

**Regular Month Meeting  
Benton City Council  
March 17, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, March 17, 2025, 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, Sylvia Jestes, Darryl Carr, Butch Holland, Guy Henton, and Ann Riley.

Other staff present were Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer; Rob Mattingly, City Attorney; Logan Hampton, Police Sergeant and Todd Riley, Gas Manager.

Josh Grebner, owner of Moors Resort & Marina, was present to thank the Council for allowing him the opportunity to set up a beer garden in the park over Tater Day weekend, but because of the backlash and threats he has received, he is no longer setting up.

Paul Santinelli with USA Rugby was present to ask permission to host a rugby tournament at the Benton soccer fields on June 21, 2025. USA Rugby has insurance to cover this event. He would also like to partner with Josh Grebner and hold a beer garden at this event. Josh confirmed that the same precautions would be taken as was discussed for setting up in the park for Tater Day weekend. Mayor Dotson said it will be discussed, and he will have an answer by his April 1 deadline.

Elizabeth Mudd, Kentucky Lake Economic Development Director, was present to give an overview of KLED and what they do. She reviewed the capital improvement projects and new jobs that have been brought to Marshall County over the last couple of years.

Wendy Baxter was present as Vice President of Marshall County Caring Needline. She gave a project update. The potential completion date of the upgraded facility is tentatively set for June 2025.

Nick and Lauren Gibson were present on behalf of the ag community. They were informed that a potential business license is set to be in place for locals who sell produce at the local farmers markets. Lauren explained the importance of our local farmers and farmers markets and hopes that adding a fee will not deter people from selling produce at the markets.

Drew Williams was present on behalf of Tater Day. He provided the schedule of events he has set up and a map of where Court Square vendors will be. He currently has between 50 – 60 vendors to be set up around Court Square.

City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of a business license ordinance. He reviewed the suggested amendments that included setting a price for the sale of farm products and garden vegetables. The proposal was \$25.00 annually for five (5) or less set-ups or \$50.00 annually to set up six (6) or more times. Mayor Dotson read a letter from Marshall County Conservation District that asked that there not be a fee for farmers market vendors or have Benton Partnership pay for them all under an umbrella license. After much discussion, Council agreed to set the price at \$30.00 for year for farmers market vendors.

Mayor Dotson read a resolution approving a contract with Purchase Area Development District for their professional services with the CDBG for Marshall County Caring Needline. A motion was made by Riley, seconded by Henton to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

A pay request for Marshall County Caring Needline in the amount of \$41,145.00 was received for the CDBG. A motion was made by Riley, seconded by Carr to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read a resolution setting April 2025 as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention month. A motion was made by Carr, seconded by Henton to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson has spoken with Marshall County School System Superintendent, Billy Thorpe, about partnering with Benton Elementary School and/or South Marshall Middle School to open as possible locations for storm shelters. Council agreed to allow her to proceed forward with approaching the Marshall County School Board on their thoughts.

Televised meetings were up for discussion again. Riley, Henton and Holland voted against televised meetings. Jestes, Farley, and Carr voted in favor of televised meetings. Mayor Dotson voted to approve televised meetings.

Spring cleaning date is set for April 14, 2025.

Mayor Dotson reviewed the department reports for February 2025.

A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Carr to approve the regular minutes of February 17, 2025. All agreed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Carr to move to Executive Session per KRS 61.810(b) for acquisition or sale of real property and KRS 61.810(c) for pending litigation. All agreed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Carr, seconded by Jestes to adjourn from Executive Session. All agreed. Motion carried.

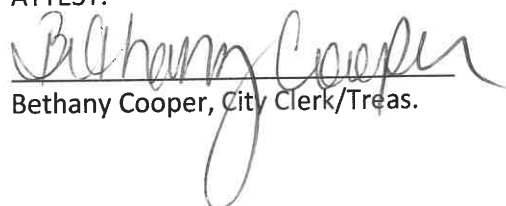
A motion was made by Henton, seconded by Holland to approve City Attorney Mattingly to bid up to \$5,000 at the upcoming foreclosure sale of 1310 Birch Street. All agreed. Motion carried.

Council all agreed to donate up to \$2,000 to Drew Williams to help cover Tater Day events.

There being no further business coming before the Council, meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

  
Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.