

**City of Benton City
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
January 20th, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Carnahan called the January 20th, 2015 Regular Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. (131/2/115)

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS – Alec Durbin, Aldon Nieman and Joseph Norman, Boy Scout Troop #205 led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. (134/3/564)

ROLL CALL – (180/2/650) Council Members Present –

**Mary Lettau
Connie Meredith
Linda Lehman
Lisa Stade
Michelle McLeod**

City Staff Present –

**Stephanie Haug, City Clerk/Treasurer
Paula Kauer, General Clerk**

Other Professionals Present –

**Eric Ferguson, City Attorney, Kerr Law Group
Alan Rainey, City Engineer, Spink Engineering LLC
Capt. Clay Vannoy, Benton County Sheriff's Office**

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES (189/3/907)

- **REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 6TH, 2015**

Councilwoman Meredith: Mr. Mayor, I make a motion for the Minutes from January 6th, 2015.

Councilwoman Lehman: I'll second.

MOTION #1- C. C. Meredith moved and C. L. Lehman seconded to approve the minutes of the January 6th, 2015 Regular Council Meeting as presented.

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

OPENING REMARKS, "HOUSEKEEPING" ITEMS, EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTS, ETC. –

None - (200/2/613)

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – (202/1/915)

Councilwoman Lehman – Discussion on Revitalization

Mayor Carnahan – During Discussion

Councilwoman Stade – Skate Park? Number 3 - Mayor, I'd like to make a motion to approve the Agenda minutes (inaudible) this time, January 20th, 2015.

Councilwoman Lehman: I second.

MOTION #2- C. L. Stade moved and C. L. Lehman seconded to approve the Agenda of the January 20th, 2015 Regular Council Meeting as presented.

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

1. VISITOR COMMENTS – (227/4/132)

Heather Duncan, Benton City E.D.C. – Voters' Forum reminder – Wednesday, January 21 at 7 p.m. at PAC – Ballots due back to Benton County Auditor by February 10, 2015

REGULAR REPORTS – (258/4/099)

1. SHERIFF'S REPORT - (258/1/104)

Capt. Clay Vannoy, Benton County Sheriff's Office - December 2014 Report

- 239 Calls for Service vs. 316 in 2014 - 18 Case Offenses vs. 27 in 2014 - 22 Infraction Offenses Issued – Two burglaries – People known to victim – Cleared

Councilwoman McLeod – Rape info available?

Capt. Vannoy – No

Mayor Carnahan – Slow officers through town

Councilwoman McLeod – Road racing – 11th – Issue in Legion Heights – Around 8-10 p.m.

3. STAFF REPORTS – (330/1/939)

Stephanie Haug, City Clerk/Treasurer - In packets

- Treasurer's Report - Code Report - New website launch

Ms. Haug – New website up and running – Any suggestions – Things you would like included – Send to Paula or myself – We can add or move things around on website

Councilwoman Lehman – Would like to suggest meeting with E.D.C., Chamber and City – Coordinate linking back and forth between websites

Councilwoman Stade – Could we add link to Ben Franklin Transit for schedule and contact info?

Ms. Haug – Had hour and half training – User friendly – Available for help 24/7 – Is place to sign up for emails – News – Mailing list – Job opening announcements will be posted – Accept email applications – Place to submit concerns – Sent directly to employee concerned

4. ENGINEER REPORT (418/3/242)

Alan Rainey, City Engineer, Spink Engineering LLC - Tennis Courts – Cracks worse than last year – Hold off – Crack seal – Use as is

Mayor Carnahan – Patch – Use it

Mr. Rainey – Dale lights energized – Closing project out with Benton PUD

Mayor Carnahan - One item held until first of March – Working on Legion basketball and fence

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS – (528/4/079)

Councilwoman McLeod – Next week

Councilwoman Lettau – None

Councilwoman Lehman – None

Councilwoman Meredith – None

Councilwoman Stade – Board retreat – Long range goals – Help different cities – Consider buses and heights with new development – Sidewalks and ramps

Mayor Carnahan – Next week

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL:

1. VOUCHERS (575/2/233) - 2014 Year End (2) - January 20th, 2015

Councilwoman Lehman: Mr. Mayor, I move to approve payment of Claim check numbers 26626 through 26646 with EFTs as listed in the amount of \$15,430.95 and Payroll Check numbers 26582 thru 26593 with EFTs as listed in the amount of \$70,253.01.

Councilwoman Meredith: I second.

MOTION #3– C. L. Lehman moved and C. C. Meredith seconded to approve payment of Claim checks numbers 26626 through 26646 with EFTs as listed in the amount of \$15,430.95 and Payroll Check numbers 26582 thru 26539 with EFTs as listed in the amount of \$70,253.01 this 20th day of January, 2015.

ROLL CALL VOTE #3–C. M. McLeod, C. C. Meredith, C. L. Lehman, C. M. Lettau, C. L. Stade
ALL YEAS. Motion carries.

Councilwoman Meredith: Mr. Mayor, I move to approve payment of Claim checks numbers 26647 thru 26660 with EFTs as listed in the amount of \$59,099.36 this 20th day of January, 2015.

Councilwoman Lehman: I second.

MOTION #4– C. C. Meredith moved and C. L. Lehman seconded to approve payment of Claim checks number 226647 through 26660 as listed in the amount of \$59,099.36 this 20th day of January, 2015.

ROLL CALL VOTE #4–C. C. Meredith, C. M. Lettau, C. L. Stade, C. M. McLeod, C. L. Lehman
ALL YEAS. Motion carries.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: (627/2/137)

1. Mayor's Salary - (627/2/148)

Mayor Carnahan – Don't think we should raise it to more than \$600/year – Gives me \$50 a month – Bad time to do it – Union negotiation year – Cannot see giving Mayor 33% raise – Telling employees they only get 1.5% raise

Councilwoman Stade – Asked around – West Richland government most similar to ours – Mayor earns \$6,600 – Stipend – Mostly volunteer – Depending on projects – Varies by week – Council people make \$350 per month – On inclusive – Richland considerably more – Larger demographic – Different comparison – Meet 2-3 times per month

Councilwoman Lehman – Equates to about \$11/hour – 20 hour week

Councilwoman Stade – Mentioned it had been awhile – Wanted to bring it up for discussion – Not opposed to considering a raise - \$11 per hour not really a lot – Almost have to be retired – Full time job with City on side – Would miss meetings during day

Councilwoman McLeod – Thought last time we talked – Thought about giving Mayor \$1,000 more per year

Councilwoman Lehman - \$1,000 per month – Thought that's what we'd decided

Mayor Carnahan – Even \$1,000 a month doesn't justify what is going on – People think I don't do much – But with cellphone – My office is my house – I am there seven days a week – Twenty-four hours a day – I have taken calls at 2 o'clock in the morning – City Hall knows to give my home and cellphone numbers out – I will go and talk to people at their homes – One of few mayors that do this – Figure I put in 40 hours a week – If I was after money – I would go for Manager and hit \$60,000 – I am not a manager – Just an Administrator – Don't need more than \$9,600 a year – I'm not here for the money

Councilwoman Stade – No way to equate – Hard to find dollar amount

Councilwoman Meredith – Optional each year – Do a little every year

Mayor Carnahan – Council salary has to be done next general election - Mayor's salary can raise anytime during term

Mr. Ferguson – Can't raise or decrease salaries of elected officials – Bodies elected official do not sit on can be raised during period – Can raise salary during term as long as not on body that's voting on it – Key difference – Can raise it but not take it back

Councilwoman Lehman – I thought you couldn't increase Mayor's salary if voted in

Mayor Carnahan – Different set up – Managerial – Council elects him to be mayor

Mr. Ferguson – Only caution is whatever you do now – You can increase but you can't take back until end of term – Public officials and judges – Ripe for forcing people out of office

Ms. Haug – Will be an ordinance with two readings

Councilwoman McLeod – Suggesting \$1,000 a year as an increase – That's \$100 a month

Councilwoman Meredith - \$600 a year as Mr. Carnahan has suggested

Councilwoman Lettau – Saying raise it \$600 a year – Would be \$9,600?

Mayor Carnahan – Do we have a consensus?

Councilwoman Lehman – Not by me it's not a consensus

Councilwoman McLeod - \$100 more a month

Councilwoman Lettau – I say no because I look at the other cities – Where Benton City falls – I think we're doing pretty good – Either leave as it or go \$600 maybe

Councilwoman Lehman – Of opinion we should be closer to median or mean - \$1,000 a month is more reasonable

Councilwoman Stade – Never going to be a position that paid enough to be done as your job – Shocked West Richland was \$6,600 – Similar council and election process – I'm fine between \$600 or \$1,200 - \$800 doesn't matter – Okay with it either way – Don't think we overpay – I'm okay with \$600

Councilwoman Meredith - \$600 I suggested

Mayor Carnahan – Three out of five – Consensus for ordinance is salary is \$9,600 for next term unless Council wants to raise whenever – Filing fees will cost you \$96 to file

2. **Library Pergola Project** - (965/1/328)

Ms. Haug – Ms. McKenna and I have met couple of times – Met with architect that designed library – Got estimate – Little bit higher than originally thought – Before Council tonight to discuss – Lorz Foundation willing to donate \$10,000 towards project – To have project move forward – City would need to contribute additional funds – Pergola estimated to be another \$9,000 – Soffits never been finished on library – Would like to include in project – Estimated to be another \$6,000 – Total match and contribution for City would be about \$15,000

Mayor Carnahan – Would like to see this happen – Library has been there for six years – Been trying for six years to get soffits up – Keep birds out – Do we have money in budget for this?

Ms. Haug – Yes – Ending fund balance for General Fund is about a half a million dollars – Do have money in reserves would cover additional money for project – Budgeted for soffits but never spent – Just an estimate – If Council is willing to move forward and spend money – Will be working with Lorz Foundation and Ms. McKenna to go through process to get designs – Will be approved by both – Some type of Donation Contract for contingent on use of money – Guidelines – Approved by Lorz Foundation and City – Go through Public Works process to be built

Ms. McKenna – Understand City will take to lead on this – We will donate \$10,000 and help with design – Goal is to have it by May 2015

Ms. Haug – Does Council want to move forward?

Councilwoman Meredith – I make a suggestion we move forward

Councilwoman Lettau – Understand money comes out of General Fund – General Fund also funds street repair and other projects – Understand we want to get this finished – Convince me

Mayor Carnahan – Have money in fund for soffits – Well justified – Finishes building up – Eventually be building new City Hall in that location – Would like to expand area out – Supposed to be another building with library original design for meeting offices – Between new City Hall and existing buildings – Complex

Ms. McKenna – This was estimate – Could be less

3. **Skate Park Information - (1150/2/875)**

Mayor Carnahan – What we currently have cost us about \$160,000 – Question about boundaries - Alan – Look into survey

Ms. Haug – Have that – Need to look into whether something was deeded to City that didn't get recorded

Mayor Carnahan – Councilwomen Stade and McLeod look at other skateboard parks? Go this weekend – Bowls, loops not used that much in larger towns – Take a lot of talent to use bowls and tunnels

Councilwoman Stade – I told the mayors we'd be going – Training until 3:00 on Saturday – Leave Benton City right at 3:05 – I can get away at 2:00

Mayor Carnahan – Two of you meet me at City Hall at 2:00 Saturday afternoon

Councilwoman McLeod – Columbia Park too big and dangerous

Councilwoman Stade – Can we make a timeline for looking at boundaries – Make sure how much land we have to work with

Mr. Rainey – Will work with Stephanie before next meeting

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMENTS – (1267/3/426)

Councilwoman Lehman – Revitalization meeting – Prioritize projects with money raised from dance event– Leaves us \$1,000 seed money for next event – No dance event this year – Spend time completing projects

- 1) Finished painting warehouse – Faux brick at bottom – New boards on windows – Paint faux Window – Hope to get high school students to paint windows – No cost just time and labor
- 2) Work on Chamber – Awnings – Licensed contractor – Permit with City – Ordered swatches – Green and green stripe – Trim and paint sides
- 3) Alcoves – U.S. Bank and Tumbleweed – Vidiacs and Physical Therapy clinic – Pergola – Shade – Seating – Plants
- 4) Benches – Home Depot and Lowe's – To go downtown

Mayor Carnahan – Need to keep sidewalks clear for handicapped

Councilwoman Lehman - Work with store owners – Sent to Hedges Winery – February 5th meeting – Share his ideas – On construction – City remodel – Susan Leckband – Flyer – Hanford Learning Org

ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Carnahan (1452/3/059)


Councilwoman Meredith: Mr. Mayor, I make a motion that we adjourn.

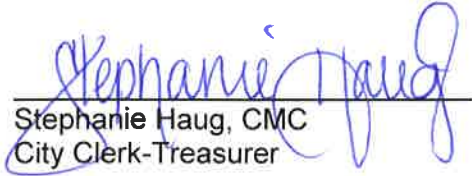
Councilwoman Stade: I second.

MOTION #5– C. C. Meredith moved and C. M. Lettau seconded to adjourn the January 20th, 2015 Regular Council Meeting at 7:44 p.m.

VOICE VOTE #5– C. C. Meredith, C., C. L. Lehman, C. M. Lettau, C. L. Stade, C. M. McLeod ALL YEAS. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m. (1457/2/728)


Lloyd Carnahan
Mayor, City of Benton City


Stephanie Haug, CMC
City Clerk-Treasurer

Date: 2-4-15