

**Special Called Meeting
Benton City Council
March 14, 2019**

A special called meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 3:00 P.M. by Mayor Rita Dotson with opening Pledge of Allegiance and prayer by Zach Brien.

Council Members Present: Butch Holland, Charles Edmonds, Ann Riley, Rita Murray and Sherra Riley

Absent: Kevin Farley

Other Staff Present: Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.; Zach Brien, City Attorney; Todd Riley, Gas Manager; Jeromy Hicks, Police Chief; Harry Green, Fire Chief; Randy Wood, Asst Fire Chief

City Attorney Brien read the first reading of an ordinance amending the temporary business license permits to five days or less and once every 30 day period. Ordinance sponsored by Ann Riley.

Mayor Dotson discussed increasing water rates for West Marshall customers in order to replace the water line down Symsonia Highway. Mayor Dotson and Bethany Cooper met with USDA last week to discuss financing options. We are possibly eligible for a 30% USDA grant with the remainder being a loan. City Attorney Brien stated that recent case law has had some changes and it may allow a justification to add a line item to West Marshall customers only. Cooper mentioned that water rates as a whole will need to be increased across the board as well. This will be looked into in April.

There being no further discussion, meeting adjourned at 3:36 P.M.

Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer