

**City of Benton City
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
January 21st, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Carnahan called the January 21st, 2014 Regular Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. (261/1/528)

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS – Councilwoman Lettau led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. (263/4/556)

ROLL CALL – (275/3/130) Council Members Present –

**Mary Lettau
Connie Meredith
Lisa Stade
Linda Lehman
Council Vacancy**

City Staff Present –

**Stephanie Haug, City Clerk/Treasurer
Kyle Kurth, City Maintenance Foreman**

Other Professionals Present –

**Patrick Galloway, City Attorney, Kerr Law Group
Alan Rainey, City Engineer, Spink Engineering LLC
Capt. Clay Vannoy, Benton County Sheriff's Office
Larry Howell, President, Benton City E.D.C.**

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES (290/2/890)

- **REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 17TH, 2013**

Councilwoman Meredith: Mr. Mayor, I make a motion to approve the Minutes from December 17th, 2013...yeah...no, sorry, I was looking at the wrong one, I guess...

Ms. Haug: No, that's right...

Councilwoman Meredith: Yeah, that's right; we didn't have one last time...

Councilwoman Lettau: I second.

MOTION #1- C. C. Meredith moved and C. M. Lettau seconded to approve the minutes of the December 17th, 2013 Regular Council Meeting as presented.

VOICE VOTE #1- C. C. Meredith, C. L. Lehman, C. M. Lettau, C. L. Stade
ALL YEAS. Motion carried.

OPENING REMARKS, "HOUSEKEEPING" ITEMS, EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTS, ETC. –
(312/1/139)

1. Resignation of Councilwoman/Mayor Pro Tem Honda Johnson
2. Liquor License Renewal – Tienda Y Carniceria Los Toreros

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – (315/3/863)

Councilwoman Meredith: Mr. Mayor, I make a motion to approve the Agenda as presented.

Councilwoman Stade: Second.

MOTION #2- C. C. Meredith moved and C. L. Stade seconded to approve the Agenda of the January 21st, 2014 Regular Council Meeting as presented.

VOICE VOTE #2- C. C. Meredith, C. L. Lehman, C. M. Lettau, C. L. Stade
ALL YEAS. Motion carried.

OPENING REMARKS, "HOUSEKEEPING" ITEMS, EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTS, ETC. –
(Cont.) (334/3/414) **1. Resignation of Councilwoman/Mayor Pro Tem Honda Johnson**

Councilwoman Stade: Mr. Mayor, I move to approve the resignation of Honda Johnson, Council Member, due to moving out of Benton City.

Councilwoman Meredith: Second.

MOTION #3- C. L. Stade moved and C. C. Meredith seconded to accept Councilwoman Honda Johnson's resignation from City Council due to moving away from Benton City.

VOICE VOTE #3- C. C. Meredith, C. L. Lehman, C. M. Lettau, C. L. Stade
ALL YEAS. Motion carried.

1. VISITOR COMMENTS – None (360/4/586)

***** **SWEARING IN OF COUNCIL MEMBERS** *****

Patrick Galloway, Kerr Law Group

Councilwomen L. Stade, L. Lehman, and M. Lettau were officially sworn into office by Patrick Galloway, City Attorney, Kerr Law Group

Mayor Carnahan – Welcome everybody – Do we want to appoint the Mayor Pro Tem tonight or do we want to wait until we have a full council?

Ms. Haug – At the next council meeting – You will have the applications – We don't have any turned in as of yet – Due on 29th – Will be in your packets for the first meeting in February

REGULAR REPORTS:

1. SHERIFF'S REPORT - (458/2/663)

Capt. Clay Vannoy, Benton County Sheriff's Office
December Report

316 Calls for Service vs. 320 in 2013
27 Case Offenses vs. 25 in 2013
16 Infraction Offenses issued

2. E.D.C. REPORT - (516/2/632)

Larry Howell, President, Benton City E.D.C.

**** Report provided ****

*** **Public Meeting - Thursday, January 23rd, 2014 - 6 p.m. - Benton City Community Center** ***

3. STAFF REPORTS – (805/3/680)

Stephanie Haug, City Clerk/Treasurer

Treasurer's Report – In packets

4. ENGINEER REPORT (824/1/637)

Alan Rainey, City Engineer, Spink Engineering LLC

- Meeting with T.I.B. tomorrow morning – Work will begin within month – Construction possibly in March
- Well #5 – Water quality is good – Get well source approval from D.O.H. – Then go to bid for well house – Pumped 1,500 gpm with 11 ft. draw down – Good producing well

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS – (942/1/919)

Mayor Carnahan – Art Tackett retiring Friday – Mark Kessler, Ben Franklin transit, retiring in March/April – Luncheon – Thursday at noon

Council Vacancy

Councilwoman Stade – Fire Commissioners and Ben Franklin Transit – Ed Frost – Interim Manager of Transit – Hoping to hire within four months – Had a neat contest to encourage biking
Fire Commissioners – Working on getting permit to build and expand

Councilwoman Lehman – None

Councilwoman Meredith – None

Councilwoman Lettau – None

- Committee Reimbursement

Councilwoman Stade – Put in for reimbursement – Subcommittee for board – Don't mind donating time but would like to receive \$20 stipend for attending meetings

Mayor Carnahan – For committees we pay dues to – Don't get paid for – Pay for board meeting – Nothing else – Where do you stop it? – Never ending meetings – Rest of meetings

Councilwoman Lettau - \$75 for meeting – Reading packet and research – It's a lot more time

Mayor Carnahan – Point taken

Councilwoman Stade – Payment for a standing committee – Read Ordinance 2.28.020 – Asking to be paid for standing committee – Not for everything – Unlawful not to notice why it wasn't paid – Just wasn't paid - Appointment to Ben Franklin Transit – Have opportunity

Mayor Carnahan – Being it is in ordinance - Will start doing as of January 1st

Councilwoman Stade – If I submit – I should be paid the \$20

Mayor Carnahan – Will affect all of council - Thank you for bringing it to my attention

Councilwoman Stade – I'm not pleased with not paying without reference – Asking for rightful pay only when I submitted – Only the times I submitted – Last month and the month prior - I would like more respect

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL:

1. RESOLUTION NO. 2014-01 AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO SIGN CONTRACT WITH B.C.E.D.C.
(1340/1/525)

Councilwoman Lettau: Mayor, I make the motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-01, a resolution authorizing the Mayor of the City of Benton City, Washington to sign the amended Agreement for Services between the City of Benton City and the Benton City Economic Development Council.

Councilwoman Meredith: Second.

MOTION #4- C. M. Lettau moved and C. C. Meredith seconded to approve Resolution No. 2014-01, a resolution authorizing the Mayor of the City of Benton City, Washington, to sign the amended Agreement for Services between the City of Benton City and the Benton City Economic Development Council.

VOICE VOTE #4- C. C. Meredith, C. L. Lehman, C. M. Lettau, C. L. Stade
ALL YEAS. Motion carried.

5. VOUCHERS (1365/1/368)

- Year End 2013
- January 7th, 2014 and January 21st, 2014

Councilwoman Lettau: Mr. Mayor, I move to approve payment of Claim check numbers 25893 through 25898 & 25918 through 25933 with EFTs as listed in the amount of \$65,657.40 this 21st day of January, 2014.

Councilwoman Meredith: I second.

MOTION #5- C. M. Lettau moved and C. C. Meredith seconded to approve payment of Claim checks numbers 25893 through 25898 & 25918 through 25933 with EFTs as listed in the amount of \$65,657.40 this 21st day of January, 2014.

ROLL CALL VOTE #5- C. L. Stade, C. M. Lettau, C. C. Meredith, C. L. Lehman
ALL YEAS. Motion carries.

Councilwoman Meredith: Mr. Mayor, I move to approve Claim checks number 25868 through 25892 & 25901 through 25917 and EFTs as listed in the amount of \$76,019.51 and Payroll check numbers 25853 through 25867 and EFTs as listed in the amount of \$73,285.49 on this 21st day of January, 2014.

Councilwoman Lettau: I second.

MOTION #6- C. C. Meredith moved and C. M. Lettau seconded to approve payment of Claim checks number 25868 through 25892 & 25901 through 25917 with EFTs as listed in the amount of \$76,019.51 and Payroll checks number 25853 through 25867 and EFTs as listed in the amount of \$73,285.49 this 21st day of January, 2014.

ROLL CALL VOTE #6- C. C. Meredith, C. L. Lehman, C. M. Lettau, C. L. Stade
ALL YEAS. Motion carries.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: (1436/4/195)

1. Roundabout Sign Ideas – B.C.E.D.C. – Postponed until February 4th

2. Water/Sewer Billing Policy Review - Debit card issue/Change to billing policy

Ms. Haug – Explanation of Item for Discussion

Councilwoman Stade – It was the last day for payments – Did not call City Hall or leave a message – No contact was made

Ms. Haug – Explanation of current billing policy – Question whether wants to incorporate exception to current policy

Councilwoman Meredith – If exception given – How many people will exception be given to?

Ms. Haug – Exception would have to be very well written – Would have to be very specific circumstances

Councilwoman Lettau – Please clarify – If pay late – How long before water is shut off?

Ms. Haug – Explanation of shut off procedure for nonpayment of bill

Councilwoman Lettau – How do other cities do it?

Mayor Carnahan – Comparable to other cities' policies

Councilwoman Stade – Looked at working days

Mayor Carnahan – I don't know how you would write it out an acceptable emergency

Councilwoman Lettau – Is there a way to address a onetime issue – Say if you haven't had an issue for two years – Possibly waive – Everybody messes up once in a while

Mayor Carnahan – City money – Can't go by what private entities do

Mr. Galloway – Cleaner way – Leave it as it is – Should plan ahead – Individual responsibility - Could draft exception – Would need to be clear – Up to Council to decide how they would like City employees to handle

Councilwoman Stade – Question regarding frequency - How many times has somebody had a valid reason for not being able to pay – Legitimate excuse that could be supported with documentation

Ms. Haug – I don't know if City has ever had anyone bring in documentation showing really pressing need

Councilwoman Stade – Even credit card companies reflex on past history – Still static – Everybody gets treated same

Councilwoman Lehman – Need to adopt some flexibility in all codes – Would like to look at it – See what could be done

Councilwoman Meredith – 10 day grace period – If we start doing this – Feel we will be bombarded with a lot of problems

Councilwoman Lehman – Feel this gentleman has legitimate concern – Was out of town – Called but didn't leave message – Feel in extreme situations like that – City should be more flexible

Councilwoman Meredith – Would he have another credit card – Opening big can of worms

Councilwoman Stade – Agree on flexibility – But is it worth the time and attorney fees to revamp policy over one instance – I, myself would have left message to say “I contacted you”

Councilwoman Lettau – Even if he had left documentation – What would have changed? Once in 28 years – I was dinged with late fee - Dropped payment in box – Didn't realize it was closed - Hate to be so rigid – Understand the can of worms – Small town – Would also be harder for office clerks to track 'one time only' system

Ms. Haug – Billing policy procedures – Other towns do have three month grace before utilities shut off – However if you think about amount of money to get turned on – Every month smaller amount – Helps people that don't make paying bill priority – Month to month vs. such big balance – Too hard to pay

Mayor Carnahan – If we start changing time frames – Causes problems for other entities only able to pay once a month

Councilwoman Stade – Small town – Make it so they don't follow the rules – Open to more discrimination and illegal activities – No checks and balances - Agree with friendliness – Also seen abuses

Councilwoman Meredith – Don't want to enable those who are always late – Other people may have been out of town and still manage to make their payment – Should we table it or leave it as it is – Look at frequency

Councilwoman Lettau – Keep us posted – Please let us know when these situations come up

Mayor Carnahan – As for now – Leaving it just as is

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS – (1886/2/680)

Councilwoman Stade - Website

Ms. Haug – Within next month – Hoping to bring back to Council – Request for Proposals from different companies – Doing research – Website development specifically for cities

Councilwoman Stade - E.D.C. – Link sites and events

Councilwoman Lehman – How to get appointed to certain committees?

Mayor Carnahan – Mayor and one other Council Member appoints the committees

Ms. Haug – Once full council – Will bring before Council for appointment of committees and appointing the Mayor Pro Tem

ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Carnahan (1989/2/595)

Councilwoman Meredith: I make a motion that we adjourn.

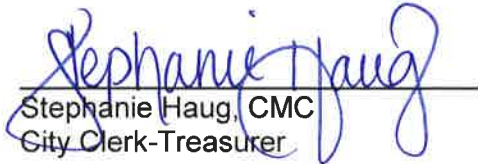
Councilwoman Lettau: I second.

MOTION #7– C. C. Meredith moved and C. M. Lettau seconded to adjourn the January 21st, 2014 Regular Council Meeting at 7:57 p.m.

VOICE VOTE #7– C. C. Meredith, C., C. L. Lehman, C. M. Lettau, C. L. Stade
ALL YEAS. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m. (1994/4/462)


Lloyd Carnahan
Mayor, City of Benton City


Stephanie Haug, CMC
City Clerk-Treasurer

Date: 2-5-14