

A 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 in the Benton Business Incubator Building at 244 Ridge Avenue on Wednesday, May 17, 2006, with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Terry Sheffer, Rose Walton, Ron Fladseth (7:09 p.m.), Cal Robbins, Ann Neis, and Lori Droessler. Absent: none. Village employees present: Darnell Hendricks (7:00 p.m.) and John Perkins (7:00 p.m.). Visitors/Citizens present: Lisa Lawrence. Consultants: 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.

By general consent, the meeting minutes of the April 19, 2006, regular board meeting were approved as amended.

Lisa Lawrence was present with a concern regarding the police coverage situation. McCrea indicated the police committee would be meeting to discuss this matter and the item will be placed on the next regular agenda.

By general consent the board agreed to accept sealed bids for the 10 foot slide from the village park. Bids will be accepted through June 16th and opened at the next regular board meeting, June 21st.

The public nuisance committee reported it had met and had a list of new public nuisances in the village. This list has been provided to the police officer for enforcement.

Robbins indicated the street committee would like to see all streets swept on a regular basis – at least once per month. In addition, the street committee would like to see Main Street swept once per week.

Robbins indicated he would have the striping and lettering done for the police car very soon.

McCrea reminded the Street Committee that a sidewalk inspection is due to be completed this spring.

An interested party has inquired as to whether the lot located at 39 East Main Street is for sale. By general consent the board indicated it was not interested in selling this lot at this time, however, the board would like Public Works Director, Perkins, to contact Mowry's Brothers to have black dirt delivered to the lot seed it down. Village employees are to put up a temporary silt fence until the grass starts to grow to avoid additional run off.

Several complaints have been received regarding dogs barking, running at large, and cars parking the wrong direction on streets. These complaints have been forwarded to the Lafayette County Sherriff's Department for handling.

A discussion was held regarding the reconstruction of Cross Street in 2007. The board reminded Perkins to make sure the water and sewer mains are televised this year for this street. The street committee will meet and review the reconstruction schedule for this street.

Motion (Neis, Fladseth) to hire Kevin Maager as a JTPA student and Travis Kaiser as a work study employee to work for the village this summer. Voice-all ayes. Carried.

The full board reviewed the recommendations of the street committee following its May 9, 2006, meeting. By general consent the board approved the street committee's recommendations with the contingency of contacting the property owner at 149 E. Main Street regarding the plans to take out a street light pole and sign pole and use of the driveway area. No action will be taken until the property owner is contacted and approval is granted.

The issue of parking at the Swift Park parking lot was discussed.

By general consent the board indicated it wanted this parking area cleaned up in the best manner possible by village employees, including removal of the excess gravel from street sweeping, removal of light poles, moving of the gravel bins to a location closer to the salt storage and removal of the storm water culvert from area.

A discussion was held regarding the ongoing drainage issues on Creek Drive. The street committee's recommendation is to extend the two drainage ditches an additional 20 yards.

Motion (Robbins, Droessler) to create a delivery zone east of 119 E. Main Street by moving the two poles located west of 149 East Main Street, painting the curb yellow, and installing a sign which indicates the area is a delivery zone and says "no parking is allowed 5:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m.", direct village employees to clean up the parking area at Swift Park in the best manner possible, direct the police department to enforce the parking permits for the Swift Park parking area by ticketing those that do not have a permit, and extend the two drainage ditches off of Creek Drive an additional 20 yards. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Robbins, Sheffer) to authorize a resolution authorizing payback of a general fund loan to the electric utility. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Sheffer, Walton) to approve operators' licenses for Sara Grindey and Kyle Kilycone. Roll- all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Neis, Droessler) to authorize renewal of an annual maintenance agreement for the Sharp AR-337 office copier. Voice vote-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Sheffer, Fladseth) to authorize a vacation request for Ryan Carver, June 9th through June 16th. Voice-all ayes. Carried.

By general consent the board approved putting a sign back in front of the Post Office that indicates it is a 15 minute loading zone area.

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

Motion (Droessler, Fladseth) to adjourn. All ayes. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Approved 6/21/2006

Posted 6/28/2006

