

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF BENWOOD, CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING JUNE 24, 2025**

City Council of the City of Benwood met in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 24, 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 & Lunsford. Excused Absence Councilperson Mele. 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 10, 2025 & Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cyndi Blake was present to discuss the McMechen EMS Agreement. City Council was provided with the financials they requested at the last meeting. McMechen EMS would like to continue their paid EMS agreement with the City of Benwood and Marshall County Commission.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**APPROVAL OF MCMECHEN EMS SERVICE & AGREEMENT**

Council would like to move forward with the continuation of the McMechen EMS service for an additional year. There will be no changes to the original agreement. A resolution will be placed on the next agenda.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to move forward with the agreement & Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for a roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MARTIN PAINTING INVOICE OF \$10,366.00 FOR PAINTING SIX 60FT POLES & SIX 30FT POLES AT THE PARK**

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the invoice of \$10,366.00 & Councilperson Ankrom seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for a roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

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**DISCUSSION TO CHARGE RESIDENTS \$50.00 DURING SPRING & FALL CLEAN-UP AFTER FIRST PICK UP (FIRST PICK UP IS FREE)**

The topic of charging a fee for additional trash pick up was brought up due to the repetitive piles of trash being put out after the first piles have been picked up.

Council was all in agreement as to not charge residents for additional pick-ups.

**APPROVAL TO PURCHASE A NEW GENERATOR FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR \$7,999.00**

Generator in the Police Department is 23 years old and has not worked the last two power outages. When there is a power outage & the Police Department doesn't have a working generator, their radios do not work, and they are unable to receive calls.

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

**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 \$139,480.19 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

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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 \$139,480.19 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 June 23, 2025:

Cash Operating Report: General Fund \$2,437,376.14; Coal Severance Fund \$82,566.30; Garbage Fund \$9,018.91, Fire Fund \$6,172.91; Water Fund \$315,364.14 & Sewer Fund \$454,162.17.  
Total operating cash \$3,304,660.57.

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.

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

Councilperson Givens asked to have the weeds behind his house along the bank cut down.

Workers Comp premium decreased \$2,500.

Aflac representative will be here June 25 at 9:30 am

Ricky McLaughlin will be retiring on June 30, Chief Longwell would like to hire Wayland Wycoff to fill the open position. Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to hire Mr. Wycoff & Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for a roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

City Clerk's office is collecting donations to help with the Valley Grove flood relief efforts.

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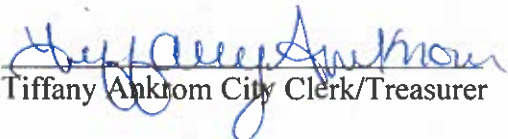
Employees from the Operations Department assisted in the flood clean-up efforts in the Valley Grove area. City may be reimbursed for the equipment used.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,

  
Tiffany Anklam City Clerk/Treasurer

  
Mayor Walter W. Yates