

**Regular Month Meeting
Benton City Council
March 18, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, March 18, 2019 at 5:00 P.M. by Mayor Rita Dotson with the Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer by Butch Holland.

Council Members Present:

Ann Riley	Charles Edmonds
Sherra Riley	Kevin Farley
Rita Murray	Butch Holland

Other Staff Present:

Brooke Chappell, Admin Asst	Zach Brien, City Atty
Jeromy Hicks, Police Chief	Harry Green, Fire Chief

City Attorney Brien read the second reading of the ordinance amending the effective period for temporary business permits to five days or less. A motion was made by Edmonds, seconded by S. Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson asked for a motion to close the Depreciation checking account and move the funds to the Sewer Maintenance checking account. The balance as of 2/28/2019 was \$94,853.73. The Depreciation account was formed several years ago as a condition of one of the City's bonds. We now only have one bond still active and it does not have a condition for this account. City Clerk, Bethany Cooper verified this information with Hilliard Lyons. A motion was made by Murray, seconded by A. Riley to close the Depreciation account and move funds to Sewer Maintenance account. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson asked for a motion to close the Bond 1999 checking account. This bond was for the water plant and the final payment was made this month. Approximate balance in the account is \$31,895.00. The monthly payment that was set aside was \$18,260.00. It is recommended to continue transferring this payment each month and split between the Water Maintenance checking account and Sewer Maintenance checking account. Funds in the Sewer Maintenance account will be used for sludge removal at WWTP and sewer manhole work near Eyecare Associates on West 5th Street. Funds in the Water Maintenance account will be used to make the payment to reimburse City of Benton and Benton Gas for their loans on the Main Street Water Line Replacement project coming up this year. A motion was made by Edmonds, seconded by S. Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson opened discussion on regulations for tiny houses. City Attorney Brien said this is an issue that has been discussed with Planning & Zoning. They want to protect property owners, value of properties and that the growth of the city is done in an organized fashion. There is currently no regulations in the Zoning Ordinance to regulate the size of houses. Planning and Zoning will soon be making recommendations to City Council. They are discussing to only allow for conditional use in R3 zones but they don't want to chance the houses being clustered in R3 zones. City Attorney Brien wants the Council to be thinking about these issues for when Planning and Zoning makes their recommendation.

Rita Murray asked the size of a tiny house. Brien said according to Building Code it is 400 square feet or less. She was concerned about people purchasing storage sheds and living in them. Brien said that the current Zoning Ordinance does reference living in accessory buildings. He did, however, comment that there are square footage requirements in certain zones.

Mayor Dotson asked if Brien had checked with other surrounding areas on what they are doing. He has talked with a couple of attorneys in Central Kentucky. He said most haven't done anything specifically but are falling back on Residential Building Code. He said that is fine but we need to specify where we will allow them.

Mayor Dotson expressed her fear that the owner will leave the tiny home, it becoming abandoned and then become responsibility of the City to handle.

Police Chief Jeromy Hicks presented the police report for February. There were 15 cases, 15 collisions, 9 citation violations and 322 calls for service.

A motion was made by Farley, seconded by S. Riley to approve payroll and invoices. All agreed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Murray to approve the regular minutes of February 18, 2019 and the special called minutes of March 14, 2019. All agreed. Motion carried.

In Mayor and Council items, Mayor Dotson mentioned that Daniel Crawley with First Baptist Church has 30 youth who would like to do volunteer work around town. They are going to clean up some of the sidewalks, clean up at the park and may paint the red building near the Kindness mural if we can get permission from the property owner.

Mayor Dotson also reminded everyone of spring clean-up days for April 15-18.

The Tater Day parade will start at West 5th Street and go to West 14th Street then back up Poplar Street.

Tiffany Fralix, on behalf of CASA, has asked Mayor Dotson to read a letter to Council about child advocacy. They are having a banquet on April 18 at Yates Center in Murray, KY and have asked City of Benton to purchase a table for \$600.00. All Council agreed to purchase.

Kevin Farley followed up with Monti Collins about the animal control situation and they are meeting on Thursday, March 21 at 10:00 A.M. at the Animal Shelter.

Ann Riley asked Laura with Master Gardners to speak about beautification in City of Benton. Gene Gilliland has contacted her about ideas. She would like specifications. Ann mentioned that Gene wants to start with Court Square with little, to no maintenance ideas around the square. Laura asked if there was any way to get a water supply that goes around the City. Mayor Dotson said she could check on this when the Main Street Water Line project begins and see if there is a way to tap onto the line for an irrigation system. Mayor Dotson would like all the corner curb planters beautified.

Rita Murray expressed her concern about the house Pine Street that is falling down and needs to be taped off. Harry Green said he would put tape around it. They are currently waiting on Chambers and Sons to tear the house down.

Sherra Riley asked if the City can post on its website each board the City is over, who serves on the boards, terms, if there is any pay and how to be appointed to the boards. Mayor Dotson will get with City Clerk to get these added.

There being no further business to come before the Council, meeting adjourned at 5:50 P.M.

Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.