

Special Called Meeting  
Benton City Council  
January 24, 2020

A special called meeting of the Benton City Council was held on Friday, January 24, 2020 at 3:00 P.M. to host a public hearing for discussion on the Symsonia Highway Waterline Replacement project. Mayor Dotson called the public hearing to order.

The following Council members were present: Charles Edmonds, Rita Murray and Ann Riley.

Absent Council members: Kevin Farley, Butch Holland and Sherra Riley

Other staff present: Rob Mattingly, City Attorney; Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer; Tony Seavers, Water Department; Chad Warren, Water Department.

Guests present: Shannon Hayes, BFW Engineering  
Marshal Gutridge, 6656 Symsonia Hwy.  
Ina Bolen, 5681 Symsonia Hwy.  
Kerry McGregor, 4935 Symsonia Hwy.  
Garry Smith, 86 New Harmony Rd.  
Ronnie Tubbs, 43 JB Copeland Rd.  
Kevin Spraggs, 2005 Phelps Rd.  
Harold Hamlett, 174 Hamlett Ln.

There were seven (7) residents present for the public hearing. Mayor Dotson opened the hearing with questions or concerns from the residents. Their main concerns were the asbestos waterlines and the multiple waterline breaks that they are currently experiencing.

Mayor Dotson explained the City's plan to replace approximately 7.2 miles of waterline along Symsonia Highway known as the Symsonia Highway Waterline Replacement project. She also discussed that the City is currently applying for a loan/grant through USDA to help fund this project. Mayor Dotson mentioned a small fee between \$5 - \$10 being added to their monthly water bill to help towards the loan payment. Those in attendance were okay with paying that additional fee to get new water lines in hopes of no more waterline breaks.

City Attorney Mattingly briefly mentioned the possible need of easements but he will research to see how many are already on file with Marshall County Clerk's Office.

There be no further discussion, meeting adjourned at 3:32 P.M.