**Regular Month Meeting**

**Benton City Council**

**June 18, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, June 18, 2019 at 5:00 P.M. by Mayor Rita Dotson with the Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer by Kevin Farley.

Council Members Present:

Ann Riley Charles Edmonds

Sherra Riley Kevin Farley

Rita Murray Butch Holland

Other Staff Present:

Zach Brien, City Atty Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas

Todd Riley, Gas Mgr Harry Green, Fire Chief

Jeromy Hicks, Police Chief William Treadway, Police Sergeant

Logan Hampton, Officer Stephen Sanderson, Police Captain

Ronnie Minter was present to ask the Council if they would make a donation for the Car Cruise-Ins that he has taken over for July and August at H.H. Lovett Park. He has already received several donations including cash, gas cards, gift cards and donated items from various businesses. A motion was made by Murray, seconded by Edmonds to donate $300.00 to use as $25.00 cash prizes to be split between both shows. All agreed. Motion carried.

Jim Dema was present concerned about the future utility work and paving along Main Street and how it will affect his business deliveries. Mayor Dotson gave an update based on her ride along she did with Charles McCann from RiverCrest Engineering earlier today. From Heritage Bank up to First Baptist Church, the line will be placed approximately 2 feet off the road. From Puckett’s Jewelry to Peel & Holland, the line will be placed in the parking spaces as close to the curb as they can get it. After Peel & Holland, the line will then go across to West KY Xerographics which is Jim Dema’s business and run through the parallel parking spots along the side of his building. McCann told Mayor Dotson that the ditches will not be open longer than a week during each section of replacement.

Mayor Dotson asked the Council for their approval to reappoint Darren Smith to the Marshall County Building Code Board that expires July 1, 2019 or if they have any other recommendation. A motion was made by A. Riley to reappoint Darren Smith and was seconded by S. Riley. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson introduced Logan Hampton as the Benton Police Department’s newest police officer that started on June 10.

The following paving bids were received:

Chambers & Sons $91.50/ton for asphalt surfacing

$50.00/ton for DGA

$ 8.50/LF for striping of crossings

Ronny’s Paving $125.00/ton for asphalt surfacing

$ 50.00/ton for DGA

They contract out for re-striping.

Mayor Dotson explained that for 2018, the City paid $74.00/ton for surfacing and in 2017 they City paid $74.90/ton for surfacing. She proposed to hold off on accepting any bid and would like to reach out to other companies for bids. All Council agreed.

City Attorney Brien read the first reading of an ordinance amending the payroll tax ordinance to increase the tax rate from 0.5% to 0.6%. This ordinance also removes all language pertaining to net profits and gross receipts.

City Attorney Brien read the second reading of an ordinance adopting the 2019-2020 General Fund budget. A motion was made by S. Riley, seconded by Holland to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Brien read the second reading of an ordinance approving the 2019-2020 Benton Gas System budget. Motion was made by Murray, seconded by Edmonds to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Brien read the second reading of an ordinance approving the 2019-2020 Benton Water & Sewer System budget. Motion was made by S. Riley, seconded by Murray to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

With Planning & Zoning Board’s approval and recommendation, City Attorney Brien read the second reading of an ordinance amending the Benton Zoning ordinance to create a new residential 4 (R-4) Zone. A motion was made by Edmonds, seconded by Farley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

With Planning & Zoning Board’s approval and recommendation, City Attorney Brien read the second reading of an ordinance establishing a 650 square footage minimum for dwellings in R-3 zones. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by S. Riley to approve. All agree. Motion carried.

City Attorney Brien read the second reading of an ordinance increasing the water rates inside city limits from $3.50 to $4.00 per 1000 gallons and to change the rate for outside city limits from $4.00 to $5.00 per 1000 gallons. This ordinance was sponsored by S. Riley. A motion was made by Farley and seconded by Holland. All agreed. Motion carried.

With Planning & Zoning Board’s approval and recommendation, City Attorney Brien read the second reading of an ordinance to require sidewalks for planned commercial development projects. A motion was made by S. Riley, seconded by Holland to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson introduced Mike Maxwell with Purchase Area Development District. Mike is a business loan specialist and part of the economic development team that is assigned to Marshall County.

Mayor Dotson read a resolution to reappoint Zach Brien as City Attorney for period beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020. A motion was made by A. Riley and seconded by Murray to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson asked if anyone had thought of any ideas for closing the subdivisions for Halloween. Police Chief Hicks explained the difficulties of closing the streets and offered the suggestion of homeowners sitting at the ends of their driveways with the candy to help with the traffic problem. Murray explained that would be difficult for everyone to do. After much discussion, it was unanimously decided to leave it as is since there is no good way to police or close off the areas.

Jeromy Hicks presented the police report for May. There were 21 cases, 15 collisions, 40 citation violations and 351 calls to service.

A motion was made by Edmonds, seconded by Murray to approve payroll and invoices. All agreed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Farley to approve the regular minutes of May 20, 2019.

In Mayor/Council items:

Murray asked if the City cited commercial lots or only homes for mowing violations. Mayor Dotson explained that everyone can get cited. If anyone sees an issue, they need to contact Code Enforcement Officer.

Edmonds thanked the Benton Fire Department for responding to his daughter’s house fire so quickly.

Mayor Dotson mentioned that she received a call from a member of the Marshall County Senior Citizens Board that they have unanimously decided to close their doors because they cannot operate without funding from Marshall County Fiscal Court. Marshall County Fiscal Court will vote on their final budget tomorrow at 4:00 P.M.

There being no further business to come before the Council, meeting adjourned at 5:52 P.M.

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Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.