

CITY OF BENTON UTILITY COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2023, 6:00 P.M.,
ELECTRIC UTILITY BUILDING
1827 DALE AVENUE

The City of Benton Utility Commissioners met in regular session Monday, April 17th, at the Electric Utility Building, 1827 Dale Avenue.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 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, Four Commissioners were present:

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

A quorum was declared with 4 members present.

Commission Chairman Ferrell asked if everyone had read the March 6th minutes, and if so, if there was a motion. Commission Member Johnston made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and be filed for future reference. The motion was seconded by Commission Member Stott. Commission Chairman Ferrell called for a voice vote. All commission members present voted in the affirmative. The minutes were approved with 4 affirmative votes.

Departmental Reports

A. Personnel/Loss Time Incident Report

Mrs. Terrie Sossamon gave a presentation on the loss time incidents and open positions as well as personnel updates.

B. February/March Financials

Mr. Jimmy Garrett, CFO, quickly went through the February and March financials and explained each page. Both water and wastewater were in the red. Commission Member Ponder made a motion to approve the February financials as

submitted. Commission Member Stott seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Ferrell called for a voice vote. All commission members present voted in the affirmative. The February financials were approved with three affirmative votes. Commission Member Johnston made a motion to approve the March financials as presented. Commission Member Ponder seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Ferrell called for a voice vote. All commission members present voted in the affirmative.

Old Business

2023 Budget

Mr. Garrett explained the amended budget request. He said this budget includes projects worth \$5 million. Commission Member Ponder made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Commission Member Stott seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Ferrell called for a voice vote. All commission members present voted in the affirmative.

NISC Update

Mr. Jimmy Garrett discussed the handouts comparing the costs from NISC to current costs with Daffron/Milsoft update. He then asked if they wanted him to contact them now and let them know we want to move forward since we do have a signed contract and we have been putting them off. Commission Chairman Ferrell said to move forward.

Commission Opening

Commission Chairman Ferrell led this discussion. Mr. Doug Stracener has applied to be a commissioner. He previously resigned last year due to some information regarding working for an electrical provider and him being on the commission. A decision was made to request Kim Hammer expedite the question regarding eligibility for an Attorney General Opinion. No further action.

New Business

Hiring of Fisher Arnold for Engineering of New SCADA System

Mr. Luke Vocque, Electric Department SCADA Tech said he is proposing a new SCADA system. Our system hasn't been able to be updated or supported since 2014, we have lost approximately 1/3 of our system due to this. Commission Member Johnston made a motion to approve the agreement between Fisher Arnold and Benton Utilities Electric Dept. Commission Member Stott seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Ferrell called for a voice vote. All commission members present voted in the affirmative.

Trojan UV System Upgrade at Wastewater Treatment

Mr. Greg Becker, Wastewater Treatment Manager explained that he was here to get approval and to waive competitive bidding for the UV System. The current one has been there since 2009 and it runs constantly. It is to a point where it needs upgraded. They are wanting to upgrade Bank A this year and do Bank B next year. Commission Member Ponder made a motion to approve the proposal and the required ordinance to waive bidding to go to city council for approval. Commission Member Johnston seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Ferrell called for a voice vote. All commission members present voted in the affirmative.

Chenault Reservoir Levee Repair

Mr. John DeJarnett, Water Filter Manager explained the proposal from the Tolm Group for the repairs to the Chenault Reservoir. He showed pictures of the current issues. He went through the 3 proposals and what each one encompassed. The total for all three is \$372,805. Commission Member Ponder made a motion to approve as presented and to send an ordinance to City Council to waive bidding. Commission Member Johnston seconded the motion. Commission Member Chairman Ferrell called for a voice vote. All commission members presented voted in the affirmative.

Announcements

Commission Chairman Ferrell stated the next regular meeting date would be May 1, 2023 cancelled and will have our 3rd Monday meeting in May on May 15, 2023.

Introduction Chris Cane

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

Commission Member Stott made a motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss personnel matters at 7:09 p.m. and Commission Member Johnston seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Ferrell called for a voice vote. All commission members present voted in the affirmative.

Commission Member Ponder made a motion to accept the recommendations for amendment of the handbook and organizational chart. Commission Member Johnston seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Ferrell called for a voice vote. All commission members present voted in the affirmative.

Commission Member Stott 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 7:26 p.m.

Gary Ferrell, Commission Chairman

Madeline Wilson, Recording Secretary