

Motion Concerning Annual City Appointed Positions

Moved: The City Council of the City of Benton approve the mayoral appointments as presented in the attached.

City Appointed Positions Recommendations – May 2023

City of Benton – Mayoral Appointments

City Clerk	Joyce Casady
City Treasurer	Joyce Jones
Police Chief	Kevin Kichler
City Attorney	Robert Lane
City Judge	Kami Baker – appointed 2022, 2-year term
Court Clerk	Kristin Beggs
Probation Officer	Ed Ketley
Bank	Community National Bank
Newspaper of Record	Butler County Times Gazette

Planning Commission/Zoning Board (3-year terms) (*requires appointment)

1. Tanner Swift, Chair appointed May 2021
2. Cara Dennison appointed May 2021
3. Danny Smith appointed May 2021
4. *Nick Engels appointed May 2020 nonresident
5. *Lois Young appointed May 2020
6. Amy Henning appointed May 2022
7. Kent Marnane appointed April 2022 nonresident

A Motion to Adopt Resolution 23-02, City Sales Tax

Moved: The Governing Body of the City of Benton adopt Resolution 23-02 authorizing a special question election concerning the city sales tax. (attached).

RESOLUTION 23-02

A RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF BENTON, KANSAS, THE PROPOSITION OF LEVYING A TWO PERCENT (2 %) RETAILERS' SALES TAX IN THE CITY OF BENTON FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING THE PROPERTY TAX AND PARK/QUALITY OF LIFE IMPROVEMENTS.

WHEREAS, K.S.A. 12-187 *et seq.*, as amended, authorizes the Governing Body to submit to the qualified electors of the City of Benton, Kansas the question of levying a retailers' sales tax, Such tax to be collected by the State Department of Revenue with the revenue therefrom returned to this city; and

WHEREAS, the governing Body of the City of Benton, Kansas has determined that additional revenue is needed to improve and maintain an adequate level of public services within the City, that property tax increases should be avoided, if possible, and that the voters be given a choice as to the method used to finance public services.

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF BENTON, KANSAS:

SECTION 1. A special question election shall be held in the manner provided by law on the 7th day of November, 2023, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the City of Benton, Kansas, the question of levying a two percent (2%) retailers' sales tax in the City of Benton Kansas, for the purpose of property tax relief in the amount of one and one-half percent (1.5%), and to supplement the costs of City Park and Quality of Life purposes, improvements and initiatives throughout the City, including supplementing payments of financing costs related thereto in the amount of one-half percent (.5%) tax to take effect on the 1st day of July, 2024 if approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon.

SECTION 2. If approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon, such tax shall be subject to all applicable state laws and administrative rules and regulations of the Kansas Department of Revenue. The services of the Department of Revenue shall be utilized to administer, enforce and collect such tax.

SECTION 3. The proposition to be placed on the ballot shall be in substantially the following form:

“Shall a retailers’ sales tax in the amount of two percent (2%) be levied in the City of Benton, Kansas to take effect on July 1, 2024, the proceeds of which shall be used to supplement the cost of property tax relief and city park and quality of life improvements.”

SECTION 4. The City Clerk and County Election Officer shall cause notices to be published of this special question election, as provided by law.

Passed by the Governing Body of the City of Benton, Kansas, this 15th day May, 2023.

(Seal)

Tyler Gottschalk, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joyce Casady, City Clerk



PROJECT SUMMARY

REPORT DATE	MEETING DATE	PREPARED BY
5/10/23	5/15/23	M. Engels

STATUS SUMMARY

CONCENTRATED PROJECT UPDATE

TASK	% DONE	DUE DATE	NOTES
Annexation	Ongoing	Ongoing	Work in progress. Certified letters sent.
			POC Curt to introduce discussion with Martin.

TASK	% DONE	DUE DATE	NOTES
Comprehensive Plan	30	Continuous until complete	Town hall meeting on 4/12/23
Cottonwood Pond	65	Continuous	Still waiting on concrete - 5 trees planted, grass after concrete is finishe
Dog Park/Bike Track	75		Springtime - set fence posts, plant trees
Drainage flume at KS/20th	0	Spring	City prepped area for work 4/7/23

NOTES:

Admin:

Benton Day went well with great attendance. So many kids having a good time. Next year I'll have more staff on hand, as I was busy with trash cans, restrooms, and other maintenance items that needed attention.

Spring is here and so is the spring workload. Tonight is a town hall budget meeting and my objective will be to speak seldom and listen much. We have a good path to getting the vote to the people.

We'll work the budget with the expectation of a favored outcome and have our plan B of a second budget. Expect the best, prepare for the worst. Still waiting for some County numbers to plug in. I'll let everyone know when that comes in. That number will tell us a lot about our neutral revenue rate.

Yesterday I attended a grant writing workshop. They were able to provide some locations to research various grant opportunities. We'll tie in our goals with this search. One point to mention is that the "magic" number for many state grants is a 51% poverty rate as a qualifier. Benton is at 4.5%. This is bad for grant writing, but it is good for our town.

The survey submission is coming up on the deadline. Then our real work begins. Tallying these things is somewhat time consuming, but we are saving some money by doing it in house.

A couple of budgeting notes for 2023: for the first quarter of 2023, total expenditures in the general fund are 20.7% at 25% of the year and full budget is 16% at 25% of the year. We'll try our best to keep this up, but we have a couple of items that will catch up later (bond payment, insurance premium, etc).

Maintenance:

So far, we're staying on top of the springtime cycle: Mowing, weed eating, locates, limbs and leaves, etc.

The guys are prepping the shelter house and blocking off a week for roofing and painting. The building needs some attention.

We are getting an estimate for a City Hall sign and window tint. This also needs some attention.

Police

This month I get to turn this department report over to Kevin. Let me know if you see any data or statistics that you'd like to focus on and we'll get it to you.

OPEN DISCUSSION

GOVERNING BODY LEAD POINTS OF CONTACT

- Bonds – Councilman Schoneboom
- Government grant programs - Councilman Schoneboom
- Development – Councilman Schoneboom
- City Growth – Councilman Ghormley
- Budgeting/Finance – Councilman Claycamp
- Streets – Councilman Smith
- Storm water – Councilman Swift
- Sanitary sewer – Councilman Smith
- Codes and Regs – Councilman Schoneboom
- Policing – Councilman Swift
- Infrastructure upgrade – Mayor Gottschalk
- Equipment – Mayor Gottschalk
- Fresh Water – Councilman Smith

OPEN DISCUSSION Curt

A proposal to amend the city code concerning animal keeping

Modify City Code 2-109 Keeping animals. paragraph (5)

Current language: Quantity. The quantity of birds is limited to 6 per tract.

Change to: Quantity. The quantity of birds is limited to 10 per tract.

Executive Session motion

Moved:

That the governing body recess into executive session IAW K.S.A. 75-4319(b) to discuss non-elected personnel matters/attorney client privilege. Further, required to attend this session is the Mayor, City Attorney, City Administrator and the City Council. Further, that the governing body return to open session at _____PM