

POA Neighborhood Meeting, Minutes  
10-11-20

**Kay Ruch (Vice President)**- We need new members and leadership in HFPOA our board has served multiple years and they need some other neighbors to step up. Introduced board members at the meeting Sherry Gage, Mike Titsworth, Gary Ellrod and Frank Baptist (Alderman and Resident).

New Neighbors introduced and welcomed.

**Frank Baptist (Benton Alderman and resident of HF)**: Don't be afraid to contact the Mayor's office about concerns for the city he is very welcoming.

Introduced Guests:

**Brad Johnson (Benton, Community Development)** - Community Development covers building permits, planning and zoning, commercial building, code enforcement, and inspections.

Question from HF resident, who is responsible for water issues caused by a new subdivision, A: The developer of the new subdivision, Brad J. got info from resident to look into the issue.

FEMA flood insurance new 2020 flood plain map, you may have received a letter of you have a mortgage and you are in the new flood plain.

Code: abandoned/neglected homes are being taken down around Benton. Call city hall if you see a code issue.

(501) 303-7951 Code/Community Development

(501) 776-3959 City Hall can also direct your call

**John (Benton Roads/Street Department)**- Addressed drainage issues, they are swamped but are working on issues. They have received 3 grants which should help funding for community issues. They are promoting Issue 1 on the ballot to promote funding for roads projects for Saline county and Benton.

Homes/Business saw an increase in a drainage fee to help cover the rising cost of drainage repairs.

(501)776-5900 is the main number to call for issues and they will put your issue on the list and come out to see if they can get it taken care of.

**S. Hodges (Benton Police Department)**- Stated that the city has no control of issues effecting the state highway system even though some of those highways run through the city.

-Crime slowed during COVID at first but is back up.

-Overall crime is down 6% this year from last year.

-The crimes they are seeing are cars being hit more and other crimes less.

-reminder lock vehicles, take valuables inside at night (or put out of view) and lock cars.

-Garage remotes and keypads in cars are ways that criminals access your home, you can lock your garage door opener for the night from the main switch inside your garage.

-Lock and have a deadbolt on your backdoor.

-Car thefts are occurring between 2-5 am.

-You can help catch thieves by sending video footage from your home cameras to the department.

-Neighbors asked about kids riding 4 X 4's and motor bikes at high speeds through the neighborhood, the police will step up drive through to address this. Tickets were previously issued and it slowed down some, but it has started back up again.

-neighbors asked about people driving too fast, Hodges responded that is a city-wide problem.

-The radar trailer is being repaired and then they can bring it to our neighborhood.

-A neighbor complained of dogs running loose and bothering walkers, Hodges responded to call 911 for immediate threat or animal control 778-1171 (non-emergency number)

**Mayor Tom Farmer (Benton Mayor)-** Animal control is trying to hire 2 new officers and upgrade their phone system, if you don't get an answer or it cuts out call back, they will contact you to get your information.

-Benton to host drive in movies and trick-or-treat, info on City of Benton website.

-Housing sales in the city are up.

Mayor Farmer has an open-door policy for questions about the community.

911- new consolidated call center to lower wait times, you can register your information at smart911.com and when you call 911, they will already have your important information.

Neighbor asked about internet service- most of the neighborhood can only get ATT. When the developer made the initial contract, he contracted with ATT exclusively and they own the lines in this neighborhood, some neighbors on the outsides of the neighborhood can get other providers because the lines are closer to them. For neighbors on the inside to get something other than ATT the whole neighborhood would have to be dug up and rewired, it's not likely to happen.

**Kay Ruch-** The spring meeting was during the covid shut down and only board members attended. Minutes were limited and posted to the website.

-Benton is improving by adding more family activities before covid started. they will have a virtual Christmas Tree lighting and you are still invited to bring a family ornament to hang on the tree downtown.

**Sherry Gage-** treasury report, the POA purchased new chairs for 2020 and due to covid they were not in use to prevent them from being damaged due to sanitation requirements.

-There is a new pool security system, all FOBS had to be reactivated.

- The POA gave 4mo. before filing liens for outstanding POA dues.
  - 5 More years on pool payment, the POA will pay an extra 10,0000 per year until it's paid for.
  - Playground needs repairs.
  - Guttering needs gutter guards and/or replacement.
  - POA relies on volunteers to do labor and save \$\$, we need more volunteers.
  - A neighbor stated she had signed up multiple times to volunteer and was never contacted.
  - Sarah Burns volunteered to act as volunteer coordinator to help facilitate duties with jobs needed she is creating a google form that will be up on the website shortly and will help coordinate efforts moving forward.
- Michael Burns was nominated for a board member position and seconded, he will be voted into a leadership role by the board at the next board meeting.
- Thank You to all the pool volunteers for getting that together so that the pool could be used this summer.
- Thank you to Cindy Brown for organizing the neighborhood garage sale and figuring that all out during covid.
- If you are 65 or older or a disabled veteran call Benton Utilities to get a discount on your sewer rate, information was also shared by a neighbor on the NEXT Door App.
- Lost FOB's are 40.00
  - New neighbors should get a FOB at closing, if you sell your home you should turn your FOB into your agent to give to the new owners. It will need to be reactivated as they are deactivated when a sale occurs.

CLOSING