

**Special Called Meeting
Benton City Council
October 24, 2018**

A special called meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Wednesday, October 24, 2018 at 9:00 A.M. by Mayor Rita Dotson with opening Pledge of Allegiance and prayer by Zach Brien.

Council Members Present: Butch Holland, Charles Edmonds, Sherry Riley, Rita Murray
Absent were: Justin Lamb and Chris Smithmier

Other Staff Present: Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.; Zach Brien, City Attorney and Jessica Scillian, Gas Office Mgr.

County Attorney Jeff Edwards and Josh Tubbs were present to discuss Southwest One Industrial Park. Edwards explained that the property is moving forward quicker than expected and the first tenant would like to break ground soon. The water and sewer utilities still need to be extended to this location at an approximate cost of \$2.2 million. Edwards asked for the Council's permission to go ahead and put this project out for bid to get an accurate amount to extend these utilities. The agreement will not bind anyone at this time. Mayor Dotson asked that the bidding state that the City of Benton and Marshall County Fiscal Court are seeking bids. A motion was made by Edmonds, seconded by Holland to approve moving forward with the bidding process. All agreed. Motion carried.

Jessica Scillian was present to discuss the presented gas resolution and contract amendment for the purchase of natural gas. Benton Gas is currently in a contract with UGM for gas purchasing. They currently purchase gas off of the market but can sell to other municipalities if need to. They now have the opportunity to enter into a bond agreement for municipalities only through PEFA, Inc. This can allow them to save approximately \$115,000 per year. UGM would still be the broker. City Attorney Brien mentioned that neither City of Benton nor Benton Gas would be issuing the bonds. This would only commit Benton Gas to pledge a certain amount to purchase bonds. The agreement is for 5 – 7 years which forces PEFA, Inc. to keep their discount price competitive. UGM has expressed to Benton Gas that they feel this will be a good program that can save them lots of money. Scillian and Brien mentioned that the savings can be used to expand or maintain infrastructure or be passed on to the customers through rebates. Any excess gas purchased through this program can still be sold and UGM will continue to guide Benton Gas on their purchasing.

City Attorney Brien read an amendment to the natural gas management agreement regarding the purchase of natural gas from PEFA, Inc. A motion was made by Edmonds, seconded by Murray to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

City Attorney Brien read the resolution authorizing the purchase of natural gas from PEFA, Inc.; approving the execution and delivery of a gas supply agreement and other documents relating to said purchase; approving the issuance of bonds by PEFA Inc.; and addressing related matters. A motion was made by Holland, seconded by Riley to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

There being no further discussion, meeting adjourned at 9:59 A.M.

Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer