**Regular Month Meeting**

**Benton City Council**

**July 15, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, July 15, 2019 at 5:00 P.M. by Mayor Rita Dotson with the Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer by Butch Holland.

Council Members Present:

Ann Riley Charles Edmonds

Sherra Riley Kevin Farley

Rita Murray Butch Holland

Other Staff Present:

Zach Brien, City Attorney Brooke Walls, Admin. Asst.

Todd Riley, Gas Mgr Jeromy Hicks, Police Chief

William Treadway, Police Sgt.

Pat Flanigan from 708 Maple Street contact City Attorney, Zach Brien regarding an alley way that runs through her property that has never been adopted into the City and has no intention to. Brien read a resolution for abandonment of an alley west off of Maple Street. The City of Benton shall abandon and claims no interest in this property. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Murray to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson presented a paving bid from Central Paving as follows:

$85/ton asphalt surface

$27/ton DGA for shoulders

$5.25/lf striping crossings

A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Edmonds to accept the bid from Central Paving. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Brien read the second reading of an ordinance restating and revising the City’s rules and procedures relating to the imposition and administration of an occupational license requirement, and payment of an occupational license tax by persons and business entities conducting businesses, occupations and professions within the City of Benton. The tax rate will increase from 0.5% to 0.6% effective January 1, 2020. A motion was made by Murray, seconded by S. Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Brien read the first reading of an ordinance establishing responsible bidding requirements for construction projects within City of Benton. Ordinance was sponsored by Edmonds.

City Attorney Brien discussed the interlocal agreement for the Southwest One project. Earlier in the year, this agreement was approved by City and sent to County and approved. County was supposed to send in to Department of Local Government. Brien recently found out that the County never sent this agreement in. Brien sent the agreement in for preliminary approval and did receive this approval for the draft of the Interlocal Agreement. Brien read a first reading of the Interlocal Agreement. Brien suggests that until all parties have signed the agreement, work on the utilities need to stop for this project.

Police Chief Hicks presented the police report for June. There were 23 cases, 15 collisions, 53 citation violations and 425 calls to service. The new Lenco armored vehicle was present outside City Hall for all to see.

A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Edmonds to approve the regular minutes of June 18, 2019 and the special called minutes of July 11, 2019.

A motion was made Farley, seconded by S. Riley to approve payroll and invoices. All agreed. Motion carried.

In Mayor/Council items:

Kevin Farley is still working with Animal Control Board.

Ann Riley asked how the City will proceed on old, dilapidated houses. Mayor Dotson explained that if the property is kept up then the City leaves them along unless there are complaints from neighbors. Harry Green cites properties as needed.

Rita Murray presented the Police Department with a small plague that she had found to thank them for all of the work they do.

A motion was made by Edmonds, seconded by Farley to adjourn to executive session to discuss litigation. All agreed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Edmonds to adjourn from executive session. All agreed. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Council, meeting adjourned at 6:15 P.M.

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Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.