**Special Called Meeting**

**Budget Workshop**

**Benton City Council**

**May 12, 2021**

A special called meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 11:00 A.M. by Mayor Rita Dotson.

 Council members present were Rita Murray, Sherra Riley, Ann Riley, Charles Edmonds, Butch Holland and Kevin Farley.

 Other staff present was Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer.

 The purpose of this meeting was for a final budget review before presenting for first reading.

 General Fund items discussed:

* Allocate $15,000.00 to Children’s Art Center to help with their project that will be put towards the history of Benton education node. Gas Department is also allocating $15,000 for this project.
* Allocate $10,000.00 as a pledge amount to go towards a new history museum. Farley discussed the committee isn’t final yet and they have not applied for non-profit status yet. These funds are to be pledged to help purchase the building at 1106 Main Street if they can obtain other funding. This allocation will be placed in General Miscellaneous.
* It was decided to start paying Planning & Zoning Commission members $50.00 per meeting at a maximum of 12 meetings per year. They must be present at the meeting to obtain the $50.00.
* Council agreed to start a new line item for Marshall County Needline, Marshall County Exceptional Center and Marcella’s Kitchen and allocate $1500.00 for each non-profit.

Water & Sewer items discussed:

* Mayor Dotson asked the Council to reconsider their sewer rate recommendation of $12/2000 gallons and change that to $10/2000 gallons. The additional usage amount of $6.50/1000 gallons will remain as recommended. All Council agreed to reflect this change in proposed budget.

 There being no further discussion, meeting adjourned at 11:52 A.M.

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 Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer