

**Regular Month Meeting
Benton City Council
July 17, 2017**

The regular monthly meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, July 17, 2017 at 5:00 P.M. by Mayor Rita Dotson with the Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer by Tracy Watwood.

Council Members Present:

Chris Smithmier

Sherra Riley

Rita Murray

Charles Edmonds

Justin Lamb

Butch Holland

Other Staff Present:

Zach Brien, City Attorney

Michele Edwards, City Clerk

Bethany Cooper, City Treasurer

Tracy Watwood, Police Chief

Tony Seavers, Water Dept.

David Carroll, Maint Dept

Harry Green, Fire Chief

Jeromy Hicks, Police Captain

City Attorney Brien read a resolution to appoint Bethany Cooper as City Clerk effective August 1, 2017. A motion was made by Smithmier, seconded by Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read a resolution supporting the separation of County Employees Retirement System from the Kentucky Retirement Systems. A motion was made by Lamb, seconded by Holland to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Brien read the first reading of an ordinance pertaining to the maintenance of culverts.

City Attorney Brien read the first reading of an ordinance amending Section 5.04 (F) of the Zoning Ordinance to resolve parking space conflicts with commercial developments (C-2).

City Attorney Brien read the second reading of an ordinance amending Section 52.35 of the Code of Ordinances to increase water rates effective August 1, 2017. Inside city rates will change from \$3.00/1000 gallons to \$3.50/1000 gallons and outside rates will change from \$3.50/1000 gallons to \$4.00/1000 gallons. A motion was made by Murray, seconded by Smithmier to approve. All except Lamb agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Brien read the second reading of an ordinance amending the specifications of streets in the subdivision regulations of the City of Benton. A motion was made by Smithmier, seconded by Lamb to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Brien read the second reading of an ordinance amending Section 52.35 of the City's Code of Ordinances to provide for a new section for charges and fees and for service provided by City of Benton to its water and sewer customers. A motion was made by Smithmier, seconded by Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

One bid was received to do repairs to the exterior of City Hall. West Kentucky Specialties submitted a bid for \$76,318.00 to do the specified repairs. A motion was made by Riley, seconded by Holland to accept the bid. All agreed. Motion carried.

The Planning and Zoning Commission sent a letter to the Council recommending a zone change for lots 20 and 21 in Southwinds to be changed from R-1 to R-2 to allow for the construction of duplexes. There was a petition submitted to the Planning and Zoning Commission with 25 signatures against this change, however, the board agreed on the change since it complies with the current zoning ordinance. Holland made a motion, seconded by Riley to approve the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation. All agreed. Motion carried.

Shawn Miller with DLZ Engineering was present on behalf of their submission to Mayor Dotson to do a study of the Masters Circle culvert in Fairway Subdivision. He previously submitted to Mayor Dotson a contract to perform preliminary engineering, hydraulic analysis and developing a budgetary level estimates related to replacement/improvements of the existing culver on Masters Circle. The total fee is \$4500.00 for this phase of work. A motion was made by Murray, seconded by Smithmier to allow DLZ to proceed with this scope of work. All agreed. Motion carried.

In the 2017-2018 Benton Gas budget, \$100,000 was budgeted to be sent to the City of Benton Self Insurance Fund. However, Mayor Dotson proposed that this money be transferred to the Street Improvements Account instead of the Self Insurance Fund in order to pay the remainder of the street repair on Masters Circle. The City received \$25,000 from the Emergency Road Aid funds to help as well. Mayor Dotson said the remainder can be used towards paying Greer Excavating to fix the drainage problems in Fairway Subdivision. A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Riley to approve the fund transfer. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson has received complaints from residents on and around Allen Heights Drive regarding garbage cans being left out at the end of the driveway all week. Letters were previously sent to the residents by City Clerk last year. The Council would like letters sent again reminding each resident to move their garbage can from the end of the driveway after trash is collected each week.

Benton Gas budgeted for a new Ditch Witch but received less on trade in than expected for their used machine. However, Ditch Witch Mid-States reduced the price of the new machine as well.

Benton Gas received one bid for a new truck. Country Chevrolet sent in a bid for \$28,600 for a 2018 Chevrolet Colorado extended cab. A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Lamb to approve the bid. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read a letter from Barney Thweatt concerning the ongoing fireworks being shot around town. Many complaints have been received by Rita Murray from residents in Merrywood and via Facebook. According to Benton Police Department, the noise ordinance will not cover fireworks. Several fireworks are being shot out of the City limits also and Benton Police cannot do anything about those. Mayor Dotson asked the Council to consider options before next year and also asked Bethany Cooper to check with other cities to see how they handle this situation. Harry Green will send Mayor Dotson the NFPA Standard from the state on fireworks and get to each council member as well.

Mayor Dotson asked the Council to consider closing City Hall for the Solar Eclipse event on August 21, 2017. She stated that Marshall County Fiscal Court and other area businesses will be closed. All Council agreed to close for this event.

Mayor Dotson mentioned that the City purchased 541 Mayfield Highway.

H.B. Clark previously gave Mayor Dotson a proposed outline of the new disc golf course. She gave a copy to each Council and asked them to go to the park and look over the outline before accepting the preliminary drawing.

Mayor Dotson recognized Lois Cunningham for obtaining Advanced Communicator-Bronze with Toast Masters Club.

Police Chief Watwood presented the police report for June. There were 25 cases, 19 accidents, 55 citations of which 13 were for speeding and 506 calls to service.

Mayor Dotson invited everyone to a retirement reception for Michele Edwards, City Clerk and Tracy Watwood, Police Chief on July 31, 2017 from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

A motion was made by Edmonds, seconded by 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 June 19, 2017. All agreed. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Council, meeting adjourned at 6:20 P.M.

Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michele Edwards, City Clerk