

**Regular Month Meeting
Benton City Council
May 17, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 5:00 P.M. at Benton City Hall by Mayor Rita Dotson. The Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer was given by Rob Mattingly.

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

Absent was Charles Edmonds.

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

A motion was made by S. Riley, seconded by A. Riley to approve the Comprehensive and Strategic Plans as recommended by Benton Planning and Zoning Commission. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly briefly discussed the cable franchise renewal. Linda Ain will be the legal representation again this year on this matter as she specializes in this area. He will work on setting up a conference call with Ms. Ain to explain the City's options.

Mayor Dotson discussed the participating agreement and read the resolution for the City to apply for funding through Delta Regional Authority (DRA) for West 6th Street sewer main improvements. A motion was made by Holland, seconded by A. Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of the General Fund Budget ordinance for 2021-2022.

City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of the Benton Water & Sewer Budget ordinance for 2021-2022.

City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of the Benton Gas Budget ordinance for 2021-2022.

City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of an ordinance amending the water and sewer rates. Water rates were increased by 1.4% per Cost of Living Adjustment set by Department for Local Government. This raised water to \$4.06/1000 gallons for inside city rates and \$5.07/1000 gallons for outside city rates. Sewer rates were increased to \$10.00/2000 gallons and \$6.50/1000 thereafter for inside city rates and \$18.00/2000 gallons and \$9.50/1000 thereafter for outside city rates.

City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of an ordinance setting compensation for Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustments to \$50.00 per attended meeting and not to exceed \$600.00 per year.

City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of an ordinance annexing a 3.98-acre parcel owned by Nelson and Rita Dotson located on Main Street into the city limits.

Police Chief Sanderson presented the police report for April. There were 10 cases, 27 collisions, 91 citation violations and 754 calls.

A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Holland to approve the regular minutes of April 19, 2021; special called meeting budget workshop minutes of May 4, 2021; special called meeting budget workshop minutes of May 5, 2021 and special called meeting budget workshop minutes of May 12, 2021. All agreed. Motion carried.

In Mayor/Council items:

Farley would like the city to look into recycling service. He also updated that he has talked to a few people about being on the Museum Board and possible donors.

Mayor Dotson discussed the idea of a possible skating rink at H.H. Lovett Park.

There being no further business to come before the Council, meeting adjourned at 6:02 P.M.

Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.