

**Regular Month Meeting
Benton City Council
June 19, 2017**

The regular monthly meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Monday, June 19, 2017 at 5:00 P.M. by Mayor Rita Dotson with the Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer by Chris Smithmier.

Council Members Present:

Chris Smithmier	Charles Edmonds
Sherra Riley	Justin Lamb
Rita Murray	Butch Holland

Other Staff Present:

Zach Brien, City Attorney	Harold Helton, Sewer Dept.
Bethany Cooper, City Treasurer	Harry Green, Fire Chief
Tracy Watwood, Police Chief	

Elena Blevins was present on behalf of Benton Partnership and Marshall County Tourism. Benton Partnership needs some help passing out Benton Cruise In flyers and they will repay mileage to anyone interested in helping. She announced the Solar Eclipse event coming up in August at Benton City Park from 9:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. There will be a 5K race, games, live webcast and more. She asked the City for \$1,000 additional funds to help with the event. Police Chief Watwood questioned her about the parking situation. She plans to meet with the Police and Fire Department soon to work out a plan. A motion was made by Murray, seconded by Edmonds to donate \$1000.00 to the Solar Eclipse event.

Brock Mardis with M & M Pressure Washing was present. He previously submitted a bid to Mayor Dotson to pressure wash 51,456 square feet of sidewalks plus the plaza for \$3500.00. Smithmier made sure they had their business license and insurance, which they do. A motion was made by Lamb, seconded by Murray to approve this service. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Brien explained an amendment to the current lease with Marshall County Arts Commission. The City acquired 3 lots located around the Children's Art Center for additional parking. The lease amendment states that Marshall County Arts Commission is responsible for paving and maintaining these lots for their use. A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read the second reading of the Benton Water & Sewer System budget ordinance for fiscal year 2017-2018. A motion was made Smithmier, seconded by Lamb to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read the second reading of the Benton Gas System budget ordinance for fiscal year 2017-2018. A motion was made by Murray, seconded by Lamb to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read the second reading of the Benton General Fund budget ordinance for fiscal year 2017-2018. A motion was made by Edmonds, seconded by Smithmier to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Brien read the second reading of an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 15-09-01 entitled an ordinance regulating alcoholic beverages in the City of Benton, KY. This ordinance prohibits the issuance of quota retail drink licenses within City limits of Benton and amends some sign and advertisement regulations. A motion was made by Lamb, seconded by Murray to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Brien read the 2nd reading of an ordinance amending Benton Water rates from \$3.00/1000 gallons inside city limits to \$3.20/1000 gallons and from \$3.50/1000 gallons outside city limits to \$3.70/1000 gallons. Smithmier voiced that he feels the rate should be raised by \$0.50 instead of \$0.20 so that we won't have to raise it each year. Lamb only wants to raise it enough to cover the 2017-2018 deficit in the budget. All other Council agreed to raise the rate by \$0.50. City Attorney Brien had an ordinance prepared for the \$0.50 increase and read that ordinance as the first reading.

City Attorney Brien read the first reading of an ordinance for street specifications.

City Attorney Brien read the first reading of an ordinance to adjust some of the service fees for Benton Water and Sewer.

Mayor Dotson read the paving bids received:

- Welch & English Paving - \$74.90/ton
- Murray Paving – 0-100 tons = \$125.00/ton; 101-500 tons = \$95.00/ton; 501-999 = \$85.00/ton and above 1000 tons = \$75.00/ton
- K & K – they bid a total price for everything on the paving list of \$311,570 for 1.5' of asphalt and \$339,420 for 2" of asphalt
- Smith Contracting - \$85.00/ton

A motion was made by Riley, seconded by Edmonds to accept the bid for Welch & English Paving. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Brien read the resolution approving and authorizing an assistance agreement between City of Benton, Kentucky and the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority to provide \$1,780,000 of loan funds for Wastewater System improvements. A motion was made by Smithmier, seconded by Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

Police Chief Tracy Watwood read the police report for May. There were 25 cases, 26 accidents, 74 citations of which 16 were for speeding and 633 calls to service.

A motion was made by Murray, seconded by Edmonds to approve the payroll and invoices. All agreed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Riley to approve the regular minutes of May 15, 2017, the special called minutes of May 19, 2017 and June 12, 2017. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson informed the Council that she has asked Maintenance Department Supervisor to begin a section of the city each week to ditch and make sure culverts are clear of debris.

In Council items:

Rita Murray wants an ordinance drafted to make the Mayor position full time and raise the salary. She mentioned that Justin Lamb has been contacting other cities of similar size for their Mayor rate and she feels that \$30,000 per year is comparable. Mayor Dotson informed the Council that the Council cannot make an elected Mayor work full time or set hours, but City Attorney Brien did mention that a job description can be created as to what is expected out of the Mayor's position. A motion was made by Murray, seconded by Lamb to increase the Mayor salary from \$10,000 per year to \$30,000 per year effective January 1, 2019 which is the next term begin date. All agreed. Motion carried. City Attorney Brien will draft an ordinance.

Butch Holland has been asked if the City can build a dog park. Lamb has been looking into this as well and has found that PetSmart offers grants for new dog parks. Smithmier asked what expenses this would entail and it will mainly be fencing and maintenance.

Justin Lamb would like the budget posted on the City of Benton Website and any special called meetings announced on W.C.B.L.

Rita Murray plans to come to City Hall on June 23 and June 26 to sign citizens up for REACH Alert.

Mayor Dotson announced that the grand opening for Purchase Youth Village will be on June 23 from 11:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M.

Mayor Dotson also informed the Council that CFSB is interested in sponsoring the City of Benton's proposed new 9 hole disc golf course for \$10,000 and a contract will be signed stating as such. The preliminary work on this course will start in a couple of weeks.

Mayor Dotson mentioned that advertisements were posted for bids to redo the exterior of City Hall and to hire a part time assistant to the City Clerk/Treasurer after August 1.

Mayor Dotson recognized Tracy Watwood for the positive comments that he received from speaking at the Kentucky Municipal Clerks Spring Conference back in April at Kentucky Dam. He did a session on Active Shooters in the Workplace and had all positive comments from attending clerks. She would like him to do a session for the City office employees and Council also.

City Attorney Brien explained that he has concerns with the new proposed Interlocal Agreement with the County for a building inspector. The proposed agreement does not mentioned where the fees will apply. Calvert City has not taken any action on the new proposal either and Brien doesn't feel that Benton should until things are better explained in the proposal.

There being no further business to come before the Council, meeting adjourned at 7:06 P.M.

Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michele Edwards, City Clerk