

Regular Month Meeting
Benton City Council
October 15, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, October 15, 2018 at 5:00 P.M. by Mayor Rita Dotson with the Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer by Butch Holland.

Council Members Present:

Chris Smithmier	Charles Edmonds
Sherra Riley via video call	Justin Lamb
Rita Murray	Butch Holland

Other Staff Present:

Zach Brien, City Atty	Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas
Todd Riley, Gas Mgr	Harry Green, Fire Chief

City Attorney Brien read a resolution in memory and honoring Duane Hawes for his service on Benton Fire Department. A motion was made by Smithmier, seconded by Edmonds to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Brien read the second reading of an ordinance amending section 73.01 of the City of Benton's Code of Ordinances to allow bicycles on sidewalks and establishing the right of way between pedestrians and bicycles. A motion was made by Smithmier, seconded by Lamb to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Brien read an amendment to Municipal Order 18-09-01 addressing minor changes to Dress Code and Hygiene section, Social Media section and Compensatory Time section. A motion was made by Edmonds, seconded by Holland to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Brien read an addition to the Benton Police Department's Standard Operating Procedures to include a section for Compensatory Time for Police Officers. A motion was made by Murray, seconded by Edmonds to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read the bids received for water plant upgrades:

Rick's Electric - \$231,800
Apex Engineering - \$272,300

A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Murray to accept the low bid of Rick's Electric. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Brien updated the Council regarding the Strategic Plan Committee's work on getting walking and biking paths through Benton. The first path is suggested to go along a portion of the old railroad bed from behind Marshall County Co-op to the Clarks River Refuge off Highway 408. Brien explained that the deed history on the railroad bed is complicated. He has spoken with most of the adjoining property owners and they are okay with releasing their interest, if they have any, to the City. Brien would like to accept deeds from the adjacent property owners to clear things up and make sure the city is protected before a walking/bike trail begins. A motion was made by Edmonds, seconded by Smithmier to proceed. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson announced that the Halloween curfew is set for 10:00 P.M. Riley had mentioned that she had a citizen ask if the date for trick-or-treating could be changed since it falls on a church night. All agreed that it was too late to make that decision and get all other cities on board.

Mayor Dotson read a letter from the Clarks River Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution. This year is the Centennial of the Armistice that ended World War I. They are asking for donations to buy an ad to recognize every name of WWI veterans from Marshall County and publish during the week of Veterans Day. All extra monies they receive above the cost of the ad will be donated to Marshall County Veteran's Plaza at Mike Miller Park. A motion was made by Lamb, seconded by Edmonds to donate \$100.00 to this ad. All agreed. Motion carried.

In the absence of Chief Hicks, Mayor Dotson read the police report for September. There were 17 cases, 9 collisions, 33 citation violations and 428 calls to service.

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

A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Lamb to approve the special called minutes of September 24, 2018. All agreed. Motion carried.

In Mayor/Council items, Mayor Dotson confirmed that there is not a \$40 million grant available through USDA. She said that a council candidate had been informed there was but she called them to confirm. USDA was not notified in time about the \$40 million to let organizations know.

Mayor Dotson mentioned that Riverwoods Church is having their annual fall festival on October 20, 2018 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and will need 11th Street closed.

The Kindness Mural work started today and should be painted by the end of the week.

Exceptional Sunday at Marshall County Exceptional Center is Sunday, October 21 from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.

South Marshall Middle School government class will be at City Hall on Friday, October 19 to learn about City government. Mayor Dotson invited City Attorney and Council to come speak about their roles.

Edmonds asked for an update on the Southwest One project. Mayor Dotson said there is no new information at this time.

Smithmier asked the status of the repair to Wedge Drive and the repairs to West 9th Street from the sewer work. Wedge Drive will start tomorrow and the road repairs from the sewer project should be complete by the end of this week.

Murray stated that there are some large potholes on Walnut Street behind the old Benton Middle School that needs to be filled.

There being no further business to come before the Council, meeting adjourned at 5:38 P.M.

Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.