

**Regular Month Meeting
Benton City Council
June 16, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, June 15, 2026, at 5:00 P.M. at Benton City Hall. Mayor Rita Dotson presided and called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was said, and prayer was offered by Chris Young.

Council members present were Sylvia Jestes, Butch Holland, Ann Riley, Guy Henton, and Laura Craynon.

Other staff present were Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer; Stephen Sanderson, Police Chief; Rob Mattingly, City Attorney; Tyler Coursey, Police Officer, and Chris Young, Gas Manager.

Mayor Dotson opened the floor for recommendations from the council to fill the empty council seat. Jestes recommended Drew Williams or Tanara Babcock. Tanara was present and gave an overview of her past public service. A motion was made by Jestes, seconded by Holland to appoint Tanara Babcock to the empty council seat. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read an executive order to reappoint Jeff Smith to Board of Adjustments for the term August 1, 2026 to August 1, 2030. A motion was made by Jestes, seconded by Henton to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read an executive order to reappoint Travis Terrell to Code of Ethics Board for the term July 1, 2026 to July 1, 2029. A motion was made by Craynon, seconded by Jestes to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read an executive order to reappoint Peyton Porter to Code Enforcement Board for the term July 1, 2026 to July 1, 2029. A motion was made by Jestes, seconded by Henton to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read an executive order to reappoint Martie Wiles to Benton Housing Board with the term November 15 2025 to November 15, 2029; and to reappoint John Solomon to Benton Housing Board with the term December 17, 2022 to December 17, 2026. A motion was made by Jestes, seconded by Craynon to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read the second reading of the City of Benton General Fund Budget for FY 2026-2027. A motion was made by Riley, seconded by Henton to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read the second reading of the Benton Water & Sewer Budget for FY 2026-2027. A motion was made by Henton, seconded by Jestes to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read the second reading of the Benton Gas System Budget for FY 2026-2027. A motion was made by Henton, seconded by Jestes to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of an ordinance amending Planning and Zoning ordinance section on Planned Developments.

City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of an ordinance amending Planning and Zoning ordinance section on R3 Density Requirements.

City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of an ordinance amending Planning and Zoning ordinance section on Building and Zoning Permits.

City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of an ordinance amending Planning and Zoning ordinance section on Accessory Structures.

Mayor Dotson read a resolution authorizing Mayor to sign Supplemental 3 agreement for the Benton Sidewalk Project. A motion was made by Riley, seconded by Henton to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

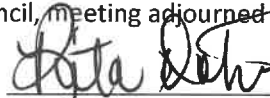
Mayor Dotson asked the Council their final decision regarding golf carts on City streets. A motion was made by Jestes to pass an ordinance allowing golf carts on City streets of Benton. Motion died for lack of a second.

A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Henton to approve the regular minutes of April 20, 2026; special called minutes of May 28, 2026; and the special called minutes of May 29, 2026. All agreed. Motion carried.

Chief Sanderson gave a department report for Benton Police Department for May. Chris Young gave a report for Benton Gas System for May and Mayor Dotson gave reports for Benton Fire Department, Benton Maintenance/Water/Sewer Departments for May.

Meeting adjourned initially at 5:47 p.m. However, it was noticed that Tanara Babcock had misspoke about the time of her residency in Benton. She moved to Benton in December 2025, not 2024. With this, she was not eligible for Council position since she did not meet the one-year requirement to live in city limits of Benton. Meeting reconvened. Jestes made a motion to appoint Drew Williams to empty council seat. Motion died for lack of second. A motion was made by Riley, seconded by Henton to appoint Brenda Edwards. All agreed except Jestes. Motion carried.

There being no further business coming before the Council, meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.


Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.