

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

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, November 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, Butch Holland, and Guy Henton. Absent were Ann Riley and Darryl Carr.

Other staff present were Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer; Rob Mattingly, City Attorney; Stephen Sanderson, Police Chief; Harry Green, Fire Chief; Chris Young, Gas Manager, and Tyler Coursey, Police Officer.

Mayor Dotson mentioned there is a resident who owns property at the back of Pebblebrook subdivision that would like to tap on to city sewer. This subdivision is not within city limits, however, sewer runs down this road from years ago when the subdivision was developed. Our current ordinance does not allow anyone outside city limits to hook to city sewer any longer. This property owner wants to annex but none of the surrounding property owners will annex to allow him to. It was discussed if the Council would like to offer an exception to our current ordinance. After much discussion, it was decided for City Attorney Mattingly to draft an ordinance with language to see if they would like to proceed.

Chief Sanderson presented the police report for October. Chris Young presented the gas report for October. Mayor Dotson presented the October reports for fire department, water department and maintenance department. Chief Green mentioned that the new fire truck is expected to be delivered November 24.

A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Farley to approve a resolution to sell the 1993 International fire truck to City of Wingo for \$20,000. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of an ordinance pertaining to the exterior storage of vehicles.

A motion was made by Jestes, seconded by Farley to approve the regular minutes of October 20, 2025. All agreed. Motion carried.

In Mayor items, Mayor Dotson met with Ross Lampert and Leslie Taylor from Benton Electric System today. They plan to begin changing all streetlights to LED fixtures and have completed in the next 6 months. This will cost approximately \$450,000 but will save nearly \$60,000 per year in electric bills. These new light heads have a 10-year warranty. Council approved to move forward. Bethany will check the budget and provide a budget amendment at next regular meeting.

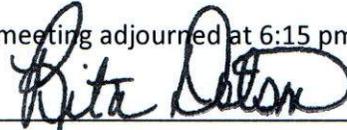
A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Jestes to move to executive session per KRS 61.810(1)(c) for discussion on proposed pending litigation against or on behalf of the public agency. All agreed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Jestes, seconded by Farley to adjourn from executive session. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly requested approval to bid up to \$6,000 on foreclosed property located at 1407 Walnut Street on December 4, 2025. A motion was made by Jestes, seconded by Farley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Jestes, seconded by Holland to authorize City Attorney Mattingly to file foreclosure litigation on a vacant lot on West 6th Street and 602 Maple Street, both owned by Rickie D. Freeman. Both properties have multiple code fines, and he has had no luck with correspondence. All agreed. Motion carried.

There being no further business coming before the Council meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.



Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.