

City of Benton City Council Meeting

June 21, 2021

The governing body of the City of Benton, Kansas met in regular session at the Community Building at 150 S. Main St. in the city at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Tyler Gottschalk presided. Members of the council were present as follows: Curt Ghormley, Travis Swift, Dan Claycamp and Cody Smith. Ross Schoneboom was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approve Agenda

Councilman Swift moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilman Claycamp. Motion passed 4-0.

Approve Minutes

Councilman Ghormley moved to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2021, regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion passed 4-0.

Councilman Claycamp moved to approve the minutes from the June 2, 2021, special meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ghormley. Motion passed 4-0.

Public Comment

Vice President of Butler Community College presented information on the Kansas Promise Act Scholarship.

Alan Rome, 116 S. Main St., approached the council about the progress and condition of the property where the grain elevator is being removed. He is concerned about the safety of the property. Mr. Rome believes there may be mold in the remaining portions of the structures being demolished. A member of the governing body will follow up with the Coop and Mr. Rome.

Alan Rome inquired about the easement along Benton St., and people cutting across the corner of his property in the alley behind the building.

Budget Report

Discussion with Matt Engels regarding the city finances and budgeting.

Councilman Schoneboom arrived at 7:30 p.m.

Generator Bids

Maintenance Supervisor Mark Perry presented generator bids from A&E Electric and Foley Equipment.

Councilman Claycamp moved to purchase a generator for the South Main Street lift station for \$5300. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith. After discussion Councilman Ghormley moved to amend the motion to purchase generators for both the South Main Street lift station for \$5300 and the water tower for \$4800. The motion was seconded by Councilman Swift. Motion passed 5-0.

Revenue Neutral Rate

Councilman Schoneboom moved that the Benton City Council approve notification to the Butler County Clerk of the Governing Body's intension to exceed the 2022 revenue neutral rate. Councilman Ghormley seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Ordinance 2021-04

AN ORDINANCE SETTING COMPENSATION OF THE ASSISTANT CITY CLERK.

Councilman Ghormley moved to adopt Ordinance 2021-04. The motion was seconded by Councilman Schoneboom. Motion passed 4-1. Councilman Swift opposed.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

The state will begin distribution of money from this act to cities beginning July 2021. The city will receive the designated amount in two separate payments. The item(s) which the ARPA money is authorized remains unclear.

Councilman Schoneboom moved that the Benton City Council establish a separate fund within the city budget to safeguard these funds for appropriate usage. The motion was seconded by Councilman Swift. Motion passed 5-0.

Department Reports

City Clerk and City Treasurer –financial report

Maintenance Dept. – Mark Perry

1. Street work is completed
2. Sewer maintenance by Mayer Specialty is completed. No issues were found.
3. The grant project for the playground is completed
4. Requesting bids to repair the roof on the shelter building at the park. Repairs inside the building are needed as well.

Police Dept. – Chief Braden Moore

1. Proposes upgrade to signs for the school zone at a cost of \$1800
2. Add flashing lights at a cost of \$6000

Councilman Ghormley moved to purchase school zone signage for \$1800. The motion was seconded by Councilman Schoneboom. Motion passed 5-0.

Councilman Schoneboom moved to purchase the flashing Beacon at a cost of \$5000. The motion was seconded by Councilman Swift. Motion passed 5-0.

3. The radar sign is on loan from Superior Emergency Response Vehicles in Andover. We will be able to collect data on traffic within the city.

Admin Report – Councilman Schoneboom reported on the following items:

1. Angled parking on Main St. is complete.
2. Attend weekly KLM status briefing via Zoom broadcast.
3. Attended ARPA webinars. Authorized spending is still unclear although the money is coming soon, hence the need to “fence it off” in the budget.
4. Park Playground mulch is complete – check it out!
5. Extensive dirt road work has begun. Estimated rock cost is \$26K
6. Due to extensive refurbishment cost the city has advised MKC (coop) the city will not be pursuing the old coop building on the west side of main street for a maintenance building. City is moving back to the original plan of a storage facility at the water tower location.
7. Applied for and received a DUNS (Dun & Bradstreet) number for the city to be used

for receiving ARPA money. This is a federal government requirement.

8. Assembled agenda and council packets for both the special and regular meetings

Open Discussion

Councilman Ghormley discussed the following:

1. Annexation to true up the boundary of the city.
2. Request by Randy Horner for de-annexation of property adjacent to west side of cemetery.
3. Leak Policy for water consumption

It is the consensus of the council to not adopt a leak policy at this time.

Executive Session

Councilman Schoneboom moved to recess into Executive Session under the following exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, to discuss non-elected personnel, beginning at 8:45 and returning at 9:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilman Claycamp. Motion passed 5-0.

Reconvene

Councilman Ghormley moved to reconvene at 9:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilman Claycamp. Motion passed 5-0.

Councilman Claycamp moved to increase wages for Kylie Crane \$1.50/hour. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ghormley. Motion passed 5-0.

Approve Expenses

Councilman Schoneboom moved to approve the expenses as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Claycamp. Motion passed 5-0.

Adjourn

Councilman Ghormley moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilman Schoneboom. Motion passed 5-0.