

**Special Called Meeting
Budget Workshop
Benton City Council
April 12, 2023**

A special called meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 by Mayor Rita Dotson.

Council Members Present:

Kevin Farley, Rita Murray, Butch Holland, Laura Craynon and Guy Henton

Absent was Ann Riley.

Other Staff Present:

Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer; Todd Riley, Gas Manager; Jessica Scillian, Gas Office Manager; Chandler Green, WWTP; Tony Seavers, WTP and Jason Hoover, Maintenance Dept.

Pledge of Allegiance was said and prayer offered by Farley.

The 2023-2024 proposed budget for Benton Gas System was discussed. Benton Gas asked to waive what was owed back to them from Benton Water & Sewer on the Main Street Waterline Reimbursement project. Cooper mentioned the balance owed to them was \$45,342.31. All agreed to allow this request.

The 2023-2024 proposed budget for Benton Water & Sewer System was discussed. Mayor Dotson recommended to Council to not raise water rates per COLA this year in order to give our customers a small break. There was discussion on adding in for radio read meters in with the Symsonia Highway Waterline Replacement Project. Cooper mentioned the funds for these meters will come out of Water Maintenance Account.

There being no further discussion, meeting adjourned.

Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer