

**Regular Month Meeting
Benton City Council
November 21, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, November 21, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. at Benton City Hall. Mayor Dotson presided and called the meeting to order. Pledge of Allegiance and prayer was offered by Butch Holland.

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

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

Blake Anderson, Newcomb Oil, followed up a few weeks ago with a street name recommendation for the newly acquired city street running between Five Star and Tractor Supply. He would like the Council to consider Nina Dean Drive after his mother. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Murray to approve. All agreed. Motion carried. City Attorney Mattingly will prepare the proper paperwork.

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of an ordinance on the intent to annex Riverside Drive into Benton City limits. He sent out the proper notices to all adjacent property owners giving them 14 days-notice of this meeting. No responses were received and no one was in attendance. A motion was made by S. Riley, seconded by Murray to approve. All agreed. Motion carried. City Attorney Mattingly will reach out to start the surveying process.

Mayor Dotson read a Municipal Order adding the following exception to the overtime section of the employee's personnel handbook: "**Exception** – if an employee is called into work for an after-hours emergency water main break, gas main break, or natural disaster, all hours worked during that emergency will be considered at time-and-one half, even if the employee has not actually worked 40 hours in the workweek because of vacation or sick time use. Disclaimer: This provision will not apply when federal and state grant preclude the payment of overtime, which may prevent the city from obtaining the specific grant." After much discussion, a vote was taken. Holland, Murray and A. Riley voted to approve. S. Riley, Farley and Edmonds voted against. With the tie, Mayor Dotson voted to approve the Municipal Order.

Mayor Dotson asked the Council their opinion on a mural being painted on the side of the park maintenance building on Park Avenue. Bethany Cooper, on behalf of Benton Partnership, explained that Benton Partnership has began discussion on adding murals throughout the town, hoping to start with the side of the Republican Headquarters building at 12th and Poplar Streets. Someone in the committee recommended a mural on this side of the park maintenance building since our park is being built up so much with the new addition of the well-attended pickle ball courts. No decision was made.

Chief Sanderson presented the police report October. There were 20 cases, 16 collisions, 151 citation violations and 1039 calls for service.

A motion was made by A. Riley, seconded by Holland to approve the regular minutes of October 17, 2022; special called minutes of November 1, 2022; special called minutes of November 2, 2022 and special called minutes of November 9, 2022. All agreed. Motion carried.

In Mayor/Council items:

Holland was approached by the pickle ball players of the possibility of them using the community building during the winter to play. Mayor Dotson spoke with them also. They would bring their own portable net and take down after each game but they would have to tape down the floor to make their court. Cooper explained that renters that rent to practice basketball are allowed to use it up to 2 hours for \$25. Council agreed to allow the pickle ball players to rent up to 2 hours for \$25.00 and \$40.00 for 3 hours.

S. Riley was approached by someone building a new home on Lynn Nelson Road of the possibility of putting a camper on their property to live in while building. City Attorney Mattingly addressed that it was allowed under our current planning and zoning ordinance.

A. Riley reminded everyone of the new Candyland addition to the Christmas festival this year that will be located at the new gardens of Marshall County Arts Center. She also announced the New Year's Eve Party that Marshall County Art Center will be hosting on New Year's Even at Kentucky Dam.

Farley was approached by Marty Barrett to see if the City is interested in purchasing his building at 1209 Poplar Street. Price was discussed. Mayor Dotson did mention that it will be difficult to tear down since it is attached to the other buildings and will pose a big liability. She will check into pricing of tearing the building down and revisit the discussion at a future meeting.

Mayor Dotson discussed some changes to the 6th Street Sewer Project currently in progress. The proposed addition is \$23,032.00 but will eliminate 3 manholes, remove a creek crossing and remove an unnecessary sewer later. Council all agreed to move forward with the additional improvements.

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

Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.