

BENTON ZONING AND PLANNING COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 7, 2019 - 6:00 PM

The Benton Zoning and Planning Commission's public hearing was called to order by Chairman Shockley at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at 1403 at the Benton Municipal Building at 1403 South Main Street.

Roll Call: Shockley, McGuire, Cockrum, Payne-Hubler, Clark, Neal, Collier

Also Present: David Garavalia, Zoning Administrator; Representatives of Franklin Hospital

Mr. Garavalia stated that Franklin Hospital seeks a variance to erect a sign in the place of the existing sign's location, which is in the City right of way.

Mr. Shockley inquired as to whether the proposed sign would be blinking/flashing where Mr. Johnson stated that it would be similar to the other signs owned by the hospital and would not be a nuisance.

Ms. Payne-Hubler inquired as to what agreement had been made between the City and Hospital regarding the use/sale/lease of the property. Mr. Garavalia clarified that during the City Council meeting of 7/1/19 the City Zoning Administrator, Mayor and City Attorney were authorized to negotiate with the hospital. Due to vacations between the parties, Mr. Garavalia stated he was unable to reach the Franklin Hospital attorney to continue discussions regarding the transfer of land.

Ms. Payne-Hubler asked whether or not a variance could be granted contingent on the outcome of negotiations, which Mr. Garavalia stated he believed that would be possible.


Under public comments, Councilman Perkins addressed the group by thanking them for their attendance and expressed his support for the hospital. Mr. Perkins stated that he was against selling the property to the Hospital for \$53,000 due to it being an astronomical number.

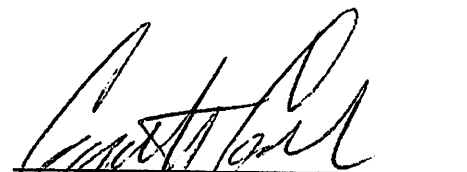
Mr. Morris voiced his concern that projects were being continually put off without action and he was also against the hospital paying \$53,000 for property they have maintained.

Mr. Garavalia stated he was unaware of who came up with the original cost of the land but that he believed that the figure of \$53,000 was derived from the city appraisal of the property, which was \$65,000 and that, according to state statute, the city is allowed to accept 80% of the value of the property.

Having no further business or public comments, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Neal and seconded by Collier.

Ayes: Shockley, McGuire, Cockrum, Payne-Hubler, Clark, Neal, Collier Nays:


Victor Shockley, Chairman


Garrett Collier, Secretary