

**Regular Month Meeting
Benton City Council
February 17, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, February 17, 2020 at 5:00 P.M. by Mayor Rita Dotson with the Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer by Rob Mattingly.

Council Members Present:

Ann Riley	Charles Edmonds
Sherra Riley	Kevin Farley
Rita Murray	Butch Holland

Other Staff Present:

Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer	
Rob Mattingly, City Attorney	Harry Green, Fire Chief
Randy Wood, Asst Fire Chief	Todd Riley, Gas Mgr
Stephen Sanderson, Police Chief	

Mayor Dotson read over the Municipal Road Aid agreement and resolution. The 2020-2021 allotment is \$90,102.31. All approved.

Harry Green and Randy Wood were present to discuss Benton Fire Department's need for a newer fire pumper truck. The current truck was purchased new in 1992 and has been having some major issues. It barely passed the NFPA pump inspection last year. New pumps are approximately \$30,000 to \$35,000 and the truck would also need new tires that are approximately \$5,000. Harry doesn't feel the truck is worth very much to invest that kind of money in. New trucks are over \$400,000 and good used trucks are around \$175,000. A motion was made by Edmonds, seconded by A. Riley to run a notice for bid to see if we receive anything. If no bids are received, then Harry can proceed to look for used vehicles and Council will set a budget limit. All agreed. Motion carried.

In 2009, the City acquired a lot at West 8th Street when the State did the bridge replacement. The City is interested in selling this lot and there is an interested buyer. The lot, according to PVA records, is 0.32 acres. A motion was made by S. Riley, seconded by Holland to accept bids on this lot. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Clerk/Treasurer Bethany Cooper reviewed the following General Fund budget amendments:

- Mural/Kindness Park Donations – increase from \$10,000 to \$28,000 due to a donation from Joe Tom Haltom for the Kindness Park and a grant from Conservation District.
- Park Miscellaneous Income – increase from \$1,400 to \$5,100 for the donations for picnic tables
- Planning & Zoning Expense - increase from \$1,000 to \$4,500 to cover commission training, new computer and annexation surveys
- Audit – increase from \$8,880 to \$9,300
- Street Dept Miscellaneous – Increase from \$500 to \$2,000 to cover inmate food expense
- Kiddie Park – increase from \$2,000 to \$4,000 for picnic tables and slide repair
- Community Building – increase from \$2,500 to \$13,000 for HVAC repairs and new wall around gym
- Park Improvements – increase from \$16,500 to \$20,000

The following Benton Water & Sewer System budget amendments were reviewed:

- Return Check Fee – increase from \$700 to \$900
- Other Revenue – increase from \$10,000 to \$12,500
- Audit – increase from \$5,500 to \$5,700
- Accounting & Legal – increase from \$2,500 to \$6,000 to cover attorney fees and filing fees
- Credit Card – decrease from \$4,000 to \$140.00. We changed companies and the fees are now directed to the customer.

A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Murray to approve the budget amendments. All

agreed. Motion carried.

Cooper also asked the Council their opinion on changing the \$1,500 allotment for Marshall County DES to Marshall County Rescue Squad since the rescue squad relies on donations. Mayor Dotson explained that the County funds DES and the money we allot to them is put in the County's General Fund. A motion was made by Murray, seconded by A. Riley to approve allotting the 2019-2020 funds to Marshall County Rescue Squad instead of Marshall County DES. All agreed. Motion carried.

Police Chief Sanderson presented the police report for January. There were 12 cases, 12 collisions, 62 citation violations and 498 calls to service.

A motion was made by Edmonds, seconded by Holland to approve the special called minutes of January 21, 2020; January 24, 2020 and February 7, 2020. All agreed. Motion carried.

In Mayor/Council items, Mayor Dotson mentioned that Harry is out leaving door hangers for those customers who leave their trash cans out multiple days.

A. Riley asked about annexation updates on closing in areas throughout town. Mayor Dotson explained that we cannot force annex but there is currently a correction annexation in the process for an area in Fairway Subdivision. City Attorney Mattingly also commented that he is working on the annexation for SMMS and will be attending the Marshall County School Board meeting tonight.

Mayor Dotson informed the Council that the State will be opening bids on March 20, 2020 for the Main and Poplar Streets paving project. The paving is expected to start in mid-April.

There being no further business to come before the Council, meeting adjourned at 5:46 P.M.

Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.