

**Town of Bentonia
Board Meeting
March 3, 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, Robert Demus and Clint Lancaster also present were Fire Chief Gary Taylor, Clerk Cannon Williams and Clerk Kim Tyer. Absent: Colby Parks and Greg Shaffer.

Motion to open the meeting was made by Clint Lancaster seconded by Patricia Stevens, Motion passed with all in favor. Motion to except the minutes and bill was made by Client Lancaster and seconded by Patricia Stevens. Motion passed with all in favor.

Paul Johnson addressed the Mayor and Board requesting permission to open a car restoration and repair shop in the old Richardson Brothers parts house located on Hwy 49. Motion was made by Clint Lancaster and seconded by Robert Demus; motion passed with all in favor. Mr. Johnson was advised that he would need to obtain a privilege license prior to opening the business.

Mr. Johnson requested permission to place a Graceland type structure near the building. The structure will be used to house a security person to keep watch over the establishment during the nights and eventually turned in to a repair area. The Mayor requested that Mr. Johnson bring all the necessary paper work to show that the land and structure are within the guidelines of the Town Ordinances.

Kent Alexander with Aflac gave a brief overview of Aflac insurance policies and requested permission to set up appointments with employees and board members to discuss their insurance needs. Motion was made by Clint Lancaster and Seconded by Patricia Ferris. Motion passed with all in favor.

Robert Hicks addressed the board about Mount Olivet Church building a new sanctuary and using the existing meter on the lot. It was discussed that the town would allow the use of the meter as long as the 2 meters were not tied into each other and that the church would be responsible for only 1 water and sewer bill. Motion was made by Client Lancaster and seconded by Patricia Ferris, motion passed with all in favor. Mr. Hicks requested the information be put in writing.

The Mayor addressed the board with information obtained from 2 appraisals on the bank plus building. The first appraisal was completed by Reba Pepper and the second by Wyatttopia. The Board of Alderman authorized the mayor to move forward with making an offer on the bank plus building, motion was made by Patricia Stevens and seconded by Clint Lancaster, motion passed with all in favor.

The Mayor expressed his concern over the pay set by the board of Alderman for the Police Chief position. The Mayor expressed the need to raise the pay and stated that he was

willing to give up \$1500.00 of his \$6600.00 annual salary. This would raise the pay to \$30,000 annually. Clint Lancaster recommended reducing the Alderman salary to help compensate for the additional funds. The Mayor stated that 2 board members were absent and that he did not feel it would be right to decrease the Alderman's pay without all Alderman being present. Motion was made by Clint Lancaster and seconded by Patricia Stevens to lower the Mayors salary to \$5100.00 per year, motion passed with all in favor.

The Mayor asked for any other business to come before the board, motion to adjourn was made by Patricia Stevens and seconded by Clint Lancaster.

Kim Tyer, Town Clerk

Roger Burton III, Mayor