

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF BENWOOD, CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 14, 2025

City Council of the City of Benwood met in Regular Session on Tuesday, October 14, 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, Givens, Longwell, Lunsford & Mele. Excused Absence Councilperson Fehr, Councilperson Ferrera & Councilperson Kazemka. Others present: Chief of Police Frank Longwell, Dave McLaughlin Director of Operations & Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MINUTES

Councilperson Mele moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for September 9, 2025 & Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF WATER/SEWER ADJUSTMENTS

Resident at 505 Main Street requested an adjustment due to water leak in basement. Water leaked onto dirt floor & did not enter sewer system. Per the ordinance the resident is eligible for an adjustment.

Resident at 616 Water St., requested an adjustment due to a pipe busting in the kitchen. Water did not enter sewer system. Per the ordinance the resident is eligible for an adjustment.

Resident at 714 Water St. requested an adjustment due to an outdoor faucet breaking which caused the leak. Water did not enter sewer system. Per the ordinance the resident is eligible for an adjustment.

Councilperson Longwell made the motion to approve the three water/sewer adjustments per the ordinance & Councilperson Mele seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for a roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT EDGCO INC. BID TO DEMOLISH 11 DILAPIDATED HOUSES \$218,450.00

Bel-O-Mar Regional submitted a Class II legal advertisement to accept bids for the CDBG City of Benwood Demolition Project to demolish 11 dilapidated houses. Two bids were received & opened on September 24, 2025. Raze International Inc. submitted a bid for \$260,834.00 and Edgco Inc. submitted a bid for \$218,450.00. The winning bid was from Edgco Inc.

Councilperson Longwell made the motion to accept the Edgco Inc. bid & Councilperson Mele seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for a roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

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

Ohio-West Virginia Excavating Draw #7 \$292,460.77, Ohio-West Virginia Excavating Draw #8 \$219,458.07, Burgess & Niple \$44,889.77 & Bel-O-Mar for \$3,164.71 for a total \$566,719.82.

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

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT PROPOSAL FOR SPRAY ON INSULATION FOR NEW GARAGE

Spray Foam Insulations LLC submitted a proposal to Install 2” closed cell spray foam on exterior walls & roof deck \$11,688.00.

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

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT PROPOSAL FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION FOR NEW GARAGE

United Electric submitted a proposal for \$9,300.00 & Ruckman Electrical & Plumbing submitted a proposal for \$9,500.00.

Councilperson Longwell made the motion to approve the United Electric proposal for \$9,300.00 & Councilperson Mele seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for a roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL TO DEPOSIT MATURED OPERATING ACCOUNT CD INTO GENERAL FUND

Operating Account CD is maturing on October 31, 2025, for \$1,127,161.00.

Councilperson Mele made the motion to approve the deposit of matured CD into General Fund & Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for a roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

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DISCUSSION OF MATURING RAINY DAY FUND CD

Rainy Day Fund will be maturing on October 29, 2025. Item is tabled for next meeting to see what interest rates the city is offered to reinvest.

APPROVAL OF HEALTH PLAN RENEWAL

The city offers health insurance through the Health Plan & the premium for 2026 will stay the same as it is for 2025.

Councilperson Mele made the motion to approve the renewal of Health Plan Insurance & Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for a roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF DONATION TO MOUNDSVILLE HONOR GUARD FOR STEAK-FRY FUNDRAISER

Councilperson Longwell made the motion to donate \$500.00 to go towards the purchase of flag display cases for veteran's burials & Councilperson Mele seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF DONATION TO APPALACHIAN OUTREACH INC.

Councilperson Longwell made the motion to donate \$100.00 to Appalachian Outreach & Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MAYORAL PROCLAMATION FOR CHRISTIAN HERITAGE WEEK

Governor Patrick Morrisey proclaimed November 23-29, 2025, as Christian Heritage Week in West Virginia & has asked cities & municipalities throughout West Virginia to join in this observance.

Councilperson Mele made the motion to approve the proclamation & Councilperson Lunsford seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF SCHEDULING CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

City of Benwood has an annual Children's Christmas party for the residents. The Christmas party will be held on December 21, 2025. Doors open at 1:00pm & the party is 2:00-4:00pm.

Councilperson Mele made the motion to approve this date & Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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OLD BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE TO FIX CLERICAL ERROR IN PERSONNEL POLICY TO ADD THANKSGIVING TO DOUBLE-TIME HOLIDAY PAY (SECOND READING)

Whereas Council of the City of Benwood, has reviewed the codified ordinances of the City of Benwood, West Virginia, specifically Section 155.09 (i)(2) and has determined it is appropriate to alter and amend the same to provide permanent full-time employees who work on Thanksgiving Day shall receive double-time pay.

Councilperson Mele made the motion to approve the ordinance & Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for a roll call; vote was taken & motion carried.

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 \$462,492.63 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 Longwell moved to adopt the above ordinance on first reading, seconded by Councilperson Mele. Mayor Yates called for a roll call vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

Councilperson Longwell moved to adopt the above ordinance on second reading, seconded by Councilperson Mele. Mayor Yates called for roll call vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CHECK REGISTER REPORTS

Councilperson Longwell moved to receive and file accounts payable check register reports totaling \$462,492.63 seconded by Councilperson Mele. Mayor Yates called for a roll call; vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

Revenue/Expense Report and Financial Report as of October 6, 2025:

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Cash Operating Report: General Fund \$2,349,297.73; Coal Severance Fund \$78,364.72; Garbage Fund \$1,542.99, Fire Fund \$22,348.55; Water Fund \$27,686.30 & Sewer Fund \$355,278 Total operating cash \$2,834,518.29.

Councilperson Longwell moved to receive and file the Cash Operating Report and Financial Reports, seconded by Councilperson Mele. Mayor Yates called for a roll call; vote was taken and motion passed unanimously.

WATER & SEWAGE PLANT OPERATIONS

CSO Phase III Project has run into issues at the park & it was decided to abandon this part of the project due to digging into where the old Coke plant used to be located. EPA was called in to inspect. The money will go towards paving the parking lot.

STREETS ALLEYS & GRADES

First street fire hydrant is scheduled to be replaced.

McMechen Street will be closed for four hours on October 15, for CSO project.

New Street Sweeper will be delivered on October 16.

CITY OFFICE, PROPERTY, FIRE & POLICE

Police Department & Mull Group are hosting a Trunk or Treat October 23, 6:00-7:30pm

Benwood baseball field will be closing for the season on October 20th.

Halloween treat bags will be packed October 28, prior to the council meeting.

Chief Longwell suggested in 2026-2027 budget adding a full-time position for a Code Enforcement Officer

Blake Flessas with WV Rivers Coalition asked to use the Community Center to hold a Community Meeting to discuss solutions for the PFAS problem. Due to the Community Center not being handicap accessible the building will not work. Bishop Donahue was recommended.

Mayor Yates asked to go into executive session. Councilperson Longwell made the motion & Councilperson Mele seconded.

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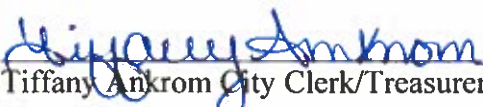
Council went into executive session at 5:38pm. Councilperson Mele made the motion to come out of Executive Session at 5:44pm & Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Topic of discussion, dispatchers.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,


Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk/Treasurer


Mayor Walter W. Yates