

City of Benton City Council Meeting

February 16, 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: Ross Schoneboom, Curt Ghormley, Dan Claycamp and Cody Smith. Travis Swift was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approve Minutes

Councilman Ghormley moved to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2021 regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Comment

Robin Couey, Wreaths Across America, reported on the success of the project to place wreaths on all the graves of veterans in the Benton Cemetery. This year they hope to add other local cemeteries. She is requesting a \$300 donation from the City.

Councilman Smith made the motion to donate \$300 to Wreaths Across America. The motion was seconded by Councilman Claycamp.

After Discussion, Councilman Ghormley made the motion to postpone the donation for one month. The motion was seconded by Councilman Schoneboom. Motion carried 4-0.

CVT Report

Councilman Ghormley reported the committee is preparing to make a presentation at the March council meeting, making recommendations to the city council.

New Business

Kyle Buzzard, Central States Capital Markets, presented information on refunding the city bonds.

Councilman Schoneboom made the motion to sign the letter of engagement with Central States Capital Markets to move forward with the refunding of the Series A, 2015 Bonds. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ghormley. Motion carried 4-0.

Ordinance 2021-01

Councilman Ghormley made the motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-01.

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING ANIMAL KEEPING WITHIN THE CITY OF BENTON AND AMENDING SECTION 2-109 OF THE BENTON CITY CODE.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Schoneboom. Motion carried 4-0.

City Zoning Regulations

Whereas the city zoning regulations were established in October of 2015

Councilman Schoneboom moved that the City Council direct the Benton City Planning Commission to engage with professional outside sources to review and rewrite as necessary the city zoning regulation. Further that a member of the city council be designated to liaise with the Planning Commission and

provide the council an estimated cost of this effort for council approval prior to formally engaging a contractor. Further this effort to be completed in calendar year 2021.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Ghormley. Motion carried 4-0.

Publish governing body member identification on the city website.

Councilman Ghormley moved that names of each serving member of the governing body be posted to the city website within 30 days of the member having taken the oath of office; that each serving member may determine whether his or her photograph should likewise be displayed; that each serving member's postal mailing address and/or email address and/or telephone number be provided; that such contact information be taken down from the website within 10 business days of the effective date of vacating the office.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Schoneboom. Motion carried 4-0.

Assign email addresses to members of the governing body.

Councilman Ghormley moved that each member of the governing body be assigned a username in the *bentonks.org* domain; that such assignments be made within 30 days of the member taking the oath of office; that such assignments be removed within 30 days of the effective date of the member vacating an elected position, except that in the case where a member moves immediately from one elected position to another, the same username shall follow him or her; that each username so assigned utilize a "plain English" form so that the actual member is readily recognizable.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion carried 4-0.

Require formal notification when vacating elected or appointed office.

Councilman Ghormley moved that each member of the governing body, as applicable, provide written or electronic notification by email of his or her intention to resign from the office held; that such member indicate the effective date of the resignation; that such notification be made to the City Clerk in advance of the effective date of the resignation; that the City Clerk notify the remaining members of the governing body within 1 business day of having received such notification.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion carried 4-0.

Adopt Code of Procedure for City Council meetings.

Councilman Ghormley moved that the most recent edition of the Code of Procedure for Kansas Cities published by the League of Kansas Municipalities shall be followed for all City Council meetings; that in case of conflict between The Code of Procedure and/or the Benton City Code and/or Kansas Statutes, the Kansas Statutes shall prevail, except in cases where Home Rule action has been previously taken by the City.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion carried 4-0.

Record divided votes.

Councilman Ghormley moved that all other-than-unanimous votes be automatically divided and recorded in minutes of the meeting.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Schoneboom. Motion Carried 4-0.

Department Reports

City Clerk and City Treasurer –financial report

Maintenance Dept. – South Central Paving, street work estimates.
Reported the crack sealer was working great.

The mayor commented on how well the snow removal went. The department did a good job.

Police Dept. – Police Chief, Braden Moore, updated the council on the K9 program, grants and donations received on behalf of the program. Presented information on Rocky, the K9 he has requested.

Councilman Ghormley moved to go forward with the purchase of Rocky. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion carried 4-0.

Presented statistics the council requested on the benefit of hiring a third full time officer.

It is the consensus of the council to start the hiring process for a third full time officer.

Presented information on a Grants for AED's for police vehicles, for school zone signs and lights. There will need to be a traffic study.

Radar sign estimates are around \$3,000 and there is no funding available at this time.

Admin Report – Nothing to report

Mayor's Report

The Benton PTO is moving forward with plans for Benton Day's to be held on April 24, 2021.

Open Discussion

Councilman Ghormley discussed adding an assistant city clerk as a full-time position with responsibilities to include:

- a. duties assigned by the city clerk
- b. Code compliance coordination
- c. Appointment as Zoning Administrator
- d. Clerical duties in support of Zoning Administration

Councilman Schoneboom discussed:

a. Ask/Assign members of the governing body to become Subject Matter Experts (SME) in certain items of city government business i.e. Bonds and the bond market, Government grant programs, Development, Annexation, Budgeting, etc.

b. Streets – How much more? Spending, type of overlay etc.

c. Storm water runoff- equipment?

Council packet – AMCO ditching equipment

d. Infrastructure upgrades

Park parking lot – council packet

Automatic generators systems for pumping stations and water tower (main office)

Executive Session

Councilman Schoneboom moved that the governing body recess into executive session IAW K.S.A. 75-4319(b) to discuss non-elected personnel matters. Further, required to attend this session is the Mayor and City Council. Further, that the governing body return to open session at 9:30 p.m.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Ghormley. Motion carried 4-0.

Reconvene

Councilman Schoneboom moved to return to open session at 9:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilman Ghormley moved to pay part time employees the same cost of living increase of 2% that was awarded to full time employees. Councilman Claycamp seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilman Ghormley moved to accept the mayor's recommendation for full time employees wage increase. Councilman Schoneboom seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Approve Expenses

Councilman Schoneboom moved to approve the expenses as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Claycamp. Motion carried 4-0.

Adjourn

Councilman Ghormley moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion carried 4-0.