**Regular Month Meeting**

**Benton City Council**

**April 19, 2021**

A public hearing of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, April 19, 2021 at 5:00 P.M. at Benton City Hall by Mayor Rita Dotson. The purpose of the public hearing is to discuss the City’s intent to apply for the LWCF grant to build a walking trail in H.H. Lovett Park. No one was in attendance for the public hearing. Hearing was adjourned at 5:03 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, April 19, 2021 by Mayor Dotson immediately following the public hearing. The Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer was given by Kevin Farley.

Council Members Present: Butch Holland, Rita Murray, Charles Edmonds, Ann Riley, Sherra Riley and Kevin Farley.

Other Staff Present: Rob Mattingly, City Attorney; Brooke Chappell, Admin. Asst.; Todd Riley, Gas Mgr and Stephen Sanderson, Police Chief

Elena Blevins was present on behalf of Benton Partnership to update upcoming events.

Randy Fox and George Milam were present on behalf of Marshall County Arts Commission to update on their project. They have been working with a landscape architect who has volunteered his time to develop an outside learning/historical element and pathway. They have discussed the plan design with the Morgan and Brandon families. Those families graciously donated $25,000 to help the project get started.

Phase 1 has started in partnership with Marshall County Library. Phase 1 consists of a site pavilion, curbing and starting a trail.

Phase 2 will be a pavilion located near the rain garden and build a retaining wall.

Phase 3 will be educational pavilions that connect to pathway.

Arts Commission will be creating a committee and looking for funding in the near future to complete Phases 2 and 3.

A motion was made by A. Riley, seconded by Murray to approve the Goals and Objectives of the Comprehensive Plan. All agreed. Motion carried.

The Comprehensive and Strategic Plans will be on next month’s agenda for approval after presented at May’s Planning and Zoning Commission meeting.

Mayor Dotson read a resolution authorizing the City to make application to the Department for Local Government for assistance under the Land and Water Conservation Fund to develop a recreational walking trail at HH Lovett Park. A motion was made by Murray, seconded by Holland to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read the municipal road aid agreement which estimates the City to received $88,329.87 for the fiscal year 2021-2022. A motion was made by Murray, seconded by S. Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read a resolution adopting and approving the execution of the Municipal Aid Co-Op Program Contract for fiscal year 2021-2022. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by A. Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Police Chief Sanderson read the police report for March. There were 14 cases, 15 collisions, 74 citation violations and 721 calls to service.

A motion was made by S. Riley, seconded by Farley to approve the regular minutes of March 15, 2021. All agreed. Motion carried.

In Mayor/Council items:

Farley discussed the idea of a Benton/Marshall County Museum. He has asked the owner of 1106 Main Street if they would be interested in donating the building and they are not. The asking price is $105,000. Mayor Dotson mentioned everyone to consider who will pay the monthly bill, who will work it and how to fill it with items.

S. Riley has been approached to see if people who own a business or property in the city limits but does not live in the city limits would be able to vote in city elections. City Attorney Mattingly will check on this.

S. Riley would also like to see there be no parallel parking on 13th and 14th Streets. Mayor Dotson mentioned that she has inquired about this in the past with the State and they will not change it.

Holland gave a report on the Gas Committee. All gas meters are now changed over to radio read. They also started the Symsonia Highway expansion on April 1. They have completed JB Copeland to Phelps Road currently.

Mayor Dotson read a thank-you card from Marshall County Arts Commission for the Small Business Relief Grant.

There being no further business to come before the Council, meeting adjourned at 6:15 P.M.

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Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.