**Regular Month Meeting**

**Benton City Council**

**April 15, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, April 15, 2019 at 5:00 P.M. by Mayor Rita Dotson with the Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer by guest, Chris Freeland.

Council Members Present:

Ann Riley Charles Edmonds

Sherra Riley Kevin Farley

Rita Murray Butch Holland (via phone)

Other Staff Present:

Zach Brien, City Atty Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas

Todd Riley, Gas Mgr Harry Green, Fire Chief

Jeromy Hicks, Police Chief William Treadway, Police Sergeant

Chris Freeland, State Representative for Marshall County, was present to give an update on recent legislation.

Drew Williams was present to show his interest in Tater Day and volunteering to help see it grown and bring back some of the older traditional activities. He asked the possibility of moving Tater Day away from spring break so more locals would come. Mayor Dotson thought someone had asked the school at one time to move spring break away from Tater Day week and they were not accepting of it. That subject could be approached again with Mr. Lovett. Allison Watson was also present from invitation of Mr. Williams to express her interest in becoming involved with helping Tater Day grow and see more local vendors involved.

Kevin Farley agreed that a committee should be made to help grow Tater Day and also try and get the bands involved back in the parade. Rita Murray suggested that he contact Kiwanis Club since they handle the Tater Day activities. She urged anyone interested to come to Kiwanis meetings each Wednesday at 12:00 P.M. at Four Little Pigs because they are in need of more volunteers.

City Attorney Brien read the first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 94 of the Code of Ordinances to prohibit grass clippings and yard debris on sidewalks and roadways. There is a $25.00 per day fine. This amends a portion of Ordinance No. 00-10-01. This ordinance is sponsored by Rita Murray.

City Attorney Brien read the first reading of an ordinance amending a portion of the animal ordinance to remove Section 3.20 of Ordinance No. 07-09-02 which requires permits for large numbers of dogs and cats. This ordinance is sponsored by Kevin Farley.

City Attorney Brien read the first reading of an ordinance creating an R-4 zone to permit small dwellings (400 square foot or less) and small lot sizes to allow “tiny” houses. This ordinance will be sent to the Planning and Zoning Board for review and final recommendation before a second reading can be done. If approved, a public hearing will be required and certified letters sent to all adjacent property owners in the requested area.

Mayor Dotson read the Municipal Aid Agreement and Resolution for period beginning July 1, 2019. The expected amount for Benton is $87,203.44. A motion was made by Edmonds, seconded by S. Riley to approve. Holland couldn’t vote via phone. All present agreed. Motion carried.

Chief Jeromy Hicks presented the police report for March. There were 24 cases, 23 collisions, 53 citation violations and 428 calls to service. He announced that Scott DeShields is resigning and Benton PD is currently accepting applications.

A motion was made by S. Riley, seconded by Edmonds to approve payroll and invoices. All present agreed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by A. Riley, seconded by Murray to approve the regular minutes of March 18, 2019. All present agreed. Motion carried.

In Mayor and Council items:

Ann Riley asked the status of the Code Enforcement Board. City Attorney Brien explained that law has changed and now the Code Enforcement Officer handles most of the complaints and fines. The Board will only meet if a citation is appealed.

Edmonds had a complaint about bagged leaves not being picked up. City Clerk Bethany Cooper informed that the Maintenance Department crew has been behind and are scheduled to run the limb truck this week.

Farley asked the status on the Main Street and Poplar Street paving project. Mayor Dotson and Cooper attended a meeting last week regarding this. The City’s project of moving the utilities on Main Street should start late August or early September and take a few months. The paving is scheduled to start in April 2020. Farley complained of the shape of the roads and if anything could be done before then. Mayor Dotson said the State hopes to be able to put a 1” overlay on the worse areas to hold over until next spring.

Farley also mentioned that animal control committee still has not given him any information but he has been told that Marshall County Fiscal Court is drafting a letter to send to all the cities this week.

Mayor Dotson read a letter that was sent to Captain Stephen Sanderson from Calloway County Sheriff’s Office for a job well done on a hostage situation that SWAT was involved in back in February.

Mayor Dotson also read a letter from Benton Elementary School stating they want to help beautify the Court Square area by planting flowers in the corner planters and office front planters. They ask that the City purchase the plants and provide supplies. They have agreed to water the flowers while school is in session and the youth of First Baptist Church has agreed to water while school is out for the summer.

Mayor Dotson announced the Marcella’s Kitchen is having an open house for their new location on May 5, 2019 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

There being no further business to come before the Council, meeting adjourned at 6:31 P.M.

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Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.