

**Regular Month Meeting
Benton City Council
May 18, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, May 18, 2020 at 5:00 P.M. by Mayor Rita Dotson with the opening prayer by Butch Holland. This meeting was conducted via Zoom video conference.

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

Other Staff Present: Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer; Rob Mattingly, City Attorney; Todd Riley, Gas Mgr; Stephen Sanderson, Police Chief, Harry Green, Fire Chief; Randy Wood and Danny Cotham, Fire Chief Assistants.

Guest was Gracie Harrington, reporter with The Lake News.

City Clerk Cooper read a resolution to accept a list of roads as the city road system. Council decided they would like more time to look over the list of roads so resolution was put on hold.

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of the ordinance annexing South Marshall Middle School property into the city limits of Benton. Mattingly also mentioned that their occupational license tax will not begin until January 1, 2021. A motion was made by S. Riley, seconded by Holland to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

In order to proceed with the USDA loan/grant for the Symsonia Waterline Replacement Project, legal service agreements for local counsel and bond counsel have to be approved. Mattingly will be the local counsel and his fees will continue as is for City Attorney. Marta Elliott with USDA and P.A.D.D. recommend using Randy Jones with Rubin & Hays from Louisville, Kentucky as bond counsel. City Clerk Cooper explained the legal fees that were listed in the bond counsel agreement but since the project is still in beginning phases, there are no project figures. Bond counsel legal fees are expected to be between \$5,500 to \$10,000. A motion was made by Edmonds, seconded by Murray to approve agreements. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson recommended Robert Collins to be reappointed for another four-year term on Benton Electric System's Board. His term expired May 15, 2020. A motion was made by A. Riley, seconded by S. Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Harry Green mentioned that the fire trucks they were originally looking at are not going to work out. He requested permission to continue looking for a truck but possibly a smaller style. He thinks a good, newer truck can be purchased for under \$225,000.

Mayor Dotson discussed the idea of setting a curfew for minors under age 18 to help relieve some of the vandalism that goes on throughout town. Police Chief Sanderson will check with other cities and their curfew policies.

Police Chief Sanderson presented the police report for April. There were 881 calls to service, 10 cases, 8 collisions and 5 citations. Sanderson also asked the Council to think about budgeting for another police cruiser for 2020-2021. They would like to purchase another Ford Explorer instead of the Dodge Charger. Approximate cost of the Ford is \$33,000.

A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Murray to approve the public hearing and regular meeting minutes of April 20, 2020. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson informed the Council that we paid off the KIA Town Creek loan early by using excess funds that were in the Sewer Rehab Account. This loan originally was to mature June 1, 2025 and will save the Water and Sewer System approximately \$8,100 in interest by paying off early. It will free up \$20,000 per year in payments to be budgeted elsewhere.

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

Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.