

**Regular Month Meeting
Benton City Council
August 17, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, August 17, 2020 at 5:00 P.M. by Mayor Rita Dotson with the Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer by Rob Mattingly. This meeting took place via Zoom video conferencing.

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

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

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of an ordinance creating a Code Enforcement Board and repealing Ordinance No. 16-12-02. A motion was made by S. Riley and seconded by Holland to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson updated everyone on the status of the USDA loan/grant for the Symsonia Highway Waterline Replacement Project. Mayor Dotson and City Clerk Cooper were recently made aware that the City will be responsible for coming up with 80% of the funding up front which was never disclosed in past meetings with USDA officials. Benton Gas is willing to loan the money up front but Mayor Dotson doesn't want to see them lose the interest they are earning on those funds. Once more information is brought forward, the City may need to decide to move away from the USDA program and go with local funding or line of credit.

Police Chief Sanderson presented the police report for July. There were 927 calls to service, 21 collisions, 32 citation violations and 17 cases.

A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Murray to approve the regular minutes of July 20, 2020 and the special called minutes of July 31, 2020. All agreed. Motion carried.

In Mayor items, Mayor Dotson announced that Utility Gas Management paid over \$7,000 worth of medical bills for citizens in Marshall County due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor Dotson also mentioned that the City has received \$226,890 of CARES funding as of last week.

Bobbie Bryant with KLC was present on Zoom also and she gave an update that she met with Josh Tubbs, Utility Supervisors and Benton Partnership today as part of the Comprehensive Plan. The next set of meetings will be in mid-September.

There being no further business to come before the Council, meeting adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.