**Special Called Meeting**

**Budget Workshop**

**Benton City Council**

**May 1, 2019**

A special called meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 10:00 A.M. by Mayor Rita Dotson with pledge and prayer by Charles Edmonds.

 Council Members Present:

 Rita Murray, Sherra Riley, Butch Holland, Ann Riley, Charles Edmonds and Kevin Farley

 Other Staff Present:

 Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer

 Jessica Scillian, Gas Office Mgr.

 Todd Riley, Gas Mgr.

 Jessica Scillian gave an update on PEFA/Goldman Sachs bond review and they received an excellent rating.

 Todd Riley gave an update on gas line extensions and discussed the possibility of connecting with A & R Pipeline to allow for future expansion.

 A motion was made by Murray, seconded by Edmonds to approve the following 2018-2019 Benton Gas budget amendments. All agreed. Motion carried.

* Remove $72,500 from Miscellaneous/Upgrades/Updates account
* Add $5,000 to Travel & Training account
* Add $2,500 to Diesel Fuel account
* Add $2,000 to Computer Support/Service/Contracts account
* Add $4,000 to Repair/Upkeep Equipment account
* Add $2,000 to Regulators-Upkeep & Supplies account
* Add $57,000 to Radio Dispatch Meter Reads account

The 2019-2020 proposed Benton Gas budget was reviewed. Kevin Farley questioned some of

the pay increases. Todd Riley explained that the raises were based on years of service, training, and trying to get caught up on their pay scale.

 Mayor Dotson asked for approval to bid out high service valves for the water plant. This project is expected to cost approximately $70,000. A motion was made by S. Riley, seconded by Holland to approve for bidding. All agreed. Motion carried.

 The 2019-2020 proposed Benton Water & Sewer budget was reviewed.

Bethany Cooper explained the current credit card process and shared the cost to Benton Water & Sewer in yearly fees is between $3,000 and $4,000. Cooper explained a new process through Kentucky.gov, our current website and online payment processor, that will be a computer card swipe program and the charge will automatically be passed on to the customer. The fees are 2.75% for credit card users and 1.5% for debit card users. Council unanimously agreed that Benton Water & Sewer System should not be absorbing card fees and would like to pursue this new process.

Water rate increase discussion was had and it was decided to increase the inside city limit water rate up $0.50 per 1,000 gallons and increase the outside city water rate up $1.00 per 1,000 gallons. These increases will help offset the cost of the new water line replacement projects that will be occurring in the near future.

 There being no further discussion, meeting adjourned at 12:20 P.M.

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 Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer