

**Regular Month Meeting
Benton City Council
June 15, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 5:00 P.M. by Mayor Rita Dotson with the Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer by Rob Mattingly.

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

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

Mayor Dotson read the second reading of an ordinance for the 2020-2021 Benton Gas System budget. A motion was made by A. Riley, seconded by S. Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read the second reading of an ordinance for the 2020-2021 General Fund budget. A motion was made by Edmonds, seconded by Holland to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read the second reading of an ordinance for the 2020-2021 Benton Water & Sewer System budget. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Murray to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read the second reading of an ordinance increasing the tap on fee for Benton Gas System from \$250.00 to \$275.00. A motion was made by Edmonds, seconded by Farley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Because of COVID-19, the original Municipal Road Aid Cooperative Program agreement and resolution had to be amended. Funding was changed from \$90,102.31 to \$79,053.02. Mayor Dotson presented the amended agreement and resolution. All agreed to approve the resolution.

Mayor Dotson read a resolution authorizing the filing of a Coronavirus Relief Fund application for reimbursement of incurred expenses. A motion was made by Murray, seconded by S. Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly updated the Council on Code Enforcement issues. With their approval, he is going to prepare a new Code Enforcement ordinance and repeal all prior ordinances. A Code Enforcement Board has to be appointed since we currently do not have an active board. Mattingly also recommends that the board appoints a Hearing Office to hear any appeals to any code violations if they arise. Council agreed for Mattingly to proceed with updating the ordinance and they will be considering people to fill the positions on the Code Enforcement Board.

Police Chief Sanderson presented the police report for May. There were 23 cases, 9 collisions, 18 citation violations and 846 calls to service.

A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Edmonds to approve the regular minutes of May 18, 2020, special called minutes of May 28, 2020 and special called minutes of June 8, 2020. All agreed. Motion carried.

In Mayor/Council items, S. Riley asked Chief Sanderson if Benton Police Department has a neighborhood watch program for people who may be on vacation. Sanderson said they can do that if the individual will contact them. They will make extra patrols through the neighborhood.

A.Riley has received several complaints on the trash can lids not closing after being dumped. City Clerk Cooper has already contacted WCA and there isn't anything that can be done.

Mayor Dotson mentioned that there will be a pre-construction meeting tomorrow on the Main/Poplar Street project that City Clerk Cooper will attend and can update on the start and completion date of the project after this.

Mayor Dotson has been asked for permission from Marshall County Fair Board to hold a demolition derby, enduro race and mud bogs on July 10, 11 and 12. Mayor Dotson has spoke with

Marshall County Health Department and they do not recommend allowing this type of event because of the number of people it will bring in. The Council all agreed to follow the recommendation from MCHD.

Mayor Dotson updated the Council on the progress of the Kindness Park and the intent of Marshall County Arts Commission to have a landscape architect help beautify their area and connect it to the Kindness Park.

Mayor Dotson explained that with the unknown this far of the opening date of Benton Pool, the Fire Department is going to be at H.H. Lovett Park on Wednesday and Friday of this week to spray kids. Mayor Dotson hopes the pool can be open by July 1 but guidelines have not been set yet.

There being no further business to come before the Council, meeting adjourned at 6:10 P.M.

Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.