

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF BENWOOD, CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MAY 13, 2025

City Council of the City of Benwood met in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 13, 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 & Mele. Excused Absence Councilperson Lunsford. Others present: Chief of Police 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 April 8, 2025 & Special Meeting Minutes for April 15, 2025 Councilperson Mele seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Bruce West was present to ask council to reconsider putting in a pickleball court at the 4th Street Playground. Mr. West is concerned that it will cause a lot of noise & traffic. Councilman Ankrom, Mele & Ferrera explained that there is going to be one court & that the decision to put one in was discussed and approved two years ago.

Junior Tuttle Vice President of Benwood Baseball Association was present to ask council to consider donating funds to help with the purchase of new dirt for the field, fencing and a new cooler in the concession stand. Councilman Mele suggested the city purchase a new cooler & it would be the property of the city, but Benwood Baseball Association would use it in their concessions. It was recommended that invoices for expenses up to \$3,500 be sent to the city & the city will pay them.

Councilman Ankrom made the motion for the city to purchase a new cooler as well as expenses up to \$3,500, Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for a roll call; vote was taken & motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF WATER/SEWER ADJUSTMENTS

Benwood Housing Authority had a water leak in the yard & called contractor to repair. The contractor went into the meter pit & broke shut off valve. The city was then contacted & crew was sent out to repair shut off valve to restore water to housing. Water did not enter the sanitary sewer system.

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Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to adjust per ordinance & Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A resident at 4871 Eoff Street had a pipe burst in his basement. There were no floor drains in the basement & water had to be pumped out. Water did not enter the sanitary sewer system.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to adjust per ordinance & Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Residents at 1906 Ashland Ave & 135 Roosevelt had their toilets leaking & water did enter the sanitary sewer system.

Councilperson Ankrom made the motion to deny the adjustment due to being ineligible per the ordinance due to water entering sanitary sewer & Councilperson Givens seconded the motion, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF HIRING PART TIME SUMMER CREW FOR STREET DEPARTMENT

Brendon Parks, Caleb Adams, Phillip Can Dyne & Jaxson Handzus

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve of hiring & Councilperson Givens seconded the motion, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF HIRING SUMMER POOL EMPLOYEES

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the hiring of Managers, Lifeguards & Concessions. Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion, motion carried.

APPROVAL TO PURCHASE PIPE FREEZING UNIT \$5,000

This unit will help when water leaks occur by freezing individual lines & not having to turn water off. Unit will freeze up to a 2 in water line.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve of purchasing the Pipe Freezing Unit & Councilperson Ankrom seconded the motion, motion carried.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF INVOICES RELATING TO
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER SERVICES FOR THE PROPOSED COMBINED SEWER
SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE III PROJECT DRAW 4**

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Ohio-WV Excavating, Inc. invoice for \$399,726.18 to be paid by EEGF grant, Belomar Regional invoice for \$1,033.70 to be paid by IJDC grant & Burgess & Niple invoice for \$55,238.51 (\$32,558.51 to be paid from CWSRF & \$22,680.00 paid by IJDC grant).

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

APPROVAL OF ESTIMATE FROM QUALITY EXTERIORS TO REMOVE & REPLACE ROOF AT BENWOOD CITY PARK \$3,500.00

Estimate consists of: Remove & dispose of all shingles, install synthetic underlayment & Premier Rib (40-year paint & Exposed fastener) metal in Kynar Copper Metallic.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the estimate & Councilperson Mele seconded the motion; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL FROM BMD CONSTRUCTION TO POUR 46'X46' CONCRETE PAD AT BENWOOD MAINTENANCE GARAGE \$13,750.00

Scope of work includes excavating 12" deep around perimeter of pad at a width of 2', form up 46'x46' pad that is 6" deep, install 2 rows of #4 rebar around perimeter in footer, install 6x6 10-gauge wire mesh approximately 2100 sq. ft., place approximately 47 c.u. yards of concrete, finish to be steel trowel, create a slope along the edges approximately 1 in, create slope at 3 garage door openings, cure & seal concrete, saw & cut relief joints where needed, strip forms & dress up area around the pour & customer supplies concrete.

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

APPROVAL OF QUOTE FROM NEW COOL FOR 50 HP WELL PUMP MOTOR \$7,300.00

Pump burnt out & new one purchased to have for a backup.

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

APPROVAL OF DONATION REQUEST

John Marshall Basketball team is asking for a donation for their Golf Scramble.

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Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve of \$100 donation & Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion; motion carried.

Postpartum Support requested a donation for an event on June 21. Council made the motion to table this at this time.

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 \$200,015.77 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 \$200,015.77 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 May 8, 2025:

Cash Operating Report: General Fund \$2,609,386.71; Coal Severance Fund \$82,566.30; Garbage Fund \$161.67, Fire Fund \$6,148.91; Water Fund \$323,054.54. Total operating cash \$3,021,318.13.

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

CSO Phase III project is moving along, concrete is being poured.

STREETS, ALLEYS AND GRADES

Military flags are being hung throughout the city.

Curbs are being painted green for loading zones & red curbs are fire zone.

CITY OFFICE, PROPERTY, FIRE & POLICE

The swimming pool is filled, splash pad working & everything is up & running.

City Building roof needs replaced, shingles are blowing off. Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to put the roof out to bid & Councilperson seconded the motion; motion carried.

Speed trailers are being set up throughout the city.

Received a donation from Community Foundation St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for \$750.00. To be distributed \$250 for general pool support, \$250 for pool party & \$250 for children's holiday party. City Clerk asked council if the pool party could be donated to the Benwood Baseball Association & council approved.

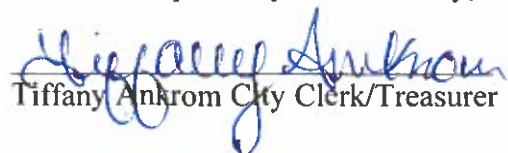
Received a check from State of West Virginia for \$5,000 for the recovery of excess payments or reimbursements Benwood paid for name brand Lipitor when there was a delay in the availability of generis Lipitor.

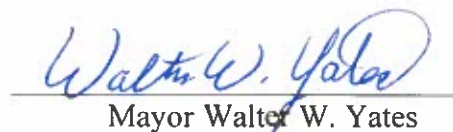
ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,


Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk/Treasurer


Mayor Walter W. Yates