

**Special Called Meeting  
Benton City Council  
October 29, 2020**

A special called meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Thursday, October 29, 2020 at 3:00 P.M. by Mayor Rita Dotson. Pledge of Allegiance and prayer was offered by Rob Mattingly.

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

Absent was Kevin Farley.

Other Staff Present: Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treas.; Rob Mattingly, City Attorney; Harry Green, Fire Chief/Code Enforcement

Mayor Dotson discussed the code enforcement issue with buildings around town that look bad. Mayor Dotson and Green met with Greg Cherry, Fire Marshall/Code Enforcement for City of Paducah, to get tips and recommendations on how they handle building code violations when a building seems that it is not structurally sound. Mr. Cherry suggested the best approached is to do building inspections and take lots of pictures.

City Attorney Mattingly informed the council that if the City takes the steps to start determining buildings structural soundness, then the City must follow through. It can be a very expensive and lengthy process when structural damage is involved. Mayor Dotson has had numerous complaints on some of the buildings around the court square and if the City could be liable if something were to happen to them. City Attorney Mattingly did confirm with Kentucky League of Cities Attorney that the City holds no liability if a building fell within the City if a structural accident occurs.

City Attorney Mattingly also referenced the City's Ordinance No. 17-05-01 which discusses the exterior of buildings and how we can cite for exterior violations much easier. Council decided that they would like Green to cite buildings according to our ordinance and to not pursue structural damage.

Mayor Dotson also informed the Council of the issues with junk cars throughout town, especially the North end. City Attorney Mattingly has issued a letter to one of the responsible parties to rectify the issue within 30 days. This owner has already been given multiple notices.

Mayor Dotson informed the Council that Ronnie Minter, who manages the car cruise-ins for Benton Partnership, has posted offensive things on his personal social media page. Mayor Dotson doesn't want someone like this representing the City or Benton Partnership. The Council would like to recommend that Benton Partnership stop funding the cruise-ins. If he chooses to host them on his own, then he can do that without any funding from City of Benton or Benton Partnership. The Council thought it best that Mayor Dotson speak with him instead of Benton Partnership.

There being no further discussion, meeting adjourned at 3:57 P.M.

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Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Bethany Cooper, City Clerk/Treasurer