

**Regular Month Meeting  
Benton City Council  
August 18, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, August 18, 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 Kevin Farley.

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

Other staff present were Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer; Rob Mattingly, City Attorney; Chris Young, Gas Manager; Stephen Sanderson, Police Chief; and Harry Green, Fire Chief.

Joey Watkins of 143 Lynn Nelson Road was present to discuss a sewer tap at his property. In February 2023, he paid a sewer tap of \$500 and didn't ask for the tap to be made until July 2025. In September 2023, sewer tap fees increased to \$1500. He is asking for an exemption since he already paid the sewer tap. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Henton to approve his request. All agreed. Motion carried.

Harvest Time was contacted last week by our water meter readers that they had a large consumption of over 500,000 gallons used. The owner contacted city hall and made a Facebook post regarding this and that she feels it was someone who came and turned their hydrant on in a back greenhouse that they have since closed for the season. City Clerk/Treasurer Cooper reviewed the water adjustment policy and worksheet on how current adjustments are made at a rate of 20% less than the current water rate, which at this time would make the adjustment rate \$3.58/1000 gallons. Anything less than at least \$3.00/1000 gallons will result in an expense to the water department. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Carr to drop the rate to \$2.25/1000 gallons for an adjustment. All agreed. Motion carried. This adjustment will be in addition to their average monthly bill over the prior three months.

Mayor Dotson asked for approval for pay request #7 of the CDBG for Marshall County Needline. Motion was made by Riley, seconded by Henton to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of a zone change ordinance for two vacant lots on Elm Street from I-1 to R-3.

City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of a zone change ordinance for property at 346 Old Symsonia Road from C-2 to R-3.

Mayor Dotson and City Clerk/Treasurer Cooper discussed the proposed property tax rates for 2025. Cooper reviewed the worksheet and discussed the rates. The proposed compensating rate is .220 and the substitute rate is .229. All Council except Riley would like to use compensating rate.

Mayor Dotson read the first reading of an ordinance setting the property tax rates at .220 for real property and .3503 for personal property.

Mayor Dotson read a resolution to approve Delta Regional Authority funding for sewer system upgrades. A motion was made by Henton, seconded by Holland to approve this resolution and to allow Mayor Dotson to authorize documents related to this funding. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Carr to allow

the next term Mayor to continue and authorize documents related to this funding since this project will not be complete during Mayor Dotson's term. All agreed. Motion carried.

Chris Young gave the department report for Benton Gas System. Mayor Dotson gave the department reports for Fire Department, Maintenance Department and Water Department. Chief Sanderson gave the police report.

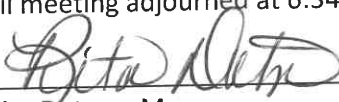
A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Jestes to approve the regular minutes of July 21, 2025. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read an agreement with Lakeway Nursing and Rehabilitation to allow them the use of the Joe Creason Community Building in the event of a disaster that leads to the evacuation of their residents. This is a five year agreement. There will be no expense to the City other than the use of the building temporarily. There will be no liability on the City either. A motion was made by Carr, seconded by Henton to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.


Mayor Dotson explained that a local occupational therapy business owner has contacted her to rent 1204 Main Street and asked Council to consider renting it or keeping it as an event center for city use. The city has not finalized purchase on this property at this time. Mayor Dotson will contact a realtor to get an estimated monthly rental fee suggestion.

A motion was made by Riley, seconded by Farley to move to executive session per KRS 61.810(1)(c) for discussion on pending litigation. 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 6:34 pm.

  
Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.