

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF MARSHALL, CITY OF BENWOOD, CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 25, 2025

City Council of the City of Benwood met in Regular Session on Tuesday, November 25, 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, Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk & Attorney Jeff Kessler.

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 October 28, 2025 & Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lisa Weishar Finance Director with OVRTA was present to discuss issues with losing 15% of the driving workforce. The original agreement was to have pick-up/drop-offs every thirty minutes but with the issue of not being able to find CDL drivers they will have to cut back pick-up/drop-offs to every hour. Ms. Weishar stated this is only temporary and will start January 1, 2026, and last for six months. During this time, they will be hiring drivers & putting them through CDL classes. Mayor Yates expressed his concerns.

APPROVAL OF WATER/SEWER ADJUSTMENTS

Customer at 427 McMechen St. had the nozzle break on the garden hose & water ran into resident's yard. Water did not enter sewer system.

Customer at 503 McMechen St. had a water line leak 2 ½ foot below the ground. Water ran into the ground & did not enter sewer system.

Customer at 4853 Eoff St. had their water line leak that goes to the toilet. Water ran onto the floor & did not enter sewer system.

Customer at 1901 Ashland Ave. had their hot water heater bust. Water leaked onto the floor & did not enter the sewer system.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve the Water/Sewer adjustments per the Ordinance & Councilperson Ankrom seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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APPROVAL OF EXCESS PROPERTY BIDS

City of Benwood accepted sealed bids for the following: White 2004 Ford Crown Vic., Black & White 2011 Ford Crown Vic., 2004 Ford Econoline Van and Wrecked 2011 Ford Crown Vic.

One sealed bid was received from Todd Longwell for each of the vehicles. 2004 Ford Crown Vic. \$751.00, 2011 Ford Crown Vic. \$210.00, 2004 Ford Econoline Van \$325.00 & 2011 Ford Crown Vic. \$775.00.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to approve bids & Councilperson Kazemka seconded the motion. Mayor Yates called for a roll call; Councilpersons Ferrera, Givens, Kazemka, Fehr, Ankrom & Lunsford were yes and Councilperson Longwell abstained.

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 #9 \$176,310.44, Burgess & Niple draw #8 \$4,388.50 & draw #9 \$1,620.00 and Bel-O-Mar draw #9 \$12,001.95 for a total \$194,320.89.

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

APPROVAL OF QUOTE FOR NEW PHONE SYSTEM FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT & CITY CLERKS OFFICE

The city's current telephone system is outdated and cannot be updated and is not working properly. Two bids were received through ConnecTel; RingCentral \$907.74 & Vonage \$871.18.

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

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES (FIRST READING)

An Ordinance to approve the 2025 replacement pages to the codified ordinances.

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.

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APPROVAL OF DONATION FOR MONARCH BASKETBALL PROGRAM

John Marshall Basketball Program is asking for a donation for the 2025-2026 season.

Councilperson Ferrera made the motion to donate \$50 for a half page ad in the 2025-26 basketball program & Councilperson Longwell seconded the motion. 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 \$329,283.23 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 \$329,283.23 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 November 20, 2025:

Cash Operating Report: General Fund \$2,351,636.97; Coal Severance Fund \$79,157.00; Garbage Fund \$9,035.34, Fire Fund \$18,680.69; Water Fund \$61,232.57 & Sewer Fund \$351,731.72.
Total operating cash \$2,877,205.50.

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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CITY OFFICE, PROPERTY, FIRE & POLICE

Councilperson Longwell has been receiving complaints regarding train cars hitting each other and making loud noises. Chief Longwell said he has spoken with the engineer regarding this issue and will reach out to CSX as well to help with this issue.

Children's Christmas Party will be held at the Community Center on Sunday December 21, doors open at 1pm and party starts at 2pm.

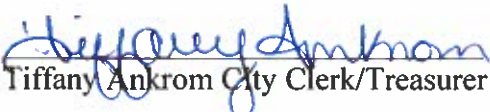
The 4th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be held on December 7 at 530pm.


ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,


Tiffany Ankrom City Clerk/Treasurer


Mayor Walter W. Yates