**Special Called Meeting**

**Budget Workshop**

**Benton City Council**

**May 9, 2019**

A special called meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 3:00 P.M. by Mayor Rita Dotson with pledge and prayer by Kevin Farley.

 Council Members Present:

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

 Absent was Rita Murray.

 Other Staff Present:

 Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer

 Mayor Dotson and City Clerk, Bethany Cooper went over the proposed 2019-2020 General Fund budget.

 Main items discussed were as follows:

* Council was asked to think about increasing the earnings tax rate which is currently 0.5%. A spreadsheet was emailed to each of them that shows the rates for other cities in Kentucky. The main reason for this increase is to help offset the reduction in insurance premium taxes collected.
* Funds have been allocated in the amount of $500,000.00 to help Benton Water & Sewer pay for the water line upgrade on Main Street. Benton Water & Sewer will be responsible for repaying this loan from General Fund.
* It was suggested to open a separate account for the Nichols Park Trust funds that will draw more interest, possibly a liquid savings account. The only expense out of this account is a utility bill.
* Mayor Dotson is going to contact Tad Long with Kentucky League of Cities about coming and discussing their process for updating our comprehensive and strategic plans.
* The budget has allowed enough funds to hire an 8th police officer if needed. The Police Department’s equipment and supplies budget was lowered to help offset this cost and because they have funds to use in the ABC account. Most of their equipment has recently been upgraded.

 There being no further discussion, meeting adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

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 Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer