**Regular Month Meeting**

**Benton City Council**

**August 21, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, August 21, 2023 at 5:00 P.M. at Benton City Hall. Mayor Rita Dotson presided and called the meeting to order. Pledge of Allegiance was said and prayer was offered by Steven Moore.

 Council Members Present: Ann Riley, Kevin Farley, Laura Craynon, Guy Henton, Rita Murray and Butch Holland.

 Other Staff Present: Brooke Chappell, Admin. Assistant; Rob Mattingly, City Attorney and Stephen Sanderson, Police Chief

 Jodye Bauman of 800 Birch Street was present regarding flooding issues at her house. She shared videos and pictures. Mayor Dotson is going to have Maintenance Department look into ditching in that area and also get with Marshall County Co-op since some of the issue is from their property. She will also talk with an engineer for other suggestions.

 City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 52, Section 52.13: Use of Public Sewers. This ordinance pertains to grease traps. A motion was made by Murray, seconded by Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

 City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of an ordinance regarding water and sewer tap on fees and water adjustment rate.

 City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of an ordinance regarding fireworks. There was some opposition on the proposed dates and it was asked to be postponed and discussed at a later date. All agreed.

 Mayor Dotson presented the property tax rates for 2023. The compensating rate calculated to be 21.9 cents and the substitute rate calculated to be 22.5 cents. Riley suggested leaving the rate at 22.8 cents as it was for 2022. Farley voiced to leave it at the substitute rate of 22.5 cents. A motion was made by Riley, seconded by Henton to proceed with a public hearing and set the real property rate for 2023 to 22.8 cents. Farley voted nay. All others agreed. Motion carried. A public hearing and first reading is set for September 14 at 3:30 pm following by a second reading on September 15 at 3:30 pm.

 City Attorney Mattingly discussed tax lien foreclosures and asked permission to file liens when the amount is less than $2,000 but they owe several years. All agreed.

 Mayor Dotson suggested Curtis Allen move from Board of Adjustments to Planning & Zoning Commission to fill the vacant seat. A motion was made by Murray, seconded by Holland to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

 Mayor Dotson suggested Martie Wiles to fill the open seat on Board of Adjustments. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Henton to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

 Chief Sanderson presented the police report for July. There were 15 cases, 22 collisions, 59 citations and 840 calls. Sanderson also discussed running fiber lines to the park in order for our cameras to work properly. He received a quote from a private company of $20,000 up front cost with no monthly fee but the maintenance would be the city’s responsibility. Spectrum offered a 5 year contract at $700/month. Dialog offer $150-$200/month and with this option it would be a charge of $5,000 to KeeForce as well. Paducah Power is $225/month and we would have the same network as current. This will require an additional charge of $4,000 to $5,000 to KeeForce as well. Farley made a motion, seconded by Riley to go with option 4 and use Paducah Power. All agreed. Motion carried.

 A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Murray to approve the regular minutes of July 17, 2023; the special called minutes of July 19, 2023 and the special called minutes of August 1, 2023. All agreed. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Council, meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

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 Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.