

**Regular Month Meeting
Benton City Council
March 16, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, March 16, 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 Rob Mattingly.

Council members present were Kevin Farley, Ann Riley, Laura Craynon, Guy Henton, Sylvia Jestes, and Butch Holland.

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

Drew Williams was present to give an update on Tater Day events. He also asked Council to consider donating money to help with the pony pulls. He assured the Council that he would reimburse anything left, plus the vendor fees of those vendors setting up around Court Square that he is handling. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Jestes to donate \$2,500 to Tater Day LLC. All agreed. Motion carried.

Jessica Scillian, former Benton Gas Office Manager, was present to help explain the PEFA resolution and agreement that is set for approval. Ron Reagan, gas broker for Utility Gas Management, started this company in order to help gas utilities see significant savings with their gas purchases. Since being with this company, Benton Gas has been able to purchase gas at a much cheaper rate, which helps keep the cost to customers lower. A resolution was presented to continue to be a part of PEFA and continue with this Gas Supply Agreement. A motion was made by Riley, seconded by Craynon to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read an Executive Order naming David Tynes to Benton Housing Authority for a four-year term. A motion was made by Jestes, seconded by Farley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 96 of Code of Ordinances to set term limit for Benton Park Board to two years and limit the number of members. A motion was made by Jestes, seconded by Henton to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 50 of Code of Ordinances to clarify the residents who qualify for garbage service. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Jestes to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of an ordinance for a zone change for property owned by Seaford Holdings located on Main Street from R1 to R3.

Spring clean-up is set for April 27.

A motion was made by Henton, seconded by Holland to approve the regular minutes of February 16, 2026. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson went over the February department reports for Maintenance Department, Water Department and Fire Department. Chris Young updated for Gas Department.

In Mayor/Council items:

Jestes has had requests for possible stop signs be put up on Joe Creason Drive at West 13th Street. Mayor Dotson will have Benton Police Department check into this area and see if they see a need for signs.

Farley requested Colonial Drive be widened as there is not much of a shoulder.

Mayor Dotson read a letter from Aimee Lepisto, Principal of North Marshall Middle School, regarding a new Career Development Lab that Marshall County School Systems would like to implement for middle school students. This lab would have modules focused on different career paths. Each module is \$5,000.00 and they would like one lab for SMMS and one for NMMS. Henton would like the City to donate \$5,000. Chris Young said he would look at Benton Gas budget and see if they have extra funds to put some towards the modules as well. All council agreed.

Mayor Dotson informed the Council of upcoming residential housing possibilities that plan to come to Benton. Some of these areas have sewer issues which the City needs to address as soon as possible. One particular area has a proposed \$1,500,000 sewer upgrade proposal. Mayor Dotson has requested funding from the upcoming State budget and should know by April 1. We can also apply for funding through Delta Regional Authority in August for up to \$1,000,000 max.

Another potential housing development area on Main Street has sewer capacity at the location, but could potentially cause issues down the end of the sewer line near Valley Road and East 12th Street. To upgrade the sewer line capacity for this area is approximately \$763,550.00.

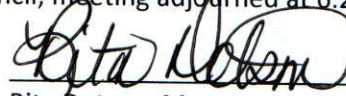
The sidewalk project that has been in the design phase for the last few years, should be ready to bid soon.

April 7 is the bid opening for First Responder Park. Work is set to begin in May and be completed within 130 days.

A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Riley to adjourn to Executive Session per KRS 61.810(1)(b) to discuss deliberations on the future acquisition or sale of real property.

A motion was made by Riley, seconded by Jestes to adjourn from Executive Session.

There being no further business coming before the Council, meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.



Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.