

**Regular Month Meeting
Benton City Council
April 15, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, April 15, 2024 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 Butch Holland.

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

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

The owners of JoJo's Café were present regarding the proposed restaurant tax that was discussed at the last meeting. Mayor Dotson voiced that this item wasn't on the agenda. They just wanted to express their concern since most of their customers are locals and they do not want more taxes added to their customers. Craig Manley with Four Pigs Restaurant attended as well with the same concerns.

Mayor Dotson read a proclamation proclaiming the month of May as Building Safety Month. A motion was made by Riley, seconded by Craynon to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

A cable franchise bid was received by Windstream as it was mandatory to do work in Benton. Windstream didn't bid last April with the others as required. City Attorney Mattingly explained that this is a non-exclusive franchise agreement required to work in Benton. A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Riley to approve. All agree. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly will draft an ordinance for vacant property registration for Council to look over at the next regular meeting.

Medical cannabis was discussed. All Council present with the exception of Riley voted for City Attorney Mattingly to draft an ordinance with rules and regulations to allow the sale of medical cannabis within Benton's city limits. The first reading will be set for July meeting.

City Attorney Mattingly explained that our current sign ordinance covers right-of-way signage and it just needs to be enforced. No signs can be placed in the right-of-way except for official signs approved by Department of Highways. No signs can be attached to utility poles either.

City Attorney address some issues with businesses that haven't paid their current business license yet. Council wants the Police Department to hand deliver a final notice this week.

Mayor Dotson read a proclamation observing May 5 – 11, 2024 as Professional Municipal Clerks' Week. A motion was made by Riley, seconded by Henton to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read a resolution declaring the following items as surplus property that have been in holding by Benton Police Department in excess of 90 days with no one asserting a claim of ownership.

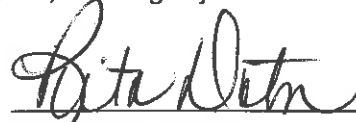
Bushnell Sporting Scope
Stealth Cam Digital Night Vision
UTG Flashlight
4-AR 5.56 Mags
Samsung Phone
93 Rounds 5.56 Blackout Ammo
2018 Chrysler 300

Benton Police Department has also requested all items except the 2018 Chrysler 300 be forfeited to them for use in the department. The vehicle will be listed on GovDeals surplus website. A motion was made by Craynon, seconded by Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Police Chief Sanderson presented the police report for March 2024. There were 12 cases opened, 15 collisions, 92 citation violations and 906 calls to service.

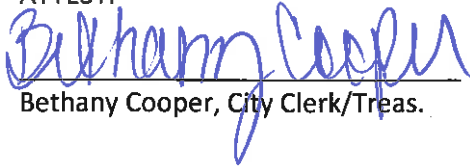
A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Henton to approve the special called minutes of March 12, 2024 and April 2, 2024. All agreed. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Council, meeting adjourned at 5:51 pm.



Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.