

**Regular Month Meeting
Benton City Council
February 17, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, February 17, 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, Sylvia Jestes, Darryl Carr, Butch Holland, and Guy Henton. Absent was Ann Riley.

Other staff present were Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer; Rob Mattingly, City Attorney; Stephen Sanderson, Police Chief; Dustin Bevil, Police Officer and Todd Riley, Gas Manager.

Josh Grebner, owner of Moors Resort & Marina, was present to ask Council's permission to host a beer garden on Friday and Saturday evenings of Tater Day weekend at the park. He has all required licenses and insurance policies. He will provide beer only in a fenced in area with two off-duty police officers present. His staff are all STAR certified. Each person that enters the area will have their IDs checked through an app that identifies fake IDs then will be given a wristband that will allow for 6 beers only. Motion was made by Jestes, seconded by Carr to approve the permit for Josh Grebner to allow alcohol sales during the requested time and location. Farley abstained and all others voted aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson asked approved for the first draw of CDBG funding for Marshall County Caring Needline project in the amount of \$76,647.00. CDBG will deposit these requested funds into the CDBG account that City of Benton opened and then the City will pay the vendor once funds are deposited. A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Henton to approve funding. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read the recommended COLA rate for elected officials of 2.9%. Motion was made by Henton, seconded by Carr to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read a resolution determining a 1989 SRECO sewer jetter as surplus property. Motion was made by Jestes, seconded by Carr to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly reviewed a proposed business license amendment ordinance. The first reading will be held at March's regular meeting once Council has sufficient time to review.

Mayor Dotson asked for Council's opinions regarding Jestes' previous request of having televised Council meetings. Mayor Dotson did mention that she spoke to someone with KLC, and they highly suggest to not do this. Holland and Henton are against starting this because of the cost that could be incurred, the negativity that could come from it and the extra burden on City Hall office employees. Jestes would like to see it run through Facebook live to show transparency, possibly bring in new residents to our area and she was asked about this during her campaign. Carr would like more information before he makes a final decision. Farley is in favor as he hopes in might help those that cannot make 5:00 pm meetings. City Clerk Cooper asked how to appropriately preserve these for open records requests. Mayor Dotson will find out more information before a final decision is made.

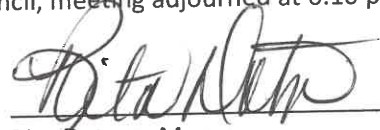
Chief Sanderson presented the police report for January. There were 5 cases, 8 collisions, 47 citations and 1441 calls.

City Attorney Mattingly met last week with an employee from Brooks Development Solutions LLC who is contracted with Verizon to install cell towers. This company is interested in a location in our City Park. Council unanimously voiced that they do not want a cell tower in our Park. Mattingly will see if there are any other possible locations.

Motion was made by Henton, seconded by Jestes to approve the regular minutes of January 21, 2025, and the special called minutes of February 5, 2025. All agreed. Motion carried.

In Mayor/Council items, Carr asked City Attorney Mattingly to check into ordinance pertaining to loud pipes and loud music in vehicles. Henton addressed continued speeding issues where our current radar sign is located at 12th Street and Mayfield Highway. Farley would like the city to check into expanding sidewalks along Mayfield Highway. Mayor Dotson explained that we are currently under a TAP grant for the Commerce Street area but once that project is concluded, she will check into another TAP grant for Mayfield Highway or Dogtown Road area.

There being no further business coming before the Council, meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.



Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.