**Special Called Meeting**

**Benton City Council**

**March 18, 2022**

A special called meeting of the Benton City Council was held on Friday, March 18, 2022 at 2:00 pm at Benton City Hall. Mayor Dotson presided and called the meeting to order. Pledge of Allegiance was said and opening prayer by Edmonds.

 Council Members Present: Butch Holland, Sherra Riley (via Zoom), Ann Riley, Charles Edmonds and Rita Murray.

 Absent was Kevin Farley.

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

 Mayor Dotson proposed looking into some type of small business incentive for local store fronts to help in beautification and economic development. After much discussion, it was decided to allot $50,000 from City’s General Fund reserves for this project. Each approved applicant can receive 50% of their project cost up to a maximum of $5,000. Projects must be complete before funds will be delivered. Funds can be used towards store front restoration, lighting, permanent landscaping, signs that are attached to the store front, awnings and other permanent fixtures on the building. Applications will be accepted the month of April and decisions will be made on May 5. Mayor Dotson and City Clerk Cooper will come up with an application for review next week.

 Following the small business discussion, present members left at 3:00 pm to go to the community building to do a tour and make suggestions on upgrades. This will have to be done in several phases.

 There being no further business to come before the Council, meeting adjourned.

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 Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.