

**Regular Month Meeting
Benton City Council
April 21, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, April 21, 2025, at 5:00 P.M. at Benton City Hall. Mayor Rita Dotson presided and called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was said, and prayer was offered by Sheriff Matt Hillbrecht.

Council members present were Kevin Farley, Sylvia Jestes, Darryl Carr, Butch Holland, and Guy Henton. Absent was Ann Riley.

Other staff present were Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer; Rob Mattingly, City Attorney; Todd Riley, Gas Manager; Stephen Sanderson, Police Chief; Brooke Chappell, Billing Clerk; Keegan Cole, Police Officer; Tyler Coursey, Police Officer; Luke Rudd, Police Officer; Dustin Bevil, Police Officer; Jessica Scillian, Gas Office Manager and Harry Green, Fire Chief.

Mayor Dotson asked for approval for the 3rd pay request for the Marshall County Needline CDBG project in the amount of \$153,853. A motion was made by Henton, seconded by Carr to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read the Municipal Road Aid Cooperative Program Agreement for 2025-2026. Benton's apportionment will be \$111,184.09. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Carr, to accept the agreement. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read a resolution adopting and approving the execution of a Municipal Aid Co-op Program contract. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Carr to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading on an ordinance amending Chapter 110, Business License, to update and clarify some of the business classifications and to amend penalties for non-compliance. A motion was made by Henton, seconded by Carr to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Harry Green, Fire Chief, traveled to Georgia last week to Fouts Bros. to talk with them about ordering a 1,000-gallon crew cab pumper truck to replace their 1992 International. Mayor Dotson asked Council to approve the contract for \$458,639 for the company to begin production on the truck. Truck should be completed in August. A motion was made by Jestes, seconded by Holland to approve the contract. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson gave the floor to Jestes to start discussion on the proposed First Responders Park. Jestes discussed her concerns with the estimated cost and how much foot traffic it will receive. Several first responders, City employees and community members were present for the discussion. Each Council voiced their opinions on the proposed park location and design. Mayor Dotson noted that there is a stipulation in the deed that the land is to remain a park. Dr. Wendell Gordon originally donated this property to be used as a memorial plaza. Mayor Dotson also discussed the estimate and that no true figures have been received since it has not been bid. After much discussion, a motion was made by Henton, seconded by Carr to proceed with the First Responders Park at 12th & Main Streets as planned and to begin the bidding process. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson reviewed department reports for Water Department, Maintenance Department and Fire Department for March. Chief Sanderson presented the police report and Todd Riley discussed the Gas Department.

A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Jestes to approve the regular minutes of March 17, 2025, and the special called minutes of March 28, 2025. All agreed. Motion carried.

In Council items, Farley mentioned a water feature at dog park again. Mayor Dotson showed a simple design that the Maintenance Department found that can incorporate a fire hydrant into a water hydrant for \$1,000 or less. All Council agreed to proceed with this.

Jestes said that she would like funds to be added to the upcoming budget to install a splash pad somewhere in the park.

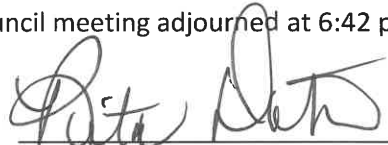
Mayor Dotson asked Council to be considering tearing down the old mechanic/maintenance shop on East 1st Street and replace with an elevated, 100' x 60' steel structure building. It is estimated to cost \$500,000. This building was flooded twice recently during the heavy rain events. Chief Sanderson would also like to move the adjacent impound lot to Benton Fire Department since it was flooded as well, and cars were destroyed.

Mayor Dotson informed the Council that she is in the process of scheduling a meeting with Corp of Engineers to discuss Clarks River and our flooding issues.

A motion was made by Jestes, seconded by Farley to move to Executive Session per KRS 61.810(f) to have discussion on dismissal. All agreed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Carr, seconded by Farley to adjourn from Executive Session. All agreed. Motion carried.

There being no further business coming before the Council meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.



Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.