



## TOWN OF BENTON LOUISIANA

WORKSHOP MINUTES  
BENTON TOWN COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 17, 2025 6:00 PM  
105 SIBLEY STREET, BENTON, LA 71006

Mayor Friday called to order the Workshop of the Town of Benton Board of Aldermen, 105 Sibley Street, Benton, La., Monday, November 17, 2025, at 6:00 pm

Mrs. Collier called the roll:

Alderman Carr	PRESENT
Alderman Manning	PRESENT
Alderman Brunson	PRESENT
Alderman Perry	PRESENT
Alderman Lawrence	PRESENT

Also present: Stephanie Collier, Attorney Chance Nerren, Chief Steve Collier, Officer Cesar Mora, several Benton Police Department Officers, and members of the public.

A motion was made by Alderman Manning, seconded by Alderman Carr to approve the Workshop Agenda. Mayor Friday called for public comments. There being none the following vote was recorded.

AYES:	Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Brunson, Alderman Perry, and Alderman Lawrence
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None

Mayor Friday opened the discussion on the first item, the 2025 General fund and 1978 Sales Tax amendments. And then item number two will be the General Fund, the 1978 Sales Tax, and the Water Sewer Enterprise fund budgets for 2026. Mrs. Collier notified council members of a significant correction made to the General Fund Revenues and after rebalancing some of the numbers changed. Manning was confused as to how that change affected the whole budget. Mrs. Collier had to explain to Manning that when any changes are made to a budget, the entire budget has to be rebalanced as a whole.

Manning questioned the various payroll budgets in Water Sewer and General Fund. Manning questioned why no employees allocated to the Street Department, why is the town paying for a bookkeeper service versus hiring a bookkeeper, why the police budget increased, why the council had no pay increases, why we budget \$2,000 for cellphone in one dept and \$1800 in another,

why the amended budget for the Police Truck is not 145,000.00 like on the balance sheet, and why did the budget go up for publishing and printing, why is there money budgeted for capital outlay vehicle, why does the town pay dues and can the council participate, and why is 150k budgeted for town beautification and community gardens, and why don't we negotiate for a better price for seasonal flags, and why did we not do street projects in 2025, and why was the amount lower for streets in 2026, why hasn't the council voted to set the amount for a retainer of the town attorney, and why is there a budget for furniture, and why would it not be included in the office supply budget.

Mrs. Collier responded. To keep the payroll budgets for the General Fund and the Water Sewer Fund as equal as possible, employees are allocated accordingly. Bookkeeping services do not cost as much as hiring a full-time employee would. The police budget increased to cover officer pay increases, based on Alderman Jackie Carr's recommendation, and Alderman Carr also recommended the Chief of Police's pay increase. The council made no mention of a pay increase; therefore, no increase was budgeted. The difference between departments for cellphone payments is not a problem as long as money is allocated to pay the bills. The amendment to the police truck purchase was changed to exactly what it cost, roughly 72K. The balance sheet is still showing 145k because the first check was voided to separate the delivery costs. Amending the budget is to project the actual money spent by December 31, 2025, not to reflect the balance sheet. The publishing and printing costs have increased because our council meetings have been running over two hours, which lengthens the minutes and makes them more expensive to publish. Capital Outlay vehicles in both funds are for much-needed work trucks. The 150k for beautification and community gardens includes two gateway signs at the north town limits and the southern town limits, 15 seasonal flags, and 15 pole brackets for Hwy 3. At the community garden site, we will need to fence the property, build a cooling station, and add a water meter for the sprinkler system. The town pays due to various entities, including the LMA, Bossier Chamber of Commerce, CDC, Bossier Economic Development, the Chiefs Association, Municipal Attorney Association, and International Municipal Clerks Association. I have gotten different pricing for flags, and I do not know why we didn't do any street repairs in 2025. In the 18 years I have been a clerk, the council never voted on the number of retainers paid to the town attorney. The attorney and mayor have always set that. And the furniture budget is separate from the office supplies budget.

Alderman Carr did not agree with the amount budgeted for the Community Beautification projects and the Community Garden. Mrs. Collier stated that if the money is not spent, it will be amended out later in the year.

Officer Cesar Mora spoke to council members in response to Manning's post on social media, suggesting that the only thing the Benton Police do is write traffic tickets. Officer Mora brought stacks of files of criminal cases investigated by Benton. Cases included domestic abuse, up to crimes against children. Officer Mora stated that the Sheriff's Department does not take over any cases from the Benton Police; they are called in only for specific circumstances. Attorney Nerren reiterated Officer Mora's statement that he has prosecuted criminal cases that were investigated from start to finish by the Benton Police. Manning abruptly thanked Officer Mora for educating her.

Mayor Friday called for a motion to adjourn the Work session. A motion by Alderman Carr seconded by Alderman Lawrence to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor: 5

Opposed: None

SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES  
BENTON TOWN COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 17, 2025 6:30 PM  
105 SIBLEY STREET, BENTON, LA 71006

Mayor Friday called to order the Special Session of the Town of Benton Board of Aldermen, 105 Sibely Street, Benton, La., Monday, November 17, 2025, at 6:30 pm

Mrs. Collier called the roll:

Alderman Carr	PRESENT
Alderman Manning	PRESENT
Alderman Brunson	PRESENT
Alderman Perry	PRESENT
Alderman Lawrence	PRESENT

Also present: Stephanie Collier, Attorney Chance Nerren, Chief Steve Collier, Officer Cesar Mora, several Benton Police Department Officers, and members of the public.

A motion was made by Alderman Carr, seconded by Alderman Lawrence to approve the Special Session Agenda. Mayor Friday called for public comments. There being none the following vote was recorded.

AYES:	Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Brunson, Alderman Perry, and Alderman Lawrence
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None

A motion was made by Alderman Carr, seconded by Alderman Lawrence to introduce and set for public hearing Ordinance 612 of 2025. Mayor Friday called for public comments. There being none the following vote was recorded.

2025 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 595 OF 2024  
THE FINANCIAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025  
FOR THE TOWN OF BENTON, LOUISIANA IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOUISIANA LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT BUDGET ACT

BE IT ORDAINED the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, Louisiana,  
enacted Ordinance 595 of 2024 on December 9, 2024, adopting the 2025 General Fund,  
Water Sewer Enterprise Fund, and 1978 Sales Tax Fund budgets, and

WHEREAS the Board of Aldermen does hereby desire to amend the 2025 General Fund Budget by the following changes;

Revenues:	General Revenues	From:	(1,761,503.00)	To:	(1,843,920.00)
	Trans from 1978	From:	(912,500.00)	To:	(222,696.00)
	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>From:</b>	<b>(2,674,003.00)</b>	<b>To:</b>	<b>(2,054,616.00)</b>
Expenses:	Administrative	From:	421,984.00	To:	540,571.00
	Mayor	From:	45,310.00	To:	55,946.00
	Council	From;	28,000.00	To:	28,960.00
	Chief of Police	From:	92,650.00	To:	92,500.00
	Police Department	From:	981,462.00	To:	981,416.00
	Streets	From:	845,000.00	To:	71,380.00
	Maintenance	From:	110,070.00	To:	158,794.00
	Parks & Recreation	From:	60,000.00	To;	43,291.00
	Benton MPC	From:	85,569.00	To:	81,705.00
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>From:</b>	<b>2,670,045.00</b>	<b>To:</b>	<b>2,054,513.00</b>
	<b>Net (Profit) / Loss</b>	<b>From:</b>	<b>3,958.00</b>	<b>To:</b>	<b>103.00</b>
	Beginning Balance	From:	(2,745,353.00)	To:	(2,745,343.00)
	End Fund Balance	From:	(2,794,311.00)	To:	(2,745,456.00)

WHEREAS the Board of Aldermen does hereby desire to amend the 2025 1978 Sales Tax Fund by the following changes:

Revenues	1978 Sales Tax	From:	(955,000.00)	To:	(1,002,215.00)
:	Interest Income	From:	(28,000.00)	To:	(96,042.00)
	<b>Total Revenues</b>		<b>(983,000.00)</b>		<b>(1,098,257.00)</b>
Expenses	Transfer to General	From:	912,500.00	To:	222,696.00
:	F				
	Transfer Water	From:	36,793.00	To:	36,739.00
	Sewer				
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>From:</b>	<b>949,239.00</b>	<b>To:</b>	<b>259,435.00</b>
	<b>Net (Profit) / Loss</b>	From:	(33,761.00)	To:	(838,822.00)
	Beginning Balance	From:	(5,034,192.00)	To:	(5,034,192.00)
	Ending Balance	From:	(5,067,953.00)	To:	(5,873,014.00)

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, Louisianan, finds and determines that the General Fund and 1978 Sales Tax Fund amendments comply

with all requirements set forth in the State of Louisiana Local Government Budget Act  
R.S. 39:1301 – 1315

AYES: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Brunson,  
Alderman Perry, and Alderman Lawrence  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

A motion was made by Alderman Manning, seconded by Alderman Carr to introduce and set for public hearing Ordinance 613 of 2025. Mayor Friday called for public comments. There being none the following vote was recorded.

#### **FY 2026 Budgets**

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2026 BUDGETS FOR REVENUES  
AND EXPENDITURES OF THE TOWN OF BENTON'S GENERAL FUND,  
WATER SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND, 1978 SALES TAX FUND,  
BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026;  
AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF BENTON,  
BOSSIER PARISH, LOUISIANA IN REGULAR SESSION CONVENED THAT:

SECTION 1. The following estimates are hereby adopted to serve as a budget of revenues and expenditures of the General Fund FY 2026:

General Fund Revenues	(1,814,046.00)
Trans in from 1978 Sales Tax	(824,000.00)
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>(2,638,686.00)</b>
General Administrative Expenses	626,147.00
Mayor Expenses	52,610.00
Council Expenses	29,550.00
Chief of Police	115,910.00
Police Expenses	993,600.00
Street Expenses	451,300.00
Maintenance Expenses	103,400.00
Parks and Recreation Expenses	180,000.00

Benton Parish MPC	85,569.00
<b>Total General Fund Expenses</b>	<b>2,638,686.00</b>

Net (Profit) / Loss	0.00
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Beginning Fund Balance	\$(2,758,406.00)
Ending Fund Balance	\$(2,758,406.00)

SECTION 2. The following estimates are hereby adopted to serve as a budget of revenues and expenditures of the Water Sewer FY 2026:

General Administrative Revenues	(707,163.00)
In Water Revenues	(634,911.00)
Out Water Revenue	(1,067,103.00)
In Sewer Revenue	(448,995.00)
Out Sewer Revenue	(365,468.00)
<u>Solid Waste Revenue</u>	<u>(272,587.00)</u>
Transfer in 1978	(120,000.00)
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>(3,616,227.00)</b>

General Administrative Expenses	1,192,848.00
In Water Expenses	567,958.00
Out Water Expenses	797,511.00
In Sewer Expenses	389,500.00
Out Sewer Expenses	395,500.00
<u>Solid Waste Expenses</u>	<u>256,511.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>3,599,828.00</b>

Net (Profit)/ Loss	(16,399.00)
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Beginning Fund Balance	(9,382,161.00)
Ending Fund Balance	(9,365,762.00)

SECTION 3. The following estimates are hereby adopted to serve as a budget of revenues and expenditures of the 1978 Sales Tax Fund FY 2026:

<u>Revenues</u>	<u>(1,098,315.00)</u>
Expenditure General Fund	824,000.00
<u>Expenditures Water Sewer</u>	<u>120,000.00</u>

Net (Profit) / Loss	(154,315.00)
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Beginning Fund Balance	(5,873,014.00)
Ending Fund Balance	(6,027,329.00)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, Louisiana, finds and determines that this budget complies with all requirements set forth in the State of Louisiana Local Government Budget Act R.S. 39:1301 – 1315

AYES: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Brunson,  
Alderman Perry, and Alderman Lawrence

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

A motion by Alderman Carr seconded by Alderman Manning to adjourn the Special Session meeting.

All in favor: 5

Opposed: None

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