**Special Called Meeting**

**Benton City Council**

**July 19, 2023**

A special called meeting of the Benton City Council was held on Wednesday, July 19, 2023 at 4:15 pm at Benton City Hall. Mayor Dotson called the meeting to order. Pledge of Allegiance was said and prayer offered by Bethany Cooper.

Council members present were Laura Craynon, Ann Riley, Rita Murray, Guy Henton, Butch Holland and Kevin Farley.

Others present were Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer and Rob Mattingly, City Attorney

Mayor Dotson read all bids received for street paving.

Ronny’s Paving - $168,000

Smith Contracting - $120/ton plus $14,000 milling

Central Paving - $100/ton plus $2.10/sq ft for milling

A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Farley to approve Smith Contracting’s bid. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson read the bids for Sycamore Street Waterline Replacement project.

D-Port - $184,500

YEC - $ 69,775

A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Holland to approve the bid from YEC. All agreed. Motion carried.

Radio read water meters was discussed. We were quoted software programs and meters from United Systems and Neptune 360. A motion was made by Farley, seconded by Henton to approve moving forward with radio read water meters and software from United Systems. All agreed. Motion carried.

Mayor Dotson mentioned that she had been contacted by Judge Executive Kevin Spraggs regarding our proposed increase in water and sewer tap fees. On the new Oak Level Waterline Project being install with County funds, the residents in this area were told the tap on fees for water would be $825.00. Judge Spraggs asked the Council to consider honoring that for these customers. After much discussion, it was decided to honor the $825.00 tap fee plus $140.00 additional meter fee for the customer’s that will be able to connect to the new Oak Level Water project. The ordinance will be amended to read they have 60 days to make a tap on fee after the line has been installed at their location. The additional meter fee is the price difference in our current meters versus radio read meters that will be installed in our system moving forward. City Attorney Mattingly will revise the current tap ordinance and there will have to be another first reading since major changes have been made.

There being no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 4:52 pm.

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Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.