

**Town of Bentonia
Board Meeting
June 2, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Mayor and the Board of Alderman Town of Bentonia was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Roger Burton III. The following members were present Patricia Stevens, Greg Shaffer, Robert Demus, Colby Parks, and Clint Lancaster also present were Fire Chief Gary Taylor, Police Chief Nolen Warrington, Clerk Cannon Williams, Clerk Kim Tyer and members of the community.

Motion to open the meeting was made by Clint Lancaster seconded by Robert Demus; motion passed with all in favor. Motion to accept the minutes and bills was made by Colby Parks and seconded by Robert Demus; motion passed with all in favor.

Sam Tucker came before the Mayor and Board of Alderman for Jimmy Holmes requesting permission to open an odd and ends store located on the corner of Pritchard Avenue and Wilson street. She stated that it would strictly be odds and ends. A motion was made by Greg Shaffer and seconded by Robert Demus; motion passed with all in favor.

The Mayor addressed Sam Tucker and stated that the town was in no way planning to shut the Blues Festival down. The Mayor stated that if any questions were to arise concerning the festival information would need to come from the State of Mississippi. Sam replied that they were aware that the town was not involved in the rumors circulating and they were aware of where the information came from.

Michelle Nash addressed the Mayor and Board of Alderman concerning speed bumps that were removed from woods circle and oak street. She stated that she was furious that no one contacted them to let them know that they were going to be removed and that someone should have knocked on her door to let her know. Michele Nash stated that her neighbor's child has an eye disorder, she has elderly parents, children riding bikes in the neighborhood, and that she should not have to patrol. She stated that a black Tahoe with a trailer ran over the speed bumps before they were removed going so fast that it shook her kitchen window. Michelle Nash stated that she would not be quiet until she had her speed bumps back; I will hire an attorney for handicapped children if that's what it takes. She addressed the Mayor and Board and stated that it was the responsibility of the board to make sure her neighborhood was safe. Michelle stated that their road was the Bentonia 500 and if you don't live there you should not come down their road; let us enjoy our neighborhood. Michelle Nash stated that she would hold this board accountable if anything happens to any one of her family members.

Tabitha Bridges addressed the Mayor and Board of Alderman stating that she had in the past put pink signs up to try to slow traffic down because the road is being used as a cut-through road. She stated that her children were raised in the county and were not subjected to traffic. She also stated that she fears for her children's safety and that sorry cannot bring her children back. Tabitha stated that she has backed her vehicle out on the road to slow traffic. Tabitha stated that children on a Four-Wheeler are also speeding

down her street and stated that they cussed her out. Robert Demus asked which one cussed you out. Robert Demus called his children to town hall and asked Tabitha Bridges to tell him which one cussed her out so that he could address the issue. Tabitha Bridges stated that she did not know which one it was that she is way on the other end of her house when that occurred. Robert Demus stated you said you were near the road so which was it, you were near the road or way across your yard. He also stated that you don't know which one because it didn't happen.

Karen Tyer addressed the Mayor and Board of Alderman stating traffic has slowly picked up since the speed bumps were removed. Chuck Tyer stated that Pritchard Ave is a drag way and that he can hear the vehicle start at poochie and go all the way to the other end. The Mayor responded that speeding occurs on all roads in town and the police cannot be everywhere all the time. Chuck Tyer supplied the Mayor and Board with an Attorney General's Opinion on SB198 2005 which shows that the bill did not pass and died in committee. He stated that he had spoken to the County Supervisor and he was all for putting speed bumps down until he heard that the town was afraid of being sued. The Mayor responded that the County Supervisor does not have jurisdiction in the Town of Benton. Chuck Tyer also stated that no one has run over Niki Jolly's water meter trying to avoid the Speed bumps.

Rusty Nash stated that the speed bumps had been down 10 years before the decision was made to pull them up. He also stated that the board members came to our door shuck our hand, hugged our neck, and asked for our signature to run for office. Rusty Nash stated that even Louise had speed bumps.

Chuck Tyer stated the reason I brought the Attorney General's opinion is for you all to vote and make it stand. The Mayor stated that no decision would be made tonight that he was communicating with the town attorney. Chuck Tyer stated that the town attorney needs to be contacted to resolve this immediately. The Mayor stated that the town attorney was unable to attend the meeting tonight but that he was communicating with the attorney.

Jennifer Blaylock addressed the Mayor and Board of Alderman and stated that nothing has been done. She stated that the cops also speed on Pritchard Ave and Officer Ken Kigar was one of the officers speeding on Pritchard Ave. The Mayor stated that's not true you all have been seeing the police. Jennifer Blaylock stated that she has been calling Ken Kigar and the Yazoo County Sheriff's Department. She was encouraged to get tag numbers if possible. The Mayor stated that no one should be calling the officer directly that everything should go through dispatch.

Chief Nolen Warrington stated that if anyone has a problem with the police department, they need to address him.

Niki Jolly addressed the Mayor and Board of Alderman and stated that her dog had been poisoned and also stated that her dog is contained in her back yard inside a fence and she felt that the poisoning was retaliation over the speed bumps and that if anyone had a

problem with her they needed to address her and not take revenge on her family. She also stated that her dog is an emotional support dog for her daughter.

Rusty Nash stated that we are here to talk about speed bumps, not your dog. Let the record reflect that Niki Jolly was on the agenda to discuss the poisoning of her dog because she felt it was retaliation because of the speed bumps being removed. Rusty Nash stated that the Board makes the decision so how are we going to resolve this.

Earnestine Fisher addressed the Mayor and Board of Alderman about the cats at the pitch in. She stated that a woman feeds all those cats every day and something needs to be done to address this issue. The Mayor stated that he would speak with the lady concerning this issue.

Brittany Milner addressed the Mayor and Board of Alderman stating that the only thing Bentonia had going for them was Chief Nolen Warrington. She also stated that this was her first meeting to attend and that is was ridiculous. That the town should come together to make a difference. She also stated they she would not oppose speed bumps on East Rail Road Ave. The Mayor stated that East Rail Road Ave was a state-maintained road.

Greg Shaffer addressed the community present and stated that he was for getting the speed bumps back and that he did not vote to have them removed. The minutes from the special meeting addressing speed bumps show Greg Shaffer as being absent.

The Mayor stated that the town is communicating with the town attorney to address the speed bumps and the town liability concerning injury or damage.

Chief Nolen Warrington addressed the Mayor and Board of Alderman concerning NIBRS which will be mandatory January 1, 2021. He presented the board with a quote for police and court software that will be required. He stated that no action is needed at this time.

The Mayor asked for any other business to come before the board, motion to adjourn was made by Colby Parks and seconded by Robert Demus; motion passed with all in favor.

Kim Tyer, Clerk

Roger Burton III, Mayor