

**Special Called Meeting
Benton City Council
January 18, 2022**

A special called meeting of the Benton City Council was held on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 5:00 pm at Benton City Hall. Mayor Dotson presided and called the meeting to order. Pledge of Allegiance was given and prayer led by Kevin Farley.

Council Members Present: Butch Holland, Sherra Riley, Ann Riley, Kevin Farley and Rita Murray.

Absent was Charles Edmonds.

Other Staff Present: Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer; Rob Mattingly, City Attorney; and Caleb Curtner; Police Sergeant

Jessica Foust was present on behalf of CASA by the Lakes (Court Appointed Special Advocates) to explain the organizations financial short fall since COVID. They haven't been able to host their normal fundraisers since Fall 2019. City Attorney Mattingly discussed with the Council the ARPA Funds that is available to the city and can be used to help non-profit organizations that were negatively affected by COVID. A motion was made by S. Riley, seconded by A. Riley to donate \$7,500.00 to CASA from ARPA Funds that were received. All agreed. Motion carried.

Kim Ham was present to review the City of Benton's audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of an ordinance amending the zoning map for the City of Benton to provide for a change in the zoning classification for property located on East 13th and Elm Streets from a R-3 zone to a C-1 zone. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by S. Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the second reading of an ordinance amending Section 50: Garbage and Refuse of the City of Benton's Code of Ordinances to reflect that the garbage pickup is currently provided by a third-party trash vendor. A motion was made by Murray, seconded by Holland to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Mattingly read the first reading of an ordinance defining overtime pay in the instance of civil emergencies.

Mayor Dotson read the Pioneer Fire District contract. The contract was approved for a 5-year term upon motion of Farley, seconded by S. Riley. All agreed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Murray, seconded by S. Riley to allot Merryman House \$7,500.00 through ARPA Funds to help them during their financial struggle through COVID. All agreed. Motion carried.

Sergeant Curtner presented the police report for December. There were 18 criminal cases, 17 collisions, 52 citation violations and 982 calls to service.

A motion was made by Holland, seconded by S. Riley to approve the regular minutes of December 20, 2021 and the special called minutes of December 30, 2021. All agreed. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Council, meeting adjourned at 6:06 pm.

Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.