

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF BENWOOD, CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING JULY 22, 2025**

City Council of the City of Benwood met in Regular Session on Tuesday, July 22, 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 & 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 July 8, 2025 & Councilperson Mele seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**APPROVAL OF WATER/SEWER ADJUSTMENTS**

Resident at 1018 Marshall Street requested an adjustment due to having a leak under their house. The leak was repaired, and water did not enter the sewer system. Councilperson Ankrom made the motion to approve the adjustment per the ordinance and Councilperson Ferrera seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

**APPROVAL OF GENERAL FUND BUDGET REVISION #1**

Restricted Fund Balance increased \$242,914.00 and Unassigned Fund Balance Decreased \$246,454.00 for a difference of \$3,540.00 less than what was projected in the budget.

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

**APPROVAL OF COAL SEVERANCE FUND BUDGET REVISION #1**

Coal Severance Fund Balance increased \$755.00 to bring the total for the fund to \$82,567.00

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

**APPROVAL TO REMOVE NON-FUNCTIONING FIRE HYDRANT AT 7<sup>th</sup> & MAIN ST.**

Cost to replace fire hydrant & lines is estimated at \$14,000. Due to the multiple hydrants in the surrounding locations, it is not cost effective to replace hydrant.

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Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to remove fire hydrant & Councilperson Ankrom seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL TO ADD 1944 ASHLAND AVENUE TO BENWOOD ADDRESSES FOR 911 DATABASE**

Residence at 1944 Ashland Ave, has not been assigned an address due to it previously being a garage for storage. For 911 to recognize the address City Council needs to approve of address change.

Councilperson Mele made the motion to approve of the new address & Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL TO REHIRE PETER BARTON DUE TO BRADLEY SHUTLER RESIGNING TO WORK AT SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Councilperson Ankrom made the motion to approve the rehire & 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 FOR AN INCREASE IN PAY FOR EMPLOYEES SEAN LAKE & MIKE MAMULA (SECOND READING) (APPROVED BY FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 BUDGET)**

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the ordinance on the second reading & Councilperson Mele 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 \$208,590.88 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)

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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 \$208,590.88 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 July 17, 2025:

Cash Operating Report: General Fund \$2,249,952.23; Coal Severance Fund \$82,566.30; Garbage Fund \$7,562.66, Fire Fund \$6,172.91; Water Fund \$297,248.34 & Sewer Fund \$465,208.07.  
Total operating cash \$3,108,710.51.

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.

### **WATER & SEWAGE PLANT OPERATION**

City of Wheeling will be starting a \$66,000,000 street project and in doing so, the amount the city pays for waste water treatment may increase.

### **STREETS, ALLEYS AND GRADES**

Catch basin on Deegan Avenue is permitted to stay tied into the sewer due to sewer lines being too low.

CSO Phase I project in South Benwood is having issues with the sewer overflowing during heavy rains. Mike Davis Engineer with Burgess & Niple is looking into this issue.

During CSO Phase II Project at 9<sup>th</sup> & Marshall Street there was an abandoned coal mine entrance under the road that needed to be addressed. Engineer with Burgess & Niple met with Department of Highways (DOH) and DEP to discuss what should be done. Department of Highways gave the go ahead with filling in the coal mine but are now refusing to pay for the work that was done. Matt

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Newlon Engineer with Burgess & Niple was to send DOH a letter. It's uncertain whether the letter was sent due to Mr. Newlon being out of the office due to an illness.

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

Last day for pool is August 16<sup>th</sup>, & the dog swim will be August 17<sup>th</sup>.

Pool incident, young boy backflipped off the high dive, hit & broke his nose off the diving board.

Police Department received a \$1,500 Highway Grant

Opioid settlement participation form was signed & sent back, for the city to participate in the new national opioid's settlement.

Garbage can was taken from bus stop below A&B Kia & resident asked if it could be replaced.

Resident requested a ton of gravel due to area being washed out

1-ton dump truck is in the shop for an estimated \$5,000 in repairs.

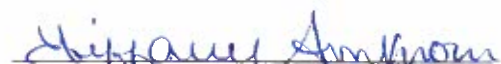
Dave McLaughlin would like councils' approval to receive bids for a Compact Street Sweeper through the WV State Procurement Program. New Street Sweeper can cost between \$200,000 and \$250,000. Demo for street sweeper is scheduled for August 6<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,

  
Tiffany Ambrom City Clerk/Treasurer

  
Mayor Walter W. Yates