

**Regular Month Meeting
Benton City Council
December 17, 2018**

The regular monthly meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, December 17, 2018 at 4:00 P.M. by Mayor Rita Dotson with the Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer by Zach Brien.

Council Members Present:

Chris Smithmier	Charles Edmonds
Sherra Riley	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
Jeromy Hicks, Police Chief	

Keith and Joan Travis were present to thank the City for repairing Wedge Drive and bragged on the employees for doing it in such a professional manner.

Mayor Dotson presented the following bid received on the armored vehicle:

Lenco Inc.	\$279,334.00
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Smithmier asked why the Police Department needed an armored vehicle in our small town. Chief Hicks responded that after the January 2018 school shooting, KY Department of Homeland Security had contacted them and asked what they needed. They were told to apply for the grant of anything they might need. Hicks explained that the vehicle will be used by SWAT which is a joint City/County team. Smithmier also asked where the vehicle would be stored. Hicks said that currently the Fire Department has an empty bay that it can be kept in. Smithmier was concerned about the cost to insure the vehicle and Hicks said it would be paid by the City. He did not like that City taxpayers would be out money for a vehicle that may never be used.

Murray asked if neighboring counties would be able to use the vehicle. Hicks stated that they would as long as each department has an interlocal agreement between them.

A motion was made by Murray, seconded by Holland to approve the bid of \$279,334.00 to purchase the armored vehicle. Smithmier voted no and all others voted yes. Motion carried.

City Attorney Brien read the first reading of an ordinance increase the fees of running gas mains and service lines.

City Attorney Brien read a recommendation from Planning & Zoning Board to change 701 Olive Street, owned by Doug and Rita Dotson, from R-3 to C-2 zone. A motion was made by Riley, seconded by Holland to approve the recommendation. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson recommended Bethany Cooper to serve on the Industrial Development Authority Board beginning January 1, 2019 when she steps down. A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Lamb to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson recommended Scott Jaco to fill Debbie Dowdy's expiring term on the Benton Housing Authority Board. Dowdy's term expires December 20, 2018. A motion was made by Murray, seconded by Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Police Chief Hicks presented the police report for November. There were 15 cases, 22 collisions, 41 citation violations and 415 calls to service.

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

A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Lamb to approve the regular minutes of November 19, 2018. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson announced that Danny Cotham is the new Assistant Fire Chief. Cotham has served on the Benton Fire Department for 21 years.

In Mayor/Council items:

Lamb thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve City of Benton for the last two years on Benton City Council.

Holland has had citizen complaints about semi-trucks using their jake breaks on Highway 641. Mayor Dotson said the state does not want to put up signs for this but she will contact them again to see if anything can be done. Brien commented that he will look into it more also.

A motion was made by Edmonds, seconded by Lamb to adjourn to executive session to discuss litigation. All agreed. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Council after executive session, meeting adjourned at 4:35 P.M.

Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.