**Regular Month Meeting**

**Benton City Council**

**May 20, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, May 20, 2019 at 5:00 P.M. by Mayor Rita Dotson with the Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer by Zach Brien.

 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

 Wendy Baxter was present on behalf of Sullivan University for community outreach.

 Mayor Dotson asked for a motion to reappoint Larry Spears to the Benton Electric Plant Board for another 4 year term to expire 5/15/2023. A motion was made by Holland, seconded by S. Riley to approve the re-appointment. All agreed. Motion carried.

 Mayor Dotson asked for approval to advertise for paving bids. A motion was made by Edmonds, seconded by Murray to proceed with advertising. All agreed. Motion carried.

 Only one bid was received for replacing the valves for the high service pumps at the Water Treatment Plant. B.A.M.2, Inc. bid $69,470.00. A motion was made by A. Riley, seconded by S. Riley to approve the bid. All agreed. Motion carried.

 City Clerk/Treasurer Cooper discussed the current payroll tax rate and the proposed payroll tax rate increase that had previously been discussed in the General Fund’s budget workshop on May 9, 2019. The current payroll tax rate is 0.5% and the proposed rate is 0.6%. This rate would become effective on January 1, 2020. All Council agreed upon the rate increase. A first reading will be held at June’s regular monthly meeting.

 Mayor Dotson read the first reading of an ordinance for the General Fund budget for 2019-2020.

 Mayor Dotson read the first reading of an ordinance for the Benton Gas System budget for 2019-2020.

 Mayor Dotson read the first reading of an ordinance for the Benton Water & Sewer System budget for 2019-2020.

 City Attorney Brien read the first reading of an ordinance establishing a new R-4 Zone for small dwellings. The ordinance was sponsored by Murray.

 Mayor Dotson read the first reading of an ordinance increasing inside city water rates from $3.50/1000 gallons to $4.00/1000 gallons and the outside rate from $4.00/1000 gallons to $5.00/1000 gallons.

 City Attorney Brien read the first reading of an ordinance requiring suitable sidewalks to be installed for commercial development. The ordinance was sponsored by Farley.

 City Attorney Brien read the second reading of an ordinance repealing section 90.041 of the City of Benton’s Code of Ordinances which repeals the requirements of permitting for keeping large numbers of dogs and cats. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Holland to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

 City Attorney Brien read the second reading of an ordinance prohibiting grass clippings and yard debris on the streets and sidewalks. Cooper discussed certain situations that could be a danger for the homeowner when mowing in the direction of traffic. Council did not want to make any changes to the ordinance. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by S. Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

 City Attorney Brien read the first reading of an ordinance amending R-3 Zone. S. Riley sponsored the ordinance.

 Mayor Dotson mentioned that there are some residents in the Bent Creek, Merrywood and Wood Trace subdivision area that would like to close the roads to vehicle traffic on Halloween for the safety of everyone. Some concerns mentioned were parking and how to properly close the roads. Police Chief Hicks mentioned that it would be hard to close off because there are so many entrances. Mayor Dotson asked each Council to think of suggestions for June’s meeting.

 Police Chief Hicks presented the police report for April. There were 30 cases, 21 collisions, 23 citation violations and 316 calls for service. Hicks mentioned that they have hired a new police officer to replace Scott DeShields. Logan Hampton will be starting on June 10.

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

 A motion was made by Holland, seconded by S. Riley to approve the regular minutes of April 15, 2019, budget workshop minutes of May 1, 2019 and the budget workshop minutes of May 9, 2019. Murray opposed the approval of the May 9, 2019 minutes since she was absent. All others agreed to approve. Motion carried.

 A motion was made by A. Riley, seconded by Edmonds to adjourn to executive session to discuss litigation. All agreed. Motion carried.

 A motion was made by Edmonds, seconded by S. Riley to adjourn from executive session back into regular meeting. All agreed. Motion carried.

 In Mayor/Council items, Holland mentioned that he has had a citizen ask for the City to add a place for pickle ball somewhere at the park.

There being no further business to come before the Council, meeting adjourned at 5:50 P.M.

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 Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.