

**Regular Month Meeting  
Benton City Council  
May 18, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, May 18, 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 Bethany Cooper.

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

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

Elizabeth Mudd, Director of KY Lake Economic Development, was present to ask for an increase in investment from City of Benton and Benton Gas System from \$11,000 per year to \$15,000 per year. This will be discussed further during budget workshops.

Mayor Dotson presented the Municipal Road Aid Agreement for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 in the amount of \$91,177.76. Council all agreed to continue with Municipal Road Aid program. Mayor Dotson read the resolution approving this agreement. All Council present voted aye.

Kevin Gardner, GFL Government Contract Manager, was present to ask for a temporary fuel surcharge of 8% be added to customer bills beginning in June. This will change the rate from \$13.19 to \$14.25. This fee will be re-evaluated in 120 days unless the diesel fuel rate drops below \$4.00/gallon for 30-day period. A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Farley to approve the 8% increase. All agreed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Jestes to approve the regular minutes of April 20, 2026. All agreed. Motion carried.

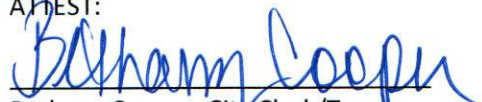
Chief Sanderson presented the April report for Benton Police Department. Chris presented the April report for Benton Gas System, and Mayor Dotson presented the reports for fire, maintenance, sewer and water departments.

Mayor Dotson read a resignation letter from Kevin Farley effective immediately to serve in another capacity with City of Benton as part-time Planning & Zoning Administrator and Code Enforcement Officer.

There being no further business coming before the Council, meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

  
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Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas