

**Special Called Meeting
Budget Workshop
Benton City Council
May 10, 2022**

A special called meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 4:00 P.M. by Mayor Rita Dotson.

Council Members Present:

Sherra Riley, Butch Holland, Ann Riley, Rita Murray and Kevin Farley

Absent was Charles Edmonds.

Other Staff Present:

Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer; Todd Riley, Gas Manager and Jessica Scillian, Gas Office Manager

Todd and Jessica discussed the natural gas prices increasing but Benton Gas System has locked in enough gas at lower rates that they hope to not have to raise rates. An overview letter of the cost increase was provided by Ron Ragan with Utility Gas Management.

Todd updated that the Highway 348 gas extension project is half complete and hope to be fully complete in Spring 2023.

Benton Gas Systems PSC inspections passed with no citations.

The following 2021-2022 budget amendments were reviewed:

- Legal/Engineering increase from \$4,000 to \$6,000
- Diesel Fuel increase from \$7,000 to \$9,000
- Repair/Upkeep of Equipment increase from \$12,000 to \$16,000
- Meters decrease from \$22,000 to \$12,000
- Regulators increase from \$10,000 to \$12,000

A motion was made by S. Riley, seconded by Holland to approve the 2021-2022 amendments as discussed. All agreed. Motion carried.

The proposed 2022-2023 Benton Gas System budget was discussed.

The proposed 2022-2023 General Fund budget was discussed. A 6% pay increase was approved for Benton Police Department upon motion of Murray, seconded by A. Riley. All agreed. Motion carried.

There being no further discussion, meeting adjourned at 5:17 P.M.

Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer