

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF BENWOOD, CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

City Council of the City of Benwood met in Regular Session on Tuesday, September 9, 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 Mele moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for August 12, 2025 & Councilperson Ferrera seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR ITEMS

Last year the city seen a decline in sign-ups for kids to receive Halloween treat bags. This year council decided to do away with sign-ups but continue to make 200 treat bags to hand out.

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT KLUG BID TO PAVE 4TH STREET \$44,502.36

Two bids were received & opened on August 20, at 12:00pm: Klug Bros for \$44,502.36 and Wilson Blacktop for \$48,675.00. Klug Bros won the bid. Work will be done after CSO Phase III is finished.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to accept Klug Bros bid & Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for a roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT C.S. LOY CONTRUCTION ESTIMATE TO INSTALL CURB & SIDEWALK AT PARK FOR \$12,500.00

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

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT SOUND WAVES ESTIMATE TO REPLACE BLOWN POOL SPEAKERS \$4,112.00

Estimate includes Compressor, Eq, Wiim Music Streamer, 12u Equipment Rack, Power Conditioner, Labor, Zip Ties & Pool Speakers \$4,112.00.

**BENWOOD COUNCIL MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 9, 2025
PAGE 2**

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

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT BORTEK BID FOR A 2024 COMMERCIAL STREET SWEEPER FOR \$237,995.53

Bid includes Sweeper D3 Tier 4, Suction system with 5,9 hose, Air cushioning heated seat, Radio with USB & Bluetooth, Gore Filter (5-year warranty), Stone guard for front brush, High Pressure washing system with gun & reel 433in hose, Electronically controlled & heated mirrors, Centralized manual greasing system with pump, Wax film for sea freight & Dulevo US Version \$237,995.53

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

APPROVAL TO APPOINT BUILDING ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

Gary Williams and Bryan Handzus volunteered to sit on the panel for the Building Enforcement Agency.

Councilperson Mele made the motion to approve the panel & Councilperson Ankrom seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BENWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA ALTERING & AMENDING SECTION 155.09 (i)(2) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BENWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA ADDING THANSIVING DAY AS A WORKDAY WHEREIN FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES SHALL RECEIVE DOUBLE TIME PAY (FIRST 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 Ferrera made the motion to approve the ordinance & Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for a roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

**BENWOOD COUNCIL MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 9, 2025
PAGE 3**

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

Invoices for Ohio-West Virginia Excavating \$411,050.27, Burgess & Niple \$33,615.00 & Bel-O-Mar for \$3,290.48 for a total \$447,955.75.

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

APPROVAL OF BEARCOM PROPOSAL TO ORDER & INSTALL EQUIPMENT FOR 2020 DODGE CHARGER \$7,061.69

Bearcom will remove lights, radio & radar from existing crown vic., and install console, radio, radar, lights & new equipment which includes siren light controller, speaker, bracket, partition, mount & kick panels into a 2020 Dodge Charger.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the proposal & Councilperson Givens seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION OF UNION SCHOOL & PROCEEDING WITH MECHANISMS RESULTING IN DEMOLITION OR REMEDIATION OF THE SITE

Attorney Eric Gordon is working with the current property owners of the old Union School building to help with the removal of the building. With council's approval Attorney Gordon is working on a plan to transfer the deed of the Union School building over to the city on a temporary basis so the city can attempt to acquire grant funding for asbestos removal and/or other remedial work. Once this is completed and the building is remediated then the property is returned to the current property owner. There is no cost to the city for general liability insurance.

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

APPROVAL TO DEPOSIT MATURED WATER CD INTO WATER ACCOUNT

Water CD will be maturing on October 29th, 2025.

Councilperson Givens made the motion to deposit Water CD once it's matured & Councilperson Kazemka seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for a roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

**BENWOOD COUNCIL MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 9, 2025
PAGE 4**

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 \$229,342.41 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 \$229,342.41 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 September 4, 2025:

Cash Operating Report: General Fund \$2,572,112.45; Coal Severance Fund \$5,489.01; Garbage Fund \$4,419.94, Fire Fund \$10,523.37; Water Fund \$114,111.42 & Sewer Fund \$360,453 Total operating cash \$2,565,394.

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 OPERATIONS

CSO Phase III Project is moving forward: waiting on estimate from Insite Pipe to reline existing sewer pipes instead of replacing. New sewer line will be installed on McMechen Street. Project is expected to be at the park within the next 3-4 weeks.

Hole was found & fixed in Boggs Run creek, where water was going into the sewer system.

STREETS ALLEYS & GRADES

**BENWOOD COUNCIL MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 9, 2025
PAGE 5**

Boggs Run retaining wall project is finished, most of the cost will be covered by FEMA funds.

CITY OFFICE, PROPERTY, FIRE & POLICE

City crew has been cleaning the Benwood dump.

Fourth street shelter is ready for demolition.

Community Development Block Grant Project is out for bid; public hearing is scheduled for September 23, 2025

Received a total of \$235,046.69 in PFAS settlements. PFAS, Iron, Manganese Water project is in the testing phase.

There are currently two water savings accounts that the city can close & move the funds into the Water Operating Account to help the water fund. Water Works Depreciation Reserve Savings & Water Works 1992 Water System Reserve. Councilperson Givens made the motion to close savings accounts & move money into Operating account & Councilperson Mele seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for a roll call; vote was taken & motion passed unanimously.

John Marshall Basketball is asking for a donation to the 1st annual steak fry. Councilperson Mele made the motion to approve \$100.00 donation & Councilperson Ankrom seconded the motion.

Received \$38,403.00 for the completion of three of the six FEMA projects. Boggs Run Retaining Wall has just completed, Floodwall VFD Panel we must file an extension due to custom made parts being made & project will not be completed on time and CatZ project will be after all other projects are complete.

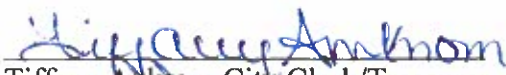
Mayor signed new Opioid settlement agreement with eight Opioid manufacturing companies.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,


Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk/Treasurer


Mayor Walter W. Yates