

CITY OF BENTON UTILITY COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2023, 6:00 P.M.,  
ELECTRIC UTILITY BUILDING  
1827 DALE AVENUE

The City of Benton Utility Commissioners met in regular session Monday, June 5th, at the Electric Utility Building, 1827 Dale Avenue.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Commission Chairman Ferrell.

The invocation was given by Commission Member Johnston.

Commission Chairman Ferrell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

When the roll was called, three Commissioners were present:

Gary Ferrell, Commission Chairman  
Jerry Ponder, Commission Member  
Brad Johnston, Commission Member

A quorum was declared with 3 members present.

Commission Chairman Ferrell asked if everyone had read the May 15<sup>th</sup> minutes, and if so, if there was a motion. Commission Member Ponder made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and be filed for future reference. The motion was seconded by Commission Member Johnston. Commission Chairman Ferrell called for a voice vote. All commission members present voted in the affirmative. The minutes were approved with 2 affirmative votes.

#### Departmental Reports

##### A. Personnel/Loss Time Incident Report

Mrs. Terrie Sossamon, Human Resources Manager, gave a presentation on the lost time incidents and open positions as well as personnel updates.

#### Old Business

##### 13 kV Line Construction Across I-30

Mr. Pedersen just wanted to give them an update. We received zero bids when it went out for bid mainly because of the small size. The engineering firm is

reaching out and asking for time and material instead of a firm price. This project is supposed to be reimbursable by the insurance company. Hopefully there will be some answers in the next couple of weeks.

## New Business

### Wastewater Treatment Valve Project Bid

Mr. Greg Becker, Wastewater Treatment Manager explained the need for the valve project and went through the 3 bids. Commission Member Johnston made a motion to accept the low bid of \$275,000 from Environmental Process Systems Inc. Commission Member Ponder seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Ferrell called for a voice vote. All commission members present voted in the affirmative. The motion was approved with 2 affirmative votes.

### Ordinance to Waive Bidding AIT Services

Mr. Becker explained the need to repair the dryer at the wastewater treatment plant. He said the cost was \$79,750.00 and he would need approval to waive competitive bidding and take it to the City Council. Commission Member Ponder made a motion to approve the request and Commission Member Johnston seconded the motion. . Commission Chairman Ferrell called for a voice vote. All commission members present voted in the affirmative. The motion was approved with 2 affirmative votes.

### Approval to order Bucket Truck for Electric Department

Mr. Darren Prysock, Electric Department Manager, said he reached out to Terex, and they said it would take 2 years to get it built. What he would like to do is order it now and pay for it when it is received. Commission Member Ponder made a motion to approve order the truck and Commission Member Johnston seconded the motion. . Commission Chairman Ferrell called for a voice vote. All commission members present voted in the affirmative. The motion was approved with 2 affirmative votes.

### Lake Norrell Discussion

Mr. Pedersen said he wanted to talk a little bit about Lake Norrell. The HOA came and visited with him, and they are having issues with the property owned by the City of Benton. They would like Benton Utilities to put a fence around the property, but he doesn't think all the area needs to be fenced. They are trying to stop the vehicle traffic, specifically around the dam and spillway. Mr. Shawn Jackson, Project Manager, is going to go out and see where they are driving for the possibility of putting concrete traffic barriers as well as some fencing and signage. Mr. Dewayne Hood, Water Distribution Manager, explained what has happened in the past with the fencing and the Sheriff's Department handing out tickets.

Mr. Pedersen gave them a 2022 Load Profile in Megawatts for their information explaining the need for this information.

Commission Member Ferrell asked about the status of the water plant filter project and Mr. Jon DeJarnatt updated him on the work.

#### Announcements

Commission Chairman Ferrell stated the next regular meeting date would be July 10, 2023.

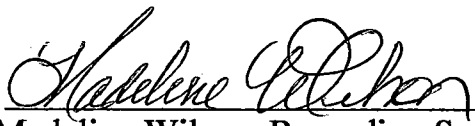
Commission Chairman Ferrell asked if there was any further input from the commission, public or staff.

Commission Member Ponder made a motion to go into executive session at 6:38 and Commission Member Johnston seconded the motion.

The meeting reconvened at 7:12 pm. No action taken.

Commission Member Ponder made a motion to adjourn with a second by Commission Member Johnston. Commission Chairman Ferrell called for a voice vote. All commission members present voted in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

  
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Gary Ferrell, Commission Chairman

  
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Madeline Wilson, Recording Secretary