

**Regular Month Meeting
Benton City Council
February 16, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, February 16, 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 Bethany Cooper.

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

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

Mayor Dotson suggested Matt Aikins to replace the remaining term of Danny Newton on Marshall County Refuse Board with term ending June 20, 2028. A motion was made by Henton, seconded by Holland to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson suggested Rafael Pearson replace the remaining term of Martie Wiles on Board of Adjustments with a term ending August 1, 2027. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Henton to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

The Consumer Price Index for elected officials based on 2025 calculations is 2.7%. A motion was made by Riley, seconded by Henton to approve. Elected officials' compensation will be increased by this percentage with effective date of January 1, 2026. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson discussed the current refuse contract that expires March 31, 2026. A motion was made by Henton, seconded by Craynon to extend the current contract with GFL another 3 years. There will be a 4.8% increase from previous contract bringing rates from \$12.52/household to \$13.19/household and extra cans from \$6.00 each to \$6.32 each. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of an ordinance amending park board members to three residents within Benton's city limits and one non-resident; and changed the term from four years to two years.

City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of an ordinance amending the garbage ordinance to coincide with our garbage contract to define qualified residents and designating dumpster locations for residential developments.

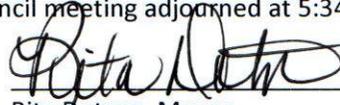
A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Holland to approve regular minutes of January 20, 2026. All agreed. Motion carried.

Chief Sanderson gave the police report for January. Mayor Dotson gave the reports for Gas Department, Fire Department, Water Department and Maintenance Department. She also mentioned that Benton Gas System had a recent Compliance Inspection and no violations were found.

In other items, Mayor Dotson mentioned that Drew Williams wants to place Tater Day vendors around the Court Square beginning Friday afternoon until Monday afternoon. Council members had mixed feelings

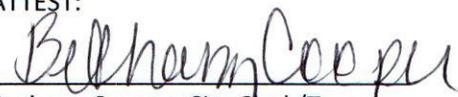
about closing Main and Poplar Street for that long amount of time. They agreed to allow this one time to see how it goes.

There being no further business coming before the Council meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.



Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas