

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

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, July 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 Chris Young.

Council members present were Sylvia Jestes, Butch Holland, Ann Riley, Guy Henton, and Laura Craynon. Absent was Brenda Edwards.

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

Mayor Dotson read submitted street paving bids. Jim Smith Contracting presented a bid for \$91.00/ton for asphalt surface and \$7,500.00 for milling leaving a total of \$282,320.00 based on the tonnage provided in bid documents. Central Paving submitted a total bid of \$317, 100.00 based on the tonnage provided in bid documents and \$105.00/ton for any additional asphalt. A motion was made by Jestes, seconded by Riley to approve the bid from Jim Smith Contracting. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read a resolution declaring a 2017 Ford Explorer (VIN: 1FM5K8AR4HGD25308) as surplus property. A motion was made by Henton, seconded by Holland to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read a resolution to authorize the Mayor to make application to Kentucky Office of Homeland Security for a grant. Chief Sanderson explained the grant, if received, will be used to purchase 9 new vehicle radios and 9 new handheld radios for Benton Police Department. These new radios can be encrypted. Total purchase price is \$135,000.00. A motion was made by Craynon, seconded by Henton to approve the resolution. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of an ordinance to allow multiple residential water services on one meter in extraordinary circumstances that must be approved first by City Council.

A motion was made by Jestes, seconded by Henton to approve the regular minutes of June 15, 2026, and special called minutes of June 17, 2026. All agreed. Motion carried.

Chris Young gave a department report for Benton Gas and Chief Sanderson gave a report for Benton Police.

In Mayor and Council items, Jestes asked for the possibility of a stop light and/or crosswalk at 11th and Poplar Streets since Semper Sweets has moved in and brought more foot traffic. Mayor Dotson will bring this concern to KY Department of Transportation.

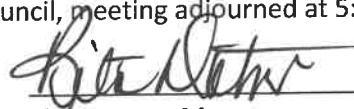
Jestes also suggested the video and sound system be upgraded for council meetings. All agreed to allow her to check pricing.

Mayor Dotson recognized Teddy Kinsey for all his services to Benton Electric System Board on his recent passing.

Mayor Dotson read a letter of resignation from Steven Moore from the Planning and Zoning Board.

Mayor Dotson updated the Council on the status of the abandoned church building behind City Hall. Riverwoods Church, current owner, has accepted to go into agreement with City of Benton to have the building torn down and make the area a parking lot. Because of the stipulations of the current ownership of Riverwoods Church, the area can only be used for a church or community use. The building is in irreparable condition. No agreement has been officially signed at this time.

There being no further business coming before the Council, meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.


Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.