**Regular Month Meeting**

**Benton City Council**

**November 15, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, November 15, 2021 at 5:00 P.M. by Mayor Rita Dotson at Benton City Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer was given by Charles Edmonds.

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

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

 City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of an ordinance pertaining to storage container homes.

 City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances.

 City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of an ordinance pertaining to accessory structures.

 City Attorney Mattingly mentioned that he found KRS 96.539 that says cities should have policies in place for anyone who runs 100’ or more of water main to get a partial reimbursement. However, he has found no city that abides by this policy. He is still trying to get legal verification before drafting any type of policy. If this KRS is still in effect, there is no need in adding additional incentives. More information will be discussed later. Mayor Dotson had also reached out to some cities and all she found was that some offer economic development incentives, mostly for businesses.

 Mayor Dotson suggested reappointing Martie Wiles and Steven Moore to Benton Housing Authority Board upon their recent expired term. A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Farley to re-appoint for another 4-year term. All agreed. Motion carried.

 Mayor Dotson reviewed the Symsonia Highway Waterline Replacement Project and gave some recent figures she received. It is expected for this project to cost over $3,000,000. The USDA loan/grant we have been working for since early 2020 is still not finalized. The interest rate is currently at 1.75% and the grant portion has lowered to 10% with doubts of receiving anything. An estimated monthly payment was figured on 25 and 30 years. Discussion was had on what should be added to those customers in routes 11 and 12. No decision was made at this meeting.

 Mayor Dotson read a letter from Merryman House explaining that they are receiving funding reductions beginning this year of approximately $150,000. They have reached out requesting consideration for some of the city’s ARPA funds be allocated to them. Farley would like to reach out to Marshall County Fiscal Court and Calvert City first to see what they plan to do. Mayor Dotson will reach out to them, as well as Hardin, via email and a decision can be made at a later meeting.

 Police Chief Sanderson presented the police report for October. There were 12 cases, 20 collisions, 84 citations and 845 calls to service.

 A motion was made by Farley, seconded by S. Riley to approve the regular and special called minutes of October 18, 2021; the special called minutes of October 27, 2021 and the special called minutes of November 4, 2021. All agreed. Motion carried.

 In Mayor/Council items, Holland gave an update from Benton Electric System Board meeting and they will be installing automated meters soon. Benton Gas Committee meeting met to update on the status of the new gas main installation and it is half complete.

 Mayor Dotson discussed Tater Day. It was decided to leave on the first Monday in April.

There being no further business to come before the Council, meeting adjourned.

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 Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.