

City of Benton City Council Meeting

October 19, 2020

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 Brennan Dennison presided. Members of the council were present as follows: Ross Schoneboom, Mike Wyant, Curt Ghormley and Travis Swift.

Pledge of Allegiance

City Attorney, Rob Lane, informed the council that during the September 2020 regular council meeting the appointment made by the mayor to fill the council seat vacated by Council Member Janet Roths did not follow procedure. Information on the procedure was provided in advance to the council members by the city attorney. Proper procedure would be for the mayor to make the recommendation for appointment and then call for a vote of the council for confirmation or rejection. He asked if anyone on the city council had any questions regarding the information presented. He then requested the mayor to make the appointment again and ask for the council to confirm or reject the appointment.

The mayor made the recommendation to appoint Tyler Gottschalk to fill the vacant city council seat which has a remaining term through 2022.

Curt asked for clarification that the appointment would be effective tonight. City attorney responded stating the appointment would be effective from the September meeting.

The mayor requested a motion to affirm the appointment. Travis moved to accept the appointment of Tyler Gottschalk. No second was made.

Call was made for a rejection. Mike moved to reject the appointment. No second was made.

There being no further activity on the appointment it will be automatically confirmed in 45 days from September 21, 2020 unless there are further motions made to confirm or reject at a later meeting.

Council Compensation – Council Member Mike Wyant has asked to be reimbursed for the council compensation of \$49.90 per month from April 2015 through the current pay period. Compensation was initially rejected by Mr. Wyant because of his concerns over city finances. City attorney requested the matter be put to a vote of the city council to approve or deny.

Ross moved to approve back compensation for Mike Wyant. No second was made.

Approve Minutes

Curt moved to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2020 regular meeting. Mike seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Executive Session

City Attorney requested an executive session for 30 minutes with the mayor and council present. Ross moved to recess into Executive Session under the following exceptions to the Kansas

Open Meetings Act, attorney client privilege to discuss legal matters, at 7:07 p.m. Travis seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Reconvene

Curt moved to reconvene the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Travis seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Mike Wyant wasn't feeling well and left the meeting.

Department Reports

City Clerk – Discussion of financial reports submitted

- Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance renewal effective December 1, 2020

City Treasurer – Nothing to report

Maintenance – Introduced new maintenance employee Kylie Crane

- Sewer cleaning by Mayer Specialties has been completed with good results
- Tank Spec inspections are on a year to year basis and will be scheduled unless notification by either party is given prior to scheduling inspections.
- 2 bids for adding a detention pond in Prairie Village have been received. Waiting on 3rd.
- Replaced 17 meters and 1 meter pit with the new Hydrovac, takes approximately 40 minutes each compared to 2 to 3 hours by hand.
- Crack sealing streets in Prairie Village are on the schedule for next week.

Police – Introduced new full time police officer Brent Moore (no relation). Brent was hired to fill Britt's position.

- Discussion of Code Enforcement. Topic was tabled for more information at a later date.
- Discussion of hiring a 3rd full time officer.
- Calls to Service

New Business

Personnel Policy - Mike Wyant had requested the Personnel Policy be on the Agenda. Item was tabled due to Mike not being present.

Term of Office - Ross addressed a discrepancy in the dates, relating to newly elected positions taking office, between Charter Ordinance #7 and Ordinance 2016-03. The dates stated in the two documents do not coincide. Amendments to correct the discrepancy will be considered at the November 2020 meeting.

Prairie Village Phase III – Mayor Dennison discussed options for developing Phase III in Prairie Village. He would like to see the City move forward with this development in the near future.

Ross moved have the city the engineer provide an estimate of infrastructure costs to develop Phase III in Prairie Village Addition. Cost to produce the estimate not to exceed \$2000. Curt seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-1.

Old Business

Sewer Rates – Item tabled to November meeting.

City Code 2-109, Keeping of Animals - No changes were made to the City Code at this time.

Mr. and Mrs. Pierce, 660 Cedar, Benton, addressed the council regarding chickens within the city limits. Current City Code 2-109, prohibits chickens. Mr. and Mrs. Pierce are requesting this ordinance remain in effect not allowing chickens. They have complaints about the chickens their neighbor has. Also, they would like to see the current leash law for dogs enforced.

Amy May, 670 Cedar, Benton was present regarding her chickens she discussed with the council at the September meeting.

Curt moved to issue a 90 day Temporary Permit to Amy May allowing her to keep the chickens she currently has for 90 days while the council considers the current Ordinance. Travis seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Code Enforcement – Item tabled.

Comprehensive Development Plan – Item tabled.

Community Vision Team - report by Curt Ghormley:

In addition to recommending a Vision Statement, the Community Vision Team has undertaken research and fact-finding into 3 initiatives:

- (1) Residential Development – How to attract qualified developers to Benton
- (2) Recreation Commission – How to participate with Circle School District in the development of a District-wide commission to plan and manage organized recreational activities
- (3) Beautification – In addition to development of a Nature Trail, how to improve areas within the City which may be seen as “unattractive” by families considering a move to Benton.

A fourth initiative is anticipated, that being (4) Commercial Development – How to attract additional commerce and industry to Benton.

Public Comment – No public comment

Approve Expenses

Travis moved to approve the bills as presented. Curt seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourn

Travis moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Ross seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.