**Regular Month Meeting**

**Benton City Council**

**October 18, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, October 18, 2021 at 5:00 P.M. by Mayor Rita Dotson at Benton City Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer was given by Kevin Farley.

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; and Todd Riley, Gas Mgr.

Hugh Freeman, 926 Pine Street, was present regarding a zoning violation that he received regarding a storage trailer at his property. At the time of writing the letter, City Attorney Mattingly was told that it was a storage trailer. After speaking with Mr. Freeman and seeing pictures that he sent, it is considered a storage container, not trailer. Our current City ordinance does not specify storage containers, only trailers. He has agreed to paint the trailer and make it more presentable. He also has plans to place a 6’ fence around it. Mr. Freeman was also cited for the trailer being too close to the property line and he wasn’t aware of the distance requirements and will get that moved. He was given 90 days to get it all taken care of and he agreed that was enough time.

Mike Conroy, owner of 195 Beechwood, was present to discuss flooding issues at his building. He would like to know who owns the property directly behind his property. He has talked with City Attorney Mattingly, spoken to someone with the County and also with District 1. Marshall County PVA maps do not show this property listed in anyone’s name and no entity is claiming ownership. Mr. Conroy claims there is a culvert near his building that was put in during Steve Cary’s term as Mayor that is plugged up. Mayor Dotson will have that checked to clean out.

City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of a zone change ordinance for 212 E. 13th Street from C-1 to R-3.

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of an ordinance amending the business license penalties for failure to comply. A motion was made by S. Riley, seconded by Edmonds to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of an ordinance annexing a 2.42-acre property owned by Nelson Douglas and Rita C. Dotson and located West of US 641 (Main Street) into city limits. A motion was made by Holland, seconded by S. Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson was approached by Charlie Brien to request the Council approve a sign be put up honoring Cade Flatt for winning the state title in the 800-meter race for Marshall County High School. Council agreed and a location will be decided.

Mayor Dotson presented the police report for September. There were 15 cases, 20 collisions, 84 citations and 669 calls to service.

A motion was made by A. Riley, seconded by Edmonds to approve the regular minutes of September 20, 2021. All agreed. Motion carried.

In Mayor/Council items, Farley, S. Riley and Holland are all concerned about the increased number of golf carts on the roads and especially seeing young kids driving them. Mayor Dotson will set up a meeting with local law enforcement to pursue.

With the discussion of roadway ownership at the Southwest One meeting early in the day, City Attorney Mattingly informed the Council of the statute that pertains to street ownership: has to be within city limits and used for 5 years; plat approval by Planning and Zoning Commission for subdivisions or plat presented to legislative body (Council) to decide if it would be beneficial to the City. City Attorney Mattingly will follow up with County Attorney Darnall and how to proceed with the roadway(s) within Southwest One Industrial Park.

A motion was made by S. Riley, seconded by Holland to adjourn to executive session to discuss property acquisition.

A motion was made by S. Riley, seconded by Farley to adjourn executive session.

There being no further business to come before the Council, meeting adjourned at 7:05 P.M.

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Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.