

**Town of Bentonia
Board Meeting
February 6, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Mayor and the Board of Alderman Town of Bentonia was called to order at 6:00 p.m. By Mayor Roger Burton. The following members were present Adam Brooks, Clint Lancaster, Patricia Ferris and Colby Parks; also present were Police Chief Jason Bright, Clerk Cannon Williams, Clerk Kim Tyer, Fire Chief Gary Taylor and member of the community. Absent: Greg Shaffer.

Motion was made by Clint Lancaster to open the meeting and seconded by Adam Brooks. Motion passed with all in favor.

Motion was made by Adam Brooks to adopt the minutes and bills and was seconded by Patricia Ferris. Motion passed with all in favor.

Mr. Jimmy Holmes addressed the Mayor and board concerning his water bills and a \$500.00-meter fee for the trailer on his property located on Pritchard Ave. He stated that he already had a meter that belonged to the Holmes Center that he was utilizing for the trailer. The Mayor stated that every new structure is required to have a meter installed for that structure and that no structure will be allowed to share a meter.

Mr. Holmes also expressed concern over his property being entered and dug up without prior notification and stated that his water payments have not been being applied to his account. The Mayor asked Mr. Holmes to set up a meeting to discuss the water payments. Clerk Cannon Williams stated that she has spoken with Mr. Holmes attorney concerning his water payments and that he needed to speak with his attorney concerning the issue. Mr. Holmes stated that he had contacted an attorney. He asked if Bruce Burton has water meters for all the travel trailers located on Hwy 49. The Mayor stated the Bruce Burton is on town sewer only and that his property is in Central Yazoo Water Assn franchise area.

Mr. Holmes stated that he feels like his is being mistreated by the town and that if this continued the town would have to move the pitch ins off of his property. He continued to express dismay over his water payments and the Mayor asked that he be seated that he was on the agenda to discuss the Christian Music Festival and not his water bills. Mr. Holmes stated that he did not have to sit down that this was a public meeting. He stated the Christian Music Festival did not need to be called a festival because people would want to get paid; they would think there was grant money involved. The Mayor stated that the town of Bentonia did not have anything to do with the Christian Music Festival and that he needed to contact Brother D.J. Speckner concerning that.

Ms. Loretta Thornton addressed the board concerning Fair Housing and town clean up. She stated that the town looks a mess and that we do not have fair housing and that the town needs to be working on grants for fair housing. The Mayor discussed the point system involved with getting grant money and stated that we apply every

year. Ms. Thornton also stated that when her mother built her house she had to pay a \$500.00-meter fee.

Ms. Bernice Williams addressed the mayor and board on behalf of Mt. Olive Missionary Church requesting permission to build a new sanctuary. She stated that the old building would be used as a multipurpose building for the children. She stated that the green house would be torn down and the sanctuary would be built in that location and would be attached to the old building. She asked if a new water meter would be needed. The Mayor stated that if it joined the old sanctuary a new meter would not be required. She asked if they would be required to obtain a permit and the Mayor stated that no permit would be required due to the fact that the town does not have building codes. Fire codes which are enforced by the state fire marshal would be the only issue that may be of concern.

Van Foster address the Mayor and board concerning fair housing and stated that he attends all the meeting and if anyone in town wanted fair housing he would be happy to assist them. He also discussed unclaimed money due to some in district 1 and he was working to get that information needed to contact those individuals and may request the assistance of the town. He also stated that meals on wheels would be provided for those in need at the Holmes Center and he is working with Anita Perry and Mr. Holmes to see that the seniors have meals on wheels and also activities at the Holmes Center.

The Mayor asked permission from the board to sign the Cellusite LLC zoning permit stating that the town did not have zoning. Motion was made by Clint Lancaster and seconded by Colby Parks. Motion passed with all in favor.

The Mayor stated that the town had received the Mississippi Flag from flags across America and has it flying.

The Mayor stated that since the retirement of Ardis Russell the town is in need to finding another accountant. Ken Guthrie, CPA, submitted a quote for completing the towns compilation in the amount of \$6000.00 to \$7000.00. The board requested that more quotes needed to be obtained.

The Mayor discussed bids received to repair the man hole at Cannon/Pritchard. John Ramsey submitted a bid with several options; option A \$4,750, B \$22,295, Option B-1 \$14,100. The board choose option A. Motion was made by Adam Brooks and seconded by Clint Lancaster, motion passed with all in favor.

The Mayor stated that a CD with BYC has matured. Adam Brooks made motion to let the CD roll over for another 6 months at a rate of 0.1. Motion was seconded by Colby Parks, motion passed with all in favor.

Mr. Cary Holmes addressed the Mayor and board and discussed fair housing and stated that per Bennie Thompson the Town of Bentonia had not asked for anything.

He stated that the Mayor needed to have a meeting with Mr. Thompson and request money for fair housing. The Mayor stated that he would be happy to meet with Mr. Thompson. Mr. Holmes stated that the would set the meeting up and let the Mayor know when.

The Mayor stated that bids had been received for the clean up of Alvin Ross's property located at 106 and 110 Wilson Street. Hancock \$28,500, Taylor and Sons \$12,500, and DB Dump \$2,300.00. Adam Brooks stated that he had spoken with Mr. Ross and wanted to know if the board would extend Mr. Ross's clean up time before the town excepted a bid and proceeded to clean it up. Members of the board stated that Mr. Ross has had ample time to complete clean up and that the town has been dealing with this issue for years now. Adam Brooks asked if the proper notification process had been completed. The Mayor stated that he was mailed a certified letter that he did not pick up from the post office and that notification was placed on each door of the property in question and also posted at town hall. All requirements of the court order were followed. Clint Lancaster made motion to accept DB Dump bid in the amount of \$2,300 seconded by Patricia Ferris, motion passed with all in favor.

The Mayor asked for any other business to come before the board. Colby Parks made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Patricia Ferris. Motion passed with all in favor

Kim Tyer, City Clerk

Trey Burton, Mayor