

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-20

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PRIMARY GOALS OF THE CITY OF BENTON CITY FOR THE CALENDAR YEARS 2016-2017

WHEREAS, the City of Benton City organization desires to focus the allocation of its resources toward primary goals selected to fulfill the vision of Benton City's future, as held by its elected representatives; and

WHEREAS, the City Council conducted a goal setting workshop on November 2, 2016 to discuss all the various concerns for the present as well as visions for the future;
NOW, THEREFORE,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENTON CITY, WASHINGTON, hereby resolves as follows:

That the following goals shall be considered primary goals for the City of Benton City for the calendar years 2016 and 2017:

- 1. Splash Pad:** The citizens of Benton City have shown an interest in an aquatic play area in Benton City for a number of years. Although a pool has been talked about, a splash pad seems to be the most cost effective project for a City of our size to meet the desires of the Citizens. The City will work with other jurisdictions that have these types of facilities to learn what works, what doesn't, and how much they cost to build and operate, and ***create a local aquatic play area in Benton City.***
- 2. Community Outreach/Communication:** The City currently utilizes a website to communicate important dates, documents announcements and news to its citizens. This is updated periodically by the City Clerk/Treasurer. The Mayor submits an article to the Kiona-Benton Sentinel each month. The City could hire a designate Public Relations person to create additional stories, articles and news releases on the City's behalf. This position would most likely be a part time position, based on the size of our jurisdiction. The City would also need to evaluate the Public Records liability of expanding onto social media platforms, and the cost of implementing systems to capture any records created through those sites. A policy for what and when information is published should also be created. ***The City will implement a plan that communicates the City's story & celebrates the City's accomplishments to its citizens.***
- 3. Purchase Land for Sports Complex:** The addition of a sports complex will not only give more opportunities for the youth of Benton City to participate in sports, but can also boost the City's economy when hosting tournaments. The City does not currently possess land adequate for development into ball fields. The City should consider the type of ball fields desired will determine the amount of land

needed, what parking facilities will need to be constructed to serve the new complex, and if the complex be multi-sport? ***The City will acquire a large section of land to construct ball fields/create a sports complex.***

- 4. Improve and Add City Events:** Although there are several events occurring in Benton City each year, the City itself only sponsors the 4th of July fireworks event and the Halloween carnival. The City lends its resources to help the Benton City Chamber of Commerce put on Benton City Daze, the 4th of July parade and Winterfest. The City also hosts monthly meetings to help groups coordinate their events and resources, and creates a Community Calendar (attached) from the events each group presents. These meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 4pm. The City should consider: events require a lot of manpower, and most events are put on by volunteers, with the improvements of the stage area at City Park, additional events could take place there, including movies and concerts, if the City wishes to host these events themselves, a substantial investment in manpower and overhead costs will need to be budgeted. ***The City will utilize existing venues to bring additional activities and events to Benton City.***
- 5. Improve Entry to City:** The Right of Way (ROW) is approximately 60' wide from the bridge to the downtown area and is owned by the State. The State has several regulations as to what can be done along the roadway. The process to develop a plan and implement projects will take some time. The City will need to work with WSDOT to determine what can be done in the ROW. The City will also need to work with Washington State Fish & Wildlife, as it leases the boat launch area from them. The City will need to develop a common vision for the area. Disagreements on what should happen have slowed progress in the past. The process should include public hearings and opportunities to hear from the public as to what should be done. ***The City will develop a plan for improvement of the area from South entrance of the City to Downtown, including lighting, a wall, directional signs, art and branding.***
- 6. Develop Main Street program:** A few years ago, students from Eastern Washington University prepared a report entitled "Benton City Action Plan" and presented it to the Benton City EDC. This plan outlines the steps needed to develop a Main Street program in Benton City. The City shall consider how it can utilize the report created by EWU and work with the Benton City EDC and Benton City Chamber of Commerce to implement the steps outlined in the report. ***The City will develop a Main Street Program.***
- 7. Develop Pathway Plan:** The City has pathways for walking and biking, but these can be expanded. The trail that winds through town on the Kiona Irrigation ROW was built in collaboration with Kiona Irrigation and STP money through WSDOT. Developing a comprehensive trail plan will prepare the City for future projects and funding opportunities. It will also help identify needed right of way for future paths that can be addressed during land use application review. The

City has a map of existing sidewalks that can be used as a starting point for developing the plan. It will probably take substantial time to develop the plan and it is proposed that the City form a committee with participants from Spink Engineering, the City Council, Kiona-Benton School District, WSDOT, Ridges to Rivers/Tapteal Greenway and City Staff to help determine what is needed and points to connect within the City and outside its borders. The City will **develop a plan that identifies continuity between existing walking/biking paths and new opportunities, including equestrian, to connect key points within the City and beyond its borders.**

8. **Expand Skate Park:** A request has been made by some of Benton City's youth to provide additional skate space and different features that can be used by skaters of all skill levels and ages. The area the current skate park is located is near the existing property lines of the park. A property line adjustment would need to happen in order to expand the skate park area. Things to consider include: more land will need to be acquired in order to expand the existing park, issues with the noise from the park will need to be addressed when working with adjacent property owner, the City must accept additional liability when expanding the features, and additional input on what features are needed/wanted is needed. The City will **provide additional skate space and equipment for participants of all ages and abilities.**
9. **Improve Playground Equipment:** The playground equipment was replaced and updated in Legion Park in 2010. Additional play equipment was added in 2016. The play equipment in City Park was installed several years ago. The City should consider that the play equipment at City Park to be replaced with newer equipment. Input on what is desired will need to be gathered by the City. The new equipment will need to meet current safety standards. The proximity of the play area to the alley should be addressed with fencing, and any changes to the play area should incorporate the use of the stage area for events. The City will **replace/upgrade playground equipment at City Park.**
10. **Construct Large Community Center near library:** The City owns the land to the west of the Benton City Library. It was donated to the City for the construction of the library, a community center as well as City Hall. In 2012, a design for the City Hall was completed by the same architect that designed the library building. A joint use facility was incorporated to use as City Council Chambers, as well as a multi-purpose room for community classes and events. More information is needed on what type of facility is desired, and what features should be included. A new building of this caliber will require additional manpower and security. This building should add opportunities for Benton City youth and adults to participate in their community. The City will **construct community center near library.**

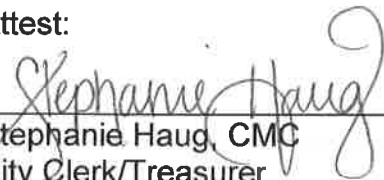
ADOPTED this 6 day of December, 2016, by the City Council of the City of Benton City, Washington, and signed in authentication of its passage this 6 day of December, 2016.

Resolution 2016-20 filed and recorded in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Benton City, Washington, this 6 day of December, 2016.



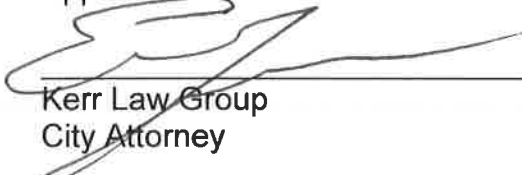
Linda Lehman, Mayor

Attest:



Stephanie Haug, CMC
City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved as to Form:



Kerr Law Group
City Attorney