

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF BENWOOD, CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING MARCH 25, 2025**

City Council of the City of Benwood met in Regular Session on Tuesday, April 8, 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: Chief of Police Frank Longwell, Dave McLaughlin Director of Operations, Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk & Eric Gordon City Attorney.

**\*\*PUBLIC HEARING 4:45 p.m.\*\***

Mayor Yates called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m.

Now comes the City of Benwood and makes known its intention to lease the oil and gas within and under certain property owned by the City of Benwood shown on the records of the Marshall County Sheriff's Tax Office in Benwood Corporate District on Map 7 as Parcels 46, 46.1, 103, 125, 270, 271, 271.1, 271.2, 272, and Union District on Map 6 Parcel 4.1, at public auction on the 8th day of April 2025 at 4:45 p.m. and to hear public comment at a public hearing immediately after said auction regarding the potential execution of an oil and gas lease for the same.

No one appeared to object.

**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 March 11, 2025 & Councilperson Mele seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA APPROVING THE LEASE OF OIL & GAS**

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the resolution & 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 II PROJECT DRAW 11**

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Ohio-WV Excavating, Inc. invoice amount \$81,142.48 and Belomar Regional invoice amount \$5,911.12 to be paid from IJDC funds. Burgess & Niple invoice amount \$4,033.39 to be paid from CWSRF.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the resolution & 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 3**

Ohio-WV Excavating, Inc. invoice amount \$458,982.87 to be paid from EEGF funds. Belomar Regional invoice amount \$5,642.71 to be paid from IJDC Grant. Burgess & Niple invoice amount to be paid by CWSRF-PF \$11,125 & IJDC Grant \$13,500 totaling \$24,625.

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

**APPROVAL OF PROPOSALS FROM BEARCOM FOR POLICE UNIT'S 5 & 6 FOR \$9,343.96 EACH**

Installation of light bar, hook mount, siren/light controller, siren speaker, speaker bracket, grille LEDs, rear window LEDs, rear window shrouds, partition, mount, kick panels & installation materials for Police unit 5.

Installation of light bar, hook mount, siren/light controller, siren speaker, speaker bracket, grille LEDs, rear window LEDs, rear window shrouds, partition, mount, kick panels & installation materials for Police unit 6.

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

**APPROVAL TO ACCEPT EDGCO INC. BID FOR ROOSEVELT AVE WALL REPLACEMENT FOR \$57,750.00**

Scope of work includes Removal of collapsed railroad tie wall, construct new Dura-Hold wall 50' length with concrete footings and 6' tie backs, Haul all debris offsite, Grade and seed.

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

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### **APPROVAL TO ACCEPT PROPOSAL FOR PFAS STUDY**

Tonka Water Pilot study will take place in Amherst Massachusetts. The city will be required to ship 1 to 2 55-gallon drums of water collected from the wells to the laboratory. Once Tonka receives the water samples the study would take approximately two to two & a half months.

Ixom Water Pilot study is an on-site study that will be completed by directly tapping into the raw water line coming from the wells. The skid will need to be stored in an indoor area that is approximately 8.5; L x 2' W x 5' H, it could be a makeshift shed & will need to have available power requirements of 120 VAC 60 Hz, single phase power. The study usually takes 4-6 weeks and will have a summarized report of the findings.

The cost will be covered under the PFA grant that was approved by the IJDC council.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to accept both proposals & Councilperson Ankrom seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for a roll call; vote was taken & 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 \$179,310.19 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 a 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 \$179,310.19 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 April 3, 2025:

Cash Operating Report: General Fund \$1,258,061; Coal Severance Fund \$81,811.44; Garbage Fund \$1,237.72 Fire Fund \$10,741.35; Water Fund \$291,593.13 & Sewer Fund \$455,576. Total operating cash \$2,099,020.64.

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.

**STREETS, ALLEYS AND GRADES**

Looking to hire one additional part time summer worker

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

Working on getting the pool ready to open for the season.

Special meeting to Lay the 2025-2026 General Fund & Coal Severance Levy is scheduled for Tuesday April 15, at 4:00 p.m.

West Virginia State Fire Marshall did an inspection of the Fire Department & everything passed.

Autism awareness day is scheduled for Sunday April 13 at the park, parade to start at 11:00 a.m.

Representative from the BVFD asked if they could have designated parking next to the fire department by the hockey court & the request was denied due to there being enough on-the-street parking.


**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,

  
Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk/Treasurer

  
Mayor Walter W. Yates

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF BENWOOD, CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING APRIL 15, 2025**

City Council of the City of Benwood met in Special Session on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at the City Building in the Council Chambers. Mayor Walter W. Yates called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The following council members were present: Ankrom, Fehr, Ferrera, Givens & Kazemka. Excused Absence Councilperson Longwell, Lunsford & Mele. Others present: Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Walter W. Yates led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**APPROVAL TO LAY THE 2025-2026 GENERAL FUND LEVY**

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve of Laying the 2025-2026 General Fund Levy and Councilperson Ankrom seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for a roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL TO LAY THE 2025-2026 COAL SEVERANCE FUND LEVY**

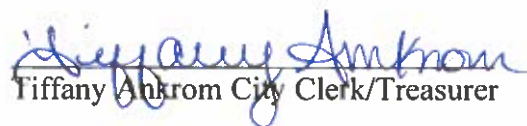
Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve of Laying the 2025-2026 Coal Severance Fund Levy and Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for a roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

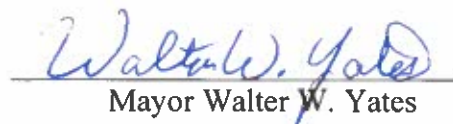
**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,

  
Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk/Treasurer

  
Mayor Walter W. Yates