**Regular Month Meeting**

**Benton City Council**

**September 20, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, September 20, 2021 at 5:00 P.M. by Mayor Rita Dotson. This meeting was held via Zoom video conference. The Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer was given by Butch Holland.

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; Todd Riley, Gas Mgr. and Stephen Sanderson, Police Chief

Guests present were Loyd Ford with The Lake News, Areia with Marshall County Tribune Courier and Kevin Spraggs, Marshall County Commissioner.

City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of an ordinance amending penalties for business licenses. After 30 days delinquency, there will be a 10% penalty, 30% penalty after 60 days and a 50% penalty after 90 days.

City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of an ordinance annexing property owned by Nelson and Rita Dotson into the City. This property was annexed a few months back but there were errors that needed to be corrected before sending back to Kentucky Secretary of State’s Office.

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of an ordinance specifying that sewer clean-outs that are installed must be at least 4” in diameter. A motion was made by A. Riley, seconded by Edmonds to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of an ordinance establishing the revenue and taxation rates for 2021. Real property rate is set at 22.1 cents per $100 of assessed value, personal property is set at 34.59 cents per $100 of assessed value and vehicle rate is set at 24 cents per $100 of assessed value. A motion was made by Edmonds, seconded by Holland to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of an ordinance increasing the number of Board of Adjustment members from three (3) to five (5). A motion was made by Edmonds, seconded by Farley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson proposed Curtis Allen and Grant Willoughby as the two new members of Board of Adjustments. A motion was made by Murray, seconded by Edmonds to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of an ordinance setting a tax rate of 75 cents per $100 of assessed value to abandoned property. A motion was made by Murray, seconded by A. Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of an ordinance amending the zoning map for a change in the zoning classification for properties located on the block between 10th and 11th Streets and Poplar and Elm Streets from a mixed classification of C-1 and R-3 to the entire block being zone C-1. A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Edmonds to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read a resolution to allow for some of the Benton Police Department’s evidence to be put up at public auction as police surplus property. Since several tools were on the list of property, it was decided to allow Maintenance Department look through them to see if there is anything they need before auctioning them. A motion was made by S. Riley, seconded by Edmonds to approve the resolution and contingent on being amended after Maintenance Department has a chance to look at the items. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly mentioned that he is working on updating the city’s noise ordinance. He is checking with County Attorney Darnall along with the Marshall County Sheriff’s Department and Benton Police Department on recommendations.

With Halloween falling on Sunday of this year, it was decided to keep trick-or-treating on the actual day it falls rather than move to Saturday. Moving the day causes confusion and possible trick-or-treating occurring on both nights. Curfew was set for 10:00 pm.

Fall clean-up day was set for October 11.

Chief Sanderson presented the police report for August.

A motion was made by Holland, seconded by A. Riley to approve the regular minutes of August 16, 2021 and the special called minutes of September 14, 2021. All agreed. Motion carried.

In Mayor/Council items, A. Riley gave an update on Saturday’s Farm to Fork event sponsored by Benton Partnership.

Mayor Dotson set a planning committee to add pickle ball courts to the park. Holland is on the committee and they are in the planning phases. Two courts will be built near the entrance of Park Avenue and East 14th Streets. Benton Gas System has donated the funds to build these courts.

Mayor Dotson updated the Council on the plans to use the ARPA funds. Jackie Way lift station will be replaced and the estimated cost is $274,000. She would like to use some of the funds to replace AC water lines on Sycamore from 14th Street to 18th Street and to replace cast iron line on Olive Street from 6th Street to 14th Street.

Kindness Park dedication is set for October 1 at 12:00 pm.

Golf carts are becoming an issue throughout town with young children being seen driving them. Mayor Dotson is going to get with Chief Sanderson and City Attorney Mattingly to come up with a plan on how to proceed.

Mayor Dotson has been contacted numerous times about vulgar decals on vehicles in town. She has addressed this issue with City Attorney Mattingly, County Attorney Darnall and KLC legal staff and there is nothing the city can do about it as it will infringe on their first amendment rights.

There being no further business to come before the Council, meeting adjourned at 6:08 P.M.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.