**Regular Month Meeting**

**Benton City Council**

**August 19, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, August 19, 2019 at 5:00 P.M. by Mayor Rita Dotson with the Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer by Zach Brien.

Council Members Present:

Ann Riley Charles Edmonds

Sherra Riley (arrived 5:35) Kevin Farley

Rita Murray Butch Holland

Other Staff Present:

Zach Brien, City Attorney Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer

Todd Riley, Gas Mgr Jeromy Hicks, Police Chief

Police Chief Jeromy Hicks introduced Keegan Cole as a new Benton Police Officer before the meeting officially began.

Mayor Dotson asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add the 2nd reading of the Interlocal Agreement for Sewer Interceptor project. A motion was made by Murray, seconded by A. Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Brien read the first reading of the revenue and taxation ordinance setting the rates as follows: 21.5 cents on real property, 28.57 cents on personal property and 24 cents on vehicles. Ann Riley questioned the language in section 3 that reads as follows: ***“The assessment made by the Property Valuation Administrator for State and County purposes shall be adopted as the assessment for City purposes, except the property lying both within and without the corporate limits of the City of Benton that is covered under the same assessments. The portion of the property within the corporate limits of the City shall be assessed by the City Clerk/Treasurer on that fair cash value established by the Property Valuation Administrator, and that portion subject to taxation shall be assessed by the City Clerk/Treasurer for its fair cash value and taxed pursuant to the provision of this Ordinance.”*** There should be no language pertaining to inside and outside city limits since we only tax inside city limits. Ann Riley agreed to sponsor this ordinance.

City Attorney Brien read the second reading of an ordinance establishing responsible bidder requirements for construction projects within City of Benton. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Edmonds to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Brien read a second reading of an Interlocal Agreement between City of Benton, Marshall County Fiscal Court and Marshall County Industrial Development Authority in moving forward with plans to run water and sewer utilities to SouthWest One. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Holland to approve. All agreed. Motion carried. This agreement still has to be adopted and signed by Marshall County Fiscal Court and Marshall County IDA then forwarded to Department of Local Government.

Mayor Dotson read a proclamation establishing September 2019 as City Government Month. A motion was made by Edmonds, seconded by Farley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried. This document along with lesson plans and activity pages will be sent to the principal at Benton Elementary School.

Mayor Dotson read a municipal order amending Municipal Order No. 18-09-01, which established the personnel policy for the City, to include language pertaining to Kentucky Pregnant Workers Act. A motion was made by Murray, seconded by A. Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Marshall County Fiscal Court recently presented the City with an Interlocal Agreement providing that cities may enter into an agreement with the county for animal control enforcement. A copy of this agreement was provided to each Council member to review prior to tonight’s meeting. Kevin Farley has asked for the operating budget of the animal shelter and number of calls they receive for City of Benton and has not received any response from County. These other issues with the agreement were discussed:

* There are no financial figures listed. There needs to be a maximum amount set for each City in order to properly budget each year.
* Each City has no say in the expenses for the animal shelter and what employees make. These figures would be figured in the reimbursement from the cities.
* Will the amount be figured on the number of calls received or actual number of animals from each city detained?
* The agreement is for a 5 year period and Council is not willing to go beyond one year at a time.

Fall clean-up dates were set for September 9 through 13.

A motion was made by Holland, seconded by A. Riley to approve the regular minutes of July 15,

2019. All agreed. Motion carried.

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

Police Chief Hicks presented the police report for July. There were 31 cases, 15 collisions, 74 citations and 634 calls to service. Hicks made a request to purchase a new police cruiser. A motion was made by Murray to approve up to $30,000. Motion seconded by Edmonds. All agreed. Motion carried.

In Mayor/Council items, Mayor Dotson announced that approval has been granted from Division of Water to start moving the water mains on Main Street. The bidding process will begin immediately.

Kevin Farley inquired whose responsibility it is to cut overhanging trees in the roads. Mayor Dotson explained that the City will take care of what they can and Benton Electric System has always been good to help out as well.

Sherra Riley asked if there is anything the City can do to enforce getting the National Store building to make improvements since it is in such bad shape. Mayor Dotson informed the Council that she knows the State Fire Marshall has been notified of the issue but, to her knowledge, no one has come to inspect the building.

There being no further business to come before the Council, meeting adjourned at 6:17 P.M.

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Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.