

**Regular Month Meeting
Benton City Council
August 17, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, August 17, 2026, 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 Rob Mattingly.

Council members present were Sylvia Jestes, Butch Holland, Brenda Edwards, Guy Henton, and Laura Craynon. Absent was Ann Riley.

Other staff present were Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer; Stephen Sanderson, Police Chief; Rob Mattingly, City Attorney; and Officer Tyler Coursey.

Jack Rozama, Rosedale Corporation, gave a presentation regarding potential development for income-based apartments in the Harold King Drive area. He is currently looking into funding this project and requested City Council to waive permits or tap-on fees. No decision was made.

Keith Riley, HUB, was present to ask City Council to re-instate HUB as their insurance agent for property and liability insurance. Earlier in the year, Mayor Dotson changed the agent from HUB to Kentucky League of Cities for City of Benton account. Benton Gas System's property and liability remains with HUB as their agent. Mattingly commented that insurance selection is considered a professional service, and therefore, was the Mayor's discretion, not City Council. Mayor Dotson thanked Keith for voicing his concerns, but said her decision was final.

David Hampton with Kemper CPA was present to review the June 30, 2024 audit.

Megan Larson, local citizen, was present to express her concern for flock cameras. Chief Sanderson reported that Benton Police Department has no desire at this time to install flock cameras.

Mayor Dotson had two nominees for Benton Electric System Board to replace Teddy Kinsey. Kevin Kinsey and Clint Graves were both interested. A motion was made by Henton, seconded by Holland to appoint Kevin Kinsey to replace Teddy Kinsey. This is a 4-year term. All agreed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Henton, seconded by Holland to re-appoint Patty Sanders, term expires August 23, 2026; and Gary Shemwell, term expires September 24, 2026, to Benton Electric System Board for another 4-year term. All agreed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Craynon, seconded by Jestes to re-appoint Grant Willoughby to Planning & Zoning Board of Adjustments upon his expiring term ending September 1, 2026. This is a 4-year term appointment. All agreed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Jestes, seconded by Henton to re-appoint Grant Willoughby and Trent Lovett to Planning & Zoning Board upon their expiring term ending September 1, 2026. This is a 4-year term appointment. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read an authorizing resolution of legal applicant for filing of a loan application and appointing officer as Project Representative of a KIA Fund B State Revolving Loan Program Project for

\$1,511,850. This loan will be for West 6th Street Sewer Replacement Project. This loan will only be used if grant funding isn't received. A motion was made by Jestes, seconded by Henton to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read a resolution authorizing application for an award with Delta Regional Authority (DRA) to provide funds in the amount of \$545,950.00 for West 6th Street Sewer Replacement Project. A motion was made by Jestes, seconded by Henton to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read a resolution authorizing the completion and filling of a Grant Resources Accelerating Needed Transformation (GRANT) Programs of 2026 for \$550,000.00 through Cabinet for Economic Development. This grant will also be for West 6th Sewer Replacement Project. A motion was made by Edwards, seconded by Holland to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read a resolution to make application to the Department for Local Government for assistance under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act for \$780,500.00 for a splash pad at HH Lovett Park. A motion was made by Jestes, seconded by Henton to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of an ordinance amending Section 52.02, Water Meter Required. This ordinance had a first reading last month, but since that reading, there was a substantial change that requires another first reading.

City Clerk/Treasurer Bethany Cooper discussed the 2026 real and personal property tax rates. The compensating tax rate was figured at 19.6 cents, the substitute rate figured at 20.8 cents and the rate allowing a 4% increase figured at 21.6 cents. Cooper suggested adopting, at the minimum, the substitute rate of 20.8 cents as that would bring in approximately the same revenue as 2025. A motion was made by Jestes, seconded by Edwards to use the substitute rate. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read the first reading of an ordinance levying the real estate tax rate for 2026 as 20.8 cents, personal property rate at 41.00 cents and the vehicle rate of 24.00 cents.

A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Jestes to approve the regular minutes of July 20, 2026 and the special called minutes of July 27, 2026. All agreed. Motion carried.

Officer Coursey gave the July police report. Mayor Dotson gave the reports for sewer, maintenance, water, fire and gas.

In Mayor/Council items, Holland mentioned that Benton Electric System have changed their regular meeting dates to the 2nd Thursday of the month beginning in October. This will allow him to give an update at the regular council meetings as well.

A motion was made by Craynon, seconded by Henton to adjourn to executive session per KRS 61.810(g) – discussions between a public agency and a representative of a business entity and discussions concerning a specific proposal, if open discussions would jeopardize the siting, retention, expansion, or upgrading of the business; KRS 61.810(c) – discussions of proposed or pending litigation against or on behalf of the public agency; and KRS 61.810(f) – discussions or hearing which might lead to the appointment, discipline, or dismissal of an individual employee, member, or student without restricting that employee's member's, or student's right to a public hearing if requested. All agreed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Henton, seconded by Jestes to adjourn from executive session. All agreed.
Motion carried.

There being no further business coming before the Council, meeting adjourned.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rita Dotson", written over a horizontal line.

Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bethany Cooper", written over a horizontal line.

Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.