

**Special Called Meeting  
Benton City Council  
July 27, 2017**

A special called meeting of the Benton City Council was called to order on Thursday, July 27, 2017 at 1:00 P.M. by Mayor Rita Dotson with the Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer by Justin Lamb.

Council Members Present:

Rita Murray	Charles Edmonds
Sherra Riley	Justin Lamb
Chris Smithmier	

Council member absent was Butch Holland.

Other Staff Present:

Bethany Cooper, City Treasurer	Jeremy Hicks, Police Captain
Tracy Watwood, Police Chief	Stephen Sanderson, Police Sergeant

Mayor Dotson informed the Council that an interview committee comprised of herself and 3 members of the Council recently interviewed seven individuals for the Police Chief's position. She announced that the committee recommends Jeremy Hicks as Police Chief effective August 1, 2017 and read a resolution stating this. Riley voiced her opposition at this time requesting additional information on the other six applicants be given to her to review before she could make a final decision since she wasn't involved in the interview process. Smithmier and Edmonds agreed with Riley that they, too, would like to know more on the other six candidates. Murray and Lamb spoke up in favor of Hicks and want to move forward. After much discussion, Mayor Dotson called for a vote on the resolution. Riley, Smithmier and Edmonds voted against passing the resolution, while Murray and Lamb voted in favor. The resolution did not pass. However, a motion was made by Murray, seconded by Lamb to appoint Hicks as Interim Police Chief until a decision can be made. All agreed. Motion carried. Mayor Dotson agreed to provide the candidates' resumes and 3 & 5 year plan outlines to the Council as a video was not made of the interviews.

Mayor Dotson read a resolution to re-appoint Zach Brien as City Attorney for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. A motion was made by Lamb, seconded by Edmonds to approve. All agreed. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Council, meeting adjourned at 1:40 P.M.

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Rita Dotson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Michele Edwards, City Clerk