

**Regular Month Meeting  
Benton City Council  
July 18, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, July 18, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. at Benton City Hall. Mayor Dotson presided and called the meeting to order. Pledge of Allegiance and prayer was offered by Keith Travis.

Council Members Present: Ann Riley, Sherra Riley, Charlie Edmonds, Butch Holland, Rita Murray and Kevin Farley.

Other Staff Present: Rob Mattingly, City Attorney; Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer; Stephen Sanderson, Police Chief

Keith Travis was present to thank the police department for implementing the vacation house watch program. While he was out of town, Officer Coursey notified him of one of his doors left unlocked and he appreciated his effort to go above and beyond.

Mayor Dotson suggested Jeff Smith to be appointed to the Board of Adjustments to replaced the late Robert Collins. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Edmonds to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson suggested Grant Willoughby to be appointed to the Planning and Zoning Board to replace the late Robert Collins. Mr. Willoughby also sets on the Board of Adjustments currently. A motion was made by Holland, seconded by A. Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly asked the Council's permission to allow him to be able to negotiate the \$100 delinquent administrative fee that is on delinquent property tax bills under certain circumstances. All Council agreed.

Central Paving was the only street paving bid that was received at \$100/ton. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Murray to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read a USDA loan resolution security agreement for borrowing \$3,500,000 towards the Symsonia Highway Waterline Replacement Project. A motion was made by Murray, seconded by Edmonds to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read the USDA loan resolution pertaining to the same project. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Edmonds to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read a resolution acknowledging the service and contributions made by Robert Collins to this community. A motion was made by A. Riley, seconded by Farley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read a municipal order to amend the personnel policy to include a critical incident leave for police officer's section. A motion was made by A. Riley, seconded by S. Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read a municipal order to amend the personnel policy to amend the meal reimbursement amounts. A motion was made by S. Riley, seconded by Holland to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of an ordinance amending Section 51.08: Installation of Gas Mains and Service Lines: Provisions for Fees and Costs of the City of Benton's Code or Ordinances. A motion was made by Murray, seconded by Edmonds to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 156: Subdivision Regulations of the City of Benton's Code of Ordinances related to the process of subdivision plats being approved and added a section regarding minimum street requirements. A motion was made by Edmonds, seconded by Farley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 155.74: Child Care Facilities of the City of Benton's Code of Ordinances related to the operation of child care services within the city limits. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by S. Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Chief Sanderson presented the police report for June. There were 19 cases, 20 collisions, 109 citation violations and 909 calls to service.

A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Farley to approve the regular minutes of June 20, 2022. All agreed. Motion carried.

Marshall County Arts Commission had sent Mayor Dotson a letter requesting funding for their 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of their landscape project. They expect the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase to cost approximately \$30,000. They have already received \$7,500 worth of donations towards this project. A motion was made by Murray, seconded by Farley to donate \$7,500.00 to this project and amend the General Fund budget to move funds from the reserve contingency account of \$7,500.00 to Children's Art Center account. All agreed. Motion carried.

The August 15, 2022 regular meeting will be moved to Thursday, August 11, 2022.

Mayor Dotson talked with Jeff Stokes of the Marshall County School System to ask permission to utilize Benton Elementary School and South Marshall Middle School as storm shelters in case of severe weather. The school board will have to approve the request. City Attorney Mattingly will draft a proposal for the next Council meeting to review before sending to school board for approval.

Mayor Dotson mentioned that Marshall County Fiscal Court would like to use their \$6 million of ARPA funds to extend water out to the Oak Level area. Chad McCann with RiverCrest Engineering told Mayor Dotson that there should be plenty of pressure as of right now. In the future, if several new customers connect to the line, we may have to look into upgrading the water plant.

Holland referred back to last month's discussion about the two businesses who wanted another chance to apply for the property incentive grant since they were told they could apply for paving. He asked Mayor Dotson to reach back out and see if they had anything they want to apply for. All Council agreed.

There being no further business to come before the Council, meeting adjourned at 6:26 pm.

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Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.