**Regular Month Meeting**

**Benton City Council**

**June 21, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, June 21, 2021 by Mayor Rita Dotson at 5:00 pm at Benton City Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer was given by Butch Holland.

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

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

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of the 2021-2022 General Fund Budget ordinance. A motion was made by A. Riley, seconded by S. Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of the 2021-2022 Benton Water & Sewer System Budget ordinance. A motion was made by Edmonds, seconded by Farley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of the 2021-2022 Benton Gas System Budget ordinance. A motion was made by Murray, seconded by Farley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of an ordinance amending the current water and sewer rates to be effective July 1, 2021. Water rate inside city limits will increase to $4.06/1000 gallons and outside city limits will increase to $5.07/1000 gallons. Sewer rate for inside city limits will be $10.00/2000 gallon minimum and $6.50/1000 gallons thereafter. Sewer rate for outside city limits will be $18.00/2000 gallon minimum and $9.50/1000 gallons thereafter. A motion was made by A. Riley, seconded by Murray to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of an ordinance relating to compensation of the Planning & Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustments. All voting members of the Planning & Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustments shall be compensated $50.00 per meeting attended not to exceed a total compensation of $600.00 per calendar year. A motion was made by Holland, seconded by S. Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of an ordinance annexing a 3.9- acre parcel of land located off of Main Street owned by Nelson and Rita Dotson into City limits of Benton. A motion was made by Edmonds, seconded by S. Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson informed the Council of the current issues with Jackie Way Lift Station and the urgent need to get it repaired. Approximate cost will be $274,000 and she would like to use the American Rescue Plan funds when available.

City Attorney Mattingly discussed delinquent business licenses. Several notices have been sent to delinquent recipients and 17 remain. Council would like a final letter sent to all remaining explaining the Council authorized to proceed with legal action on those unpaid.

Mayor Dotson recommended Rick Johnston to be appointed to the Planning & Zoning Commission. He currently sits on the Board of Adjustments also. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by A. Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Johnson explained the Louisville Model for the City’s cable franchise agreement. This model is less expensive and more streamlined. It is used by Calvert City and Murray as well. Mattingly recommends the Council consider accepting this model with a 5% fee and $5000 up front franchise fee. Council all agreed to proceed as recommended.

Mayor Dotson was contacted recently by Sissy Wommack regarding the purchase of the old Marshall County Library Building on Poplar Street. Asking price is $499,000. Majority of the Council were not in favor of purchasing this building as priced. Murray would like to consider purchasing the property if the price was lowered considerably because of the better parking.

Police Chief Sanderson presented the May police report. There were 20 cases, 15 collisions, 67 citations and 786 calls for service.

A motion was made by Murray, seconded by Holland to approve the regular minutes of May 17, 2021; the special called minutes of May 28, 2021 and the special called minutes of June 3, 2021. All agreed. Motion carried.

In Mayor/Council items, Mayor Dotson read a thank-you card from the Coy Creason family for sponsoring Coy’s induction into the Kentucky Basketball Hall of Fame.

Mayor Dotson addressed a parking issue that was brought to her attention on 10th Street between Puckett’s Jewelry and First Baptist Church. There are currently ‘no parking’ signs on this street and a member of FBC received a parking ticket on Sunday. He informed Mayor Dotson that years ago when Coy Creason was Mayor that Mayor Creason allowed the church-goers to park there for church services. Mayor Dotson recommended changing the sign to ‘No Parking Monday thru Friday 7 am to 3 pm’ for school safety put allow parking outside those hours. Chief Sanderson mentioned that the Police Department has only received a couple of complaints that he is aware of and he will check into them further. If they are legitimate complaints, this issue will be revisited. If not, the signs will be changed.

Mayor Dotson informed the Council that the City applied for a grant through Delta Regional Authority for $413,800 for 6th Street Sewer Improvement project.

Mayor Dotson also informed the Council that Governor Beshear has approved grant funding through Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA) for water and sewer improvements. The City has applied for $774,000 to improve three lift stations – Jail Lift Station, Riley Lift Station and Cherry Grove Lift Station.

Mayor Dotson and Chief Sanderson will be meeting with Kyle Poat of Kentucky Department of Transportation this week to address the safety issue at Highway 641 and Highway 58 intersection. They are going to recommend changing the left turn signal lift to green or red and not yellow at any time. They are also going to recommend adding a caution light similar to that installed at the intersection in Hardin.

There being no further business to come before the Council, meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm.

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Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.