

## **City of Benton City Council Meeting**

### **March 15, 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**

Councilman Schoneboom moved to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2021 regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Swift. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilman Claycamp moved to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2021 special meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ghormley. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Public Comment**

Circle USD 375 Superintendent Don Potter gave a presentation on the proposed bond issue to fund construction and upgrades to the schools within the district.

### **Old Business**

**Wreaths Across America** – The City of Benton donated to this nonprofit organization in 2020.

Councilman Schoneboom moved to donate \$450 to Wreaths across America for 2021 to be utilized for the wreath laying ceremony at the Benton Cemetery. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ghormley. Motion carried 5-0.

**CVT briefing** - Councilman Ghormley, CVT Lead and Ty Patton, CVT Member.

**Nature Trail** – The City of Benton, in authorized collaboration with a community lead effort to develop and install a nature trail on city owned property around the Prairie Village Poling Pond:

Councilman Schoneboom moved that the city provide funds, from the capital improvement fund, to purchase a shipping container to be converted to a covered bridge for the north end of the nature trail. Further, these funds will not exceed \$8,000 without prior city council approval. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ghormley. Motion carried 5-0.

### **New Business**

**IdeaTek** – is working on providing fiber internet to USD 375 schools located in Benton and would like to establish a franchise agreement with the City of Benton pursuant to K.S.A. 12-2001.

Presented was an Ordinance granting to IdeaTek Telecom. LLC, a contract Franchise to construct, operate and maintain a telecommunications system in the City of Benton, Kansas.

Councilman Schoneboom moved to accept the Ordinance for Franchise Agreement with IdeaTek, recommending 5% instead of the stated 3%. The motion was seconded by Councilman Swift. Motion carried 4-0. Councilman Ghormley abstained.

IdeaTek will be notified of the recommended change to 5%. If accepted by IdeaTek the Ordinance will be signed, given a number and published in the official city newspaper.

**Assistant City Clerk** – Councilman Ghormley moved to adopt an ordinance modifying the City Code, Article 3, paragraph 1-309 to add an assistant city clerk with expanded duties. The motion was seconded by Councilman Schoneboom.

After discussion Councilman Claycamp moved to postpone the change at this time. The motion was seconded by Councilman Swift. Motion carried 4-1. Councilman Schoneboom voted against.

**ICI 2021 Renewal** – Dusty Davis presented information for the 2021 renewal with Insurance Center Inc.

Councilman Schoneboom moved to accept the 2021 Renewal with Insurance Center Inc. the mayor's discretion for additional coverage at a cost of approximately \$1,000. The motion was seconded by Councilman Claycamp. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilman Smith left the meeting.

**Benton Days** – Mayor Gottschalk recommended continuing support of Benton Days as in the past and to provide additional support not to exceed \$2,000.

Councilman Schoneboom moved to accept the Mayor's recommendation for support of Benton Days. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ghormley. Motion carried 4-0.

Community Action Team (CAT) – is requesting \$200 from the City of Benton to assist in the purchase of candy for the Easter Egg Hunt to be held on April 3, 2001.

Councilman Schoneboom moved to support the CAT with \$200 for the Easter Egg Hunt. The motion was seconded by Councilman Swift. Motion carried 4-0.

## **Department Reports**

**City Clerk and City Treasurer** –financial report

**Maintenance Dept.** – presented quotes for generators needed for the water tower, S. Main St. lift station and the City Building.

The original quote from South Central for street work this year did not include S. Ohio St. A quote for the additional work has been requested.

Looking into upgrading the city telemetry. RWD #5 has telemetry equipment they purchased and did not use which they may be willing to sell to the city for a reasonable price.

Approximately 40 new water meters have been installed so far this year.

Crack sealing and pothole patching will begin soon, weather permitting.

**Police Dept.** – Chief Braden Moore introduced new officer Devin Haines who will be holding the rank of Lieutenant and assisting in managing the agency administratively as well as patrol on nights.

K9 Rocky is performing exceptionally well. We will be in Tennessee this week for his national certification.

Submitted proposal for AED's

## Calls for Service

### **Admin Report** – Councilman Schoneboom

1. Per council motion approval, technology upgrades and electronic access for the public have begun.
2. Ordinance 2021-01 and 03 formatted
3. Onsite walk through with Coop, Engineering and city staff of westside building for structural analysis and cost estimates of repairs. This is to be a replacement for the new maintenance storage facility already budgeted.
4. Status of metal buildings and bins from Coop.
5. Set up and conduct Special Council Meeting concerning Bond refinance
6. PV3 development
7. Website updates
8. Unemployment claims issues
9. Have begun the code rewrite
10. Zoning regulation issues
11. Technology updates
12. Meeting prep
13. Gas and electric

### **Mayor's Report**

Hiring a seasonal employee to help the maintenance department from April through September

Consider adding an extra council meeting every other month

**Open Discussion** – The following is for Open Discussion on 3/15/21, to be taken up for vote at the April Council meeting.

Councilman Ghormley - That the City adopt the following Vision Statement:

Benton is an exceptional community, where:  
neighborhoods flourish,  
businesses thrive,  
and recreational opportunities are available.

Councilman Schoneboom - Ask/Assign members of the governing body to become Subject Matter Experts (SME) in certain items of city government business

- Bonds and the bond market
- Government grant programs
- Development
- Annexation
- Budgeting
- Streets – How much more? Spending, type of overlay etc.
- Storm water runoff- equipment?
- Sanitary sewer
- BSAC
- Codes and Regs
- Policing
- Infrastructure upgrade
- Equipment

Balance elections – instead of 4 and 2 change charter ordinances for 3 and 3

Replace the general election of mayor and 3 council seats to mayor and 2 council

seats. Then at the midterm election 3 council seats. This will probably require one current council seat to be extended and addition 2 years.

Should investigate the possibility of having the east side of main street in the central business district (city building to the old coop building) converted to angled parking (like the west side) to include handicap space(s). believe this would increase capacity of downtown parking.

**Approve Expenses**

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

**Adjourn**

Councilman Swift moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Councilman Ghormley seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.