the basement & water did not enter the sewer system.

Councilperson Ankrom made the motion to approve the adjustment per the ordinance Councilperson Ferrera seconded the motion, motion carried.

Resident at 77 Marshall St. requested an adjustment due to pipes freezing in basement. Pipes were replaced/repared. Gary Williams investigated the leak & basement had dirt floors & water did not enter the sewer system.

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Councilperson Ankrom made the motion to approve adjustment per ordinance and Councilperson Givens seconded the motion, motion carried.

Resident & owner at 709 McMechen St. requested an adjustment due to water line busting. Owner had a previous renter that had illegally tapped into her water line & she was unaware until line busted; water line has been repaired.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve adjustment per ordinance and Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion, motion carried.

Resident at 738 Main St. requested an adjustment due to cracked joint where outside line connected to inside line; joint has been repaired. Basement was flooded, no floor drains.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve adjustment per ordinance and Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion, motion carried.

Resident at 53 6th Street requested an adjustment due to copper pipes leaking in the basement. Leaks were fixed; water did not enter the sewer. Basement floors are dirt & there are no drains. House fire occurred at a later time which caused pipes to bust inside residence & city could not shut water completely off until the next morning.

Councilperson Ankrom made the motion to approve adjustment per ordinance and Councilperson Givens seconded the motion, motion carried.

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

Ohio-West Virginia Excavating invoice \$119,959.65 & Burgess & Niple Invoice \$4,860.00.

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

APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BENWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA APPROVING THE 2025-2026 GENERAL FUND BUDGET (FIRST READING)

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the 2025-2026 General Fund Budget on the first reading & Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

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**APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BENWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA
APPROVING THE 2025-2026 COAL SEVERANCE BUDGET (FIRST READING)**

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the 2025-2026 Coal Severance Budget on the first reading & Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION TO RE-INVEST RAINY-DAY FUNDS & WATER FUNDS DUE TO CD'S
MATURING**

Discussion is tabled until we receive more information from WesBanco.

**APPROVAL FOR BENWOOD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT TO USE SHELTER
#1 FOR ANNUAL AUTISM AWARENESS DAY APRIL 13**

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the fire department to use shelter #1 at no cost & Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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 \$159,492.62 seconded by Councilperson Longwell. Mayor Yates called for a roll call, vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

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

Cash Operating Report: General Fund \$3,190,128.40; Coal Severance Fund \$81,811.44; Garbage Fund \$1,668.27 Fire Fund \$17,471.63; Water Fund \$306,220.65 & Sewer Fund \$436,026.17
Total operating cash \$3,190,128.40.

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.

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WATER & SEWAGE PLANT OPERATION

Phase III CSO Project is going well

Street Employees are “pot holing” to check where water lines are located

STREETS, ALLEYS AND GRADES

1-ton truck bed has been welded

CITY OFFICE, PROPERTY, FIRE & POLICE

Dave McLaughlin verified with council that the 4th street shelter is to be torn down. Council agreed this was voted on in July of 2024.

City Clerks office continues to work on completing the 2025-2026 General Fund Budget & 2025-2026 Coal Severance Budget

CODE ENFORCEMENT

City is looking to hire a licensed Building Inspector


ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,


Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk/Treasurer



Mayor Walter W. Yates