

**Regular Month Meeting  
Benton City Council  
January 20, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Tuesday, January 20, 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, Sylvia Jestes, Ann Riley, Laura Craynon, Guy Henton, and Butch Holland.

Other staff present were Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer; Rob Mattingly, City Attorney; Stephen Sanderson, Police Chief; Harry Green, Fire Chief; and Chris Young, Gas Manager.

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of an ordinance amending section 52.36(2) pertaining to sewer taps. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Henton to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of an ordinance amending section 157.03 pertaining to the exterior storage of non-exempt vehicles. A motion was made by Jestes, seconded by Holland to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of an ordinance amending section 157.03 pertaining to signs. A motion was made by Henton, seconded by Farley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Henton to approve the regular minutes of December 15, 2025, and the special called minutes of January 5, 2026. All agreed. Motion carried.

Chief Sanderson gave the police report for December. Mayor Dotson gave December report updates for Fire Department, Maintenance and Water Departments. Chris Young gave a report upon for December for Benton Gas.

A motion was made by Riley, seconded by Farley to re-appoint the following board members for Planning and Zoning Board:

Bryan Smothers	expires 9/1/2029
Steven Moore	expires 10/1/2029
Rebecca Sealock	expires 1/1/2030
Patricia Green	expires 5/1/2026
Rick Johnston	expires 1/1/2029

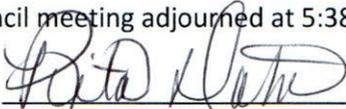
A motion was made by Henton, seconded by Holland to re-appoint the following board members to the Board of Adjustments:

Martha Lewis	expires 9/1/2029
Rick Johnston	expires 1/1/2029

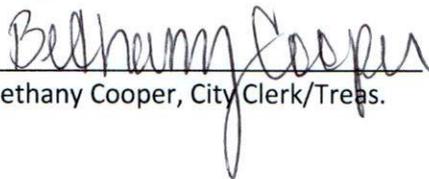
A motion was made by Jestes, seconded by Henton to appoint Peyton Porter to the vacant Code Enforcement Board for the remainder of Troy Conner's term which expires July 20, 2026. All agreed. Motion carried.

In Council items, Jestes updated that the new splash pad total would be approximately \$700,000 and this is for one feature to be included only. It would be water spouts and lighting mostly to begin and other features can be added later. The City can apply for a land and water grant, however, if awarded, it usually takes two to three years before construction can begin. Jestes mentioned that if Council wanted to begin soon, then they could see if local businesses would like to sponsor.

There being no further business coming before the Council meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m..

  
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Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.