

The regular meeting of the Benton Village Board was called to order by Village President, Gary McCrea, at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Benton Business Incubator Building at 244 Ridge Avenue on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Katey Neis, Jill Knight, Chuck Wartner, Terry Sheffer, Cal Robbins and Kenneth Farrey. Village employees present: Beverly Hitz and Eric Mowry. Others Present: Myrna Sysko 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 (Wartner,Sheffer) to approve minutes from the regular village board meeting held on July 15, 2020 as presented. Voice-all ayes. Carried

Myrna Sysko presented an idea from the Benton Community Development Corporation to welcome new residents to Benton. It is intended to inform new residents about Benton and all it has to offer. They will include Benton Bucks as an incentive to support local businesses. The Village office staff will give the packets to new residents when they apply for utilities.

Eric Mowry reported that he had completed work on the storm sewer outlet in the school ditch. He is hoping to get the grass growing again soon to prevent further damage from erosion. They have completed the installation of 2 new basketball hoops in the Village Park. Eric is making 2 bench swings, one for Village Park and one for the BCDC Park. They will be putting in cement pads for 2 picnic tables at the BCDC Park and will cement the bench swings at the same time. They plan to paint the curbs next week. He also said the sheeting is now on the roof of the new phosphorus building at the sewer plant and they plan to bring the water main up to the subdivision after Labor Day. They picked up about 5 ton of electronics for disposal. His new truck should be in mid to late September.

Bev Hitz stated that they have purchase agreements for Lots 13 and 15 in Roling Oaks Heights. This makes a total of 13 lots sold.

Jill Knight is working with someone who wants to donate to our Parks. She has looked into some options and is waiting to hear back from the donar at this time.

Cal mentioned that he is concerned about our issues with LED lights on Main Street. It is not the bulbs, but the drivers. We are looking at possible solutions.

Gary has received a call from Habitat for Humanity looking for possible building sites. He also has someone looking to build in Benton that wants a lot with trees. There were a couple of suggestions from board members that he will pass along to them. Gary also said that we have about 10 walnut trees on the Jamieson Property that we could sell. He will make some calls to get bids.

Motion (Sheffer,Robbins) to approve Replacement Class B Retail licenses for Hoppy’s Bar and Grill, McCarthy’s Bar, Joseph McCrea Post 7896, and Lawrence’s Pub and Eatery for 6:00 p.m. September 6, 2020 thru 1:00 a.m. September 7, 2020.
Roll- Farrey-NO Neis-ABSTAINED Knight-YES with reservations Wartner-YES Sheffer-YES Robbins-YES McCrea-YES Motion Carried.

Motion (Robbins, Knight) to approve an Operator's Licenses for Michael Ware and Sarah Fluhr at the Zephyr Depot. Roll-all ayes. Carried

Motion (Neis, Robbins) to approve the proposed timeline for the 2021 budget. Roll-all ayes. Carried

Motion (Robbins, Wartner) to sell the lot owned by the Village at 47 Catherine Street. Roll-all ayes. Carried

The claims against the Village were presented for payment.

Motion (Knight, Sheffer) to pay the claims against the Village. Roll-all ayes. Carried

Motion (Farrey, Robbins) to adjourn. Voice-all ayes. Carried
meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.