

The regular meeting of the Benton Village Board was called to order by Village President, Gary McCrea, at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Benton Business Incubator Building at 244 Ridge Avenue on Wednesday, July 15, 2009, with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Rose Walton, Lisa Lawrence, Ron Fladseth, Lori Droessler and Katey Neis. Absent: Terry Sheffer. Citizens: Jim Sysko, Jr., Patrick McCarthy and Melissa Keleher. Consultants: none. Village employees present: Darnell Hendricks and John Perkins. Others present: none. In compliance with the open meeting law, proper notice of the meeting had been posted in four public places; the Zephyr Depot, Benton State Bank, Benton Post Office, and the Benton Business Incubator Building.

*Motion (Walton, Neis) to approve the minutes as distributed from the last regular meeting held June 17, 2009. Voice -all ayes. Carried.*

Pat McCarthy, representing A Bit o' the Irish, was present with a request to have a permanent beer garden in the back of his bar located at 51 East Main Street. *Motion (Lawrence, Walton) to preliminarily approve an application for this permanent beer garden from A Bit o' the Irish.* Roll-Walton (yes), Neis (abstain), Lawrence (yes), Fladseth (yes), Droessler (yes) McCrea (yes). Motion carried.

Melissa Keleher was present with a request for consideration of dedication of park area in the Roling Oaks subdivision. After discussion related to the fact the village has only one residential lot available, the commercial lots cannot be used for this purpose, adjacent residential lot property owner's opinions, cost of purchasing equipment, and long term plan for upkeep of the park – it was determined by general consent that the best option would be to look into installation of a walking path from Swift Park to Creek Drive which would include the installation of a clear-span bridge over the creek.

Hendricks will look into the Department of Natural Resources permit process as well as the grant available for such a project. Perkins will look at the property to determine the best location for the bridge.

Jim Sysko, Jr., Benton Alumni Association, was present to discuss the installation of the old Leadmine School bell in the village park. *Motion (Droessler, Neis) to approve the installation of this school bell in the village park. Voice-all ayes. Carried.*

Perkins requested permission to redo the bulbs and wiring for the large Christmas tree located at 41 South Van Buren Street. *Motion (Lawrence, Walton) to approve this expenditure contingent on it falling within the Christmas lighting budget. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

Perkins advised the curb and gutter installation on Cross Street is scheduled for the end of the week, July 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>.

The board reviewed bids from Struck & Irwin and Fahrner Asphalt Sealers for slurry sealing streets in the village. *Motion (Droessler, Fladseth) to approve the bid from Struck & Irwin in the amount of \$20,904.96. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

*Motion (Lawrence, Neis) to approve a contract with Lafayette County Highway Department to put a 2" overlay on Water Street from its intersection with First Street extension to the north end contingent on the funds being available in the street reconstruction budget. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

By general consent the board approved the location of the bandstand to be located in the village park.

*Motion (Walton, Fladseth) to approve the purchase of four new benches for the village park. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

*Motion (Droessler, Lawrence) to approve operator's licenses for: Connor McCarthy, Chris Hoppmann and Susan Bottoms. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

*Motion (Neis, Walton) to authorize a sewer credit for Shannon Bell, account 6105, in the amount of \$159.80 due to the water being confirmed by a village representative as to not going into the sewer. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

The June 2009 police report was approved by general consent.

Hendricks advised the board that lot 13 will be reverting back to village ownership as soon as the paperwork is completed and signed.

The 2008 Audit Report was approved by general consent.

*Motion (Droessler, Walton) to approve pay request #1 from Mowry's Brothers for the 2009 street reconstruction project. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

*Motion (Lawrence, Neis) to approve the second driveway request from Ken Farrey at 273 Cross Street. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

By general consent the board authorized a second special garbage pickup for August 29<sup>th</sup> similar to the pickup that was done at this same time last year.

*Motion (Droessler, Walton) to approve the purchase of new playground equipment for Swift Park from Lee Recreation in the amount of \$14,365.00. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

By general consent the board approved removal of the large slide located at Swift Park. The board authorized Hendricks to accept sealed bids for this equipment which will include removal of the equipment.

The board reviewed notification from Mediacom of a rate increase to be effective August 1, 2009.

The board reviewed a letter it had received from Fred Norder related to playground equipment near the Roling Oaks subdivision.

*Motion (Lawrence, Droessler) to approve Hendricks requesting proposals for redoing the village's zoning ordinances. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

*Motion (Neis, Walton) to authorize the award of \$24,000 in Main Street improvement grants in amounts as discussed. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

The claims against the Village were presented for payment. *Motion (Lawrence, Fladseth) to pay the claims against the Village. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

*Motion (Fladseth, Droessler) to adjourn. Voice-all ayes. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.*