

**Regular Month Meeting
Benton City Council
November 20, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, November 20, 2023 at 5:00 P.M. at Benton City Hall. Mayor Rita Dotson presided and called the meeting to order. Pledge of Allegiance was said and prayer was offered by Kevin Farley.

Council members present were Laura Craynon, Kevin Farley, Ann Riley, Rita Murray, Guy Henton and Butch Holland.

Other staff present were Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer; Rob Mattingly, City Attorney, Stephen Sanderson, Police Chief and Todd Riley, Gas Manager.

City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 91: Streets and Sidewalks of the City of Benton's Code of Ordinances.

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of an ordinance awarding the franchise for the collection of residential solid waste.

The following bids for Symsonia Highway Waterline Replacement were received:

Revell Construction	\$1,695,815.50
Youngblood Excavating	\$1,699,564.00
Murtco	\$1,803,005.82

A motion was made by Farley to accept the bid from Revell Construction. No second. A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Riley to accept the bid from Murtco. Farley opposed. All others agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson explained an outside city limit sewer connection issue that has occurred. Frankie Treas, who owns 49 Main Street and the buildings surrounding that currently has water and sewer service in two of those units. He would like water and sewer in another unit. However, in September the Council voted to not allow outside city limit sewer taps. Mayor Dotson asked the Council for an exception on this since he currently has water and sewer at the surrounding buildings. City Attorney Mattingly suggests that an amendment be made to the ordinance to allow for City Council exceptions on a case by case basis. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Murray to allow City Attorney Mattingly to amend this language. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson mentioned that the Marshall County Art's Commission would like to eventually expand their current building out towards Poplar Street and our Kindness Park. They have asked the City to allow use of that land but a survey needs to be done to abolish the lot lines. A motion was made by Henton, seconded by Farley to allow Marshall County Art's Commission to use a portion of that land behind the current building for future building needs. All agreed. Motion carried. The Council also agreed to pay for the survey to abolish these lot lines.

Mayor Dotson asked the Council to consider donating to help get the First Responder's Park project started. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Craynon to donate \$5,000 from General Fund Reserve Contingency to 1st Responder Plaza. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read a Municipal Order on a return to work policy. A motion was made by Craynon, seconded by Henton to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Chief Sanderson presented the police report for October. There were 12 cases, 15 collisions, 57 citation violations and 738 calls for service.

A motion was made by Riley, seconded by Craynon to approve the regular minutes of October 16, 2023 and the special called minutes of October 25, 2023. All agreed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Craynon to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss potential litigation. All agreed. Motion carried.

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

There being no further business to come before the Council, meeting adjourned at 6:14 pm.

Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.