

City of Benton City Council Meeting

January 19, 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, Travis Swift, Dan Claycamp and Cody Smith.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approve Minutes

Dan moved to approve the minutes from the December 21, 2020 regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Swift. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilman Ghormley moved to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2021 special meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Claycamp. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Comment

Jack Perry and Steve Bahm, both owning property on S. Main St., are planning to hold a Car Swap for antique vehicles on a Saturday from approximately 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. They are requesting the 100 and 200 blocks of South Main Street be closed during this time.

The council had no objection at this time to closing the street for the event. More information will be provided the city when a date for the event is set.

Old Business

CVT has met monthly since August 2020. There are two questions the CVT has sought to answer: What do we want Benton to look like in 20 years? What are we afraid it might look like if we do nothing now?

We are developing a Vision Statement, and we have narrowed our discussion into the following areas for action:

1. Residential Development – Prairie Village phase 3, and other opportunities
2. Industrial/Commercial Development
3. Interior Focus (inside city limits) Code compliance & property zoning
4. Exterior Focus (outside city limits) Code compliance & property zoning
 - a. Exercise authority in “3-mile zone” ostensibly under City zoning control
 - b. Consider annexations
5. Lifestyle
 - a. Nature Trail Development
 - b. Other beautification initiatives
6. Recreation
 - a. Organized sports
 - b. Informal family-friendly opportunities

CVT currently is preparing to deliver a status report on findings to City Council in March 2021. This may include specific action recommendations related to the six areas above.

Technology Improvements – Councilman Schoneboom made the motion to approve no more than \$5000 for immediate technology improvements. Further, that the selection of equipment to be purchased be a collaboration of the Mayor, Councilman Schoneboom and the City IT contractor, Ted Wallander. Further, that the equipment will be for the enhancement of public presentation and broadcast of public meetings. After discussion, Councilman Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

New Business

Council President – Whereas the position of Council President was not vacant, Councilman Ghormley moved that the vote for election of a new council president which occurred during the December 2020 council meeting be rescinded. Motion was seconded by Councilman Swift. Motion carried 5-0.

Truck Purchase – Maintenance Supervisor Mark Perry presented quotes for both a Dodge and a Ford ¾ ton and 1-ton trucks. He then requested to purchase the Dodge 1-ton truck.

After discussion, Councilman Schoneboom made the motion to purchase the Dodge 1 ton truck from Davis Moore in Wichita. Motion was seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilman Schoneboom moved to take 50% from the Capital Improvement Fund and 50% from the Equipment Fund to purchase the truck. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ghormley. Motion carried 5-0.

Codification of City Code – Whereas the City Codes were last codified in April of 2010, Councilman Schoneboom made a motion that the City Council approve recodification of the City Codes to be completed no later than June 1, 2021. Further, prior to formally contracting, the cost of recodification be presented to the Council for approval. Further, that the public be engaged by an appropriate system for input to the code. Further, that a committee be established to hold a meeting to hear petitions from the public to the code. Motion was seconded by Council Claycamp. Motion carried 5-0.

Temporary Permit - At the October 19, 2021 council meeting a Temporary Permit was issued to Amy May, 670 Cedar, allowing for the keeping of chickens on her property for a duration of 90 days.

Technology - Councilman Ghormley made a motion that the governing body proceedings which are otherwise open to the public be broadcast in a readily accessible form either by audio or by video or by both, using technology commonly available to the general public; that city staff and members of the governing body and others who formally address the proceedings make reasonable efforts to be heard distinctly by those listening or watching remotely; that such accessible broadcasts commence no later than 90 days from the date of acceptance of this motion. Motion was seconded by Councilman Swift. Motion carried 5-0.

Executive Session

Council 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 7:55 p.m. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ghormley. Motion carried 5-0.

Reconvene

Councilman Schoneboom moved to reconvene the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Employee Compensation

Councilman Schoneboom moved to approve a cost of living increase of 2%, effective January 1, 2021, to all full-time city employees. The motion was seconded by Councilman Claycamp. Motion carried 5-0.

Department Reports

City Clerk and City Treasurer –financial report

Maintenance Dept. – South Central Paving, street work estimates.

- Received the new quote from Smith & Company in the amount of \$14,520 for the detention pond in Prairie Village to alleviate drainage issues due to heavy rains.

Councilman Schoneboom moved to approve the quote from Smith & Company for \$14,520. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Police Dept. – Police Chief, Braden Moore, discussed traffic control and safety

- The city has received Grants and donations of approximately \$15,000
- Calls to service

Admin Report – Councilman Schoneboom reported wi-fi is now available in the Community building

- Purchased new computer for the Admin Office
- Kyle Buzzard, Central States Capital, will be at the February meeting to discuss refinancing the bonds
- Thanks to Mark for finding the Grant to install rubber mulch in the playgrounds at the Park
- Update on the Bridge at the north end of Poling Pond for the nature trail
- Maintenance Building
- Phase 3 estimates for infrastructure to be presented at the February meeting

Open Discussion

Councilman Schoneboom, would like the council to consider the following items for future business:

- a. Review of the city zoning regulations which were last updated October 2015.
- b. Ask/assign members of the governing body to become Subject Matter Experts (SME) in certain items of the city government business (bonds, grants, development, annexation, budgeting etc.)
- c. Types of street work and costs
- d. Storm water runoff – equipment
- e. infrastructure upgrades

Councilman Ghormley gave an overview of the changes to the City Code 2-109, Keeping Animals.

Councilman Ghormley left the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Approve Expenses

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

Adjourn

Councilman Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m. Councilman Schoneboom seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.