



SHELLY HORTON JR
MAYOR

STEPHANIE SULLIVANT-COLLIER
CAO/ TOWN CLERK

TOWN OF BENTON LOUISIANA

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN
TOWN OF BENTON

105 SIBLEY STREET, BENTON, BOSSIER PARISH, LOUISIANA
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023, 6:00 PM

The Town of Benton Council met in regular and legal session on the 11th day of December 2023, at 6:00 p.m., in the Benton Council Chambers, Benton Town Hall, Benton, Louisiana. Mayor Shelly Horton called the Public Hearing to order. Stephanie Collier, called the roll, with all members as follows:

Alderman Jackie Carr – PRESENT
Alderman Tiffany Manning – PRESENT
Alderman Ron Jones – PRESENT
Alderman James Friday - PRESENT
Alderman Wayne Cathcart -ABSENT

Alderman Friday gave the invocation and Alderman Cathcart led the pledge. Others present were Attorney Erwin, Stephanie Collier, Chief Collier, Officer Mora, and members of the public. Motion was made by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Friday to approve the agenda. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

105 Sibley Street / P O Box 1390
Benton, Louisiana 71006
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www.townofbentonlouisiana.webs.com website

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PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

1. Ordinance 585 of 2023

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 582 OF 2022 THE FINANCIAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 FOR THE TOWN OF BENTON, LOUISIANA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOUISIANA LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET ACT

BE IT ORDAINED the Board of Alderman of the Town of Benton, Louisiana, enacted Ordinance 582 of 2022 on December 12, 2022, adopting the 2023 General Fund, Water Sewer Enterprise Fund, and 1978 Sales Tax Fund budgets, and

WHEREAS the Board of Alderman does hereby desire to amend the 2023 General Fund budget by the following changes;

Revenues:	General Revenues	From:	(1,861,646.00)	To:	(1,802,347.00)
	Trans from 1978	From:	(880,150.00)	To:	(177,361.00)
	Total Revenues	From:	(2,741,796.00)	To:	(1,979,708.00)
Expenses:	Administrative	From:	370,136.00	To:	465,465.00
	Mayor	From:	43,400.00	To:	43,921.00
	Council	From;	27,500.00	To:	27,452.00
	Chief of Police	From:	80,900.00	To:	79,522.00
	Police Department	From:	758,500.00	To:	1,135,342.00
	Streets	From:	930,000.00	To:	212,168.00
	Maintenance	From:	82,630.00	To:	100,858.00
	Parks & Recreation	From:	280,020.00	To;	33,934.00
	Benton MPC	From:	73,551.00	To:	73,145.00
	Total Expenses	From:	2,646,637.00	To:	2,171,807.00
	Net (Profit) / Loss	From:	(95,159.00)	To:	192,099.00
	Beginning Balance	From:	(2,578,757.00)	To:	(2,578,757.00)
	End Fund Balance	From:	(2,741,796.00)	To:	(2,386,658.00)

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WHEREAS the Board of Alderman does hereby desire to amend the 2023 1978 Sales Tax Fund by the following changes:

Revenues:	1978 Sales Tax	From:	(998,000.00)	To:	(826,888.00)
	Interest Income	From:	(700.00)	To:	(1,134.00)
	Total Revenues		(998,700.00)		(828,022.00)
Expenses:	Transfer to General F	From:	880,150.00	To:	177,361.00
	Transfer Water Sewer	From:	118,550.00	To:	60,480.00
	Net (Profit) / Loss	From:	0.00	To:	590,181.00
	Beginning Balance	From:	(4,085,516.00)	To:	(4,085,516.00)
	Ending Balance	From:	(4,085,516.00)	To:	(4,676,697.00)

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, Louisiana, 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

No Public Comments were made.

2. Ordinance 586 of 2023

FY 2024 Budgets

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2024 BUDGETS FOR REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES OF THE TOWN OF BENTON’S GENERAL FUND, WATER SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND, 1978 SALES TAX FUND, AND THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024; 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 2024:

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General Fund Revenues	(1,939,600.00)
<u>Trans in from 1978 Sales Tax</u>	<u>(810,592.00)</u>
Total Revenues	(2,750,192.00)
General Administrative Expenses	414,859.00
Mayor Expenses	45,860.00
Council Expenses	28,000.00
Chief of Police	87,650.00
Police Expenses	857,091.00
Street Expenses	605,806.00
Maintenance Expenses	120,119.00
Parks and Recreation Expenses	486,175.00
<u>Benton Parish MPC</u>	<u>73,552.00</u>
Total General Fund Expenses	2,701,112.00
Net (Profit) / Loss	(49,080.00)
Beginning Fund Balance	\$(2,386,658.00)
Ending Fund Balance	\$(2,435,738.00)

SECTION 2. The following estimates are hereby adopted to serve as a budget of revenues and expenditures of the Water Sewer FY 2024:

General Administrative Revenues	(553,300.00)
In Water Revenues	(431,200.00)
Out Water Revenue	(1,049,400.00)
In Sewer Revenue	(176,000.00)
Out Sewer Revenue	(425,000.00)
<u>Solid Waste Revenue</u>	<u>(190,000.00)</u>
Total Revenues	(2,824,900.00)
General Administrative Expenses	1,032,350.00
In Water Expenses	540,000.00
Out Water Expenses	589,000.00
In Sewer Expenses	161,500.00
Out Sewer Expenses	177,500.00
<u>Solid Waste Expenses</u>	<u>165,000.00</u>
Total Expenses	2,665,350.00
Net (Profit)/ Loss	(159,550.00)
Beginning Fund Balance	(10,274,195.00)
Ending Fund Balance	(10,433,745.00)

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SECTION 3. The following estimates are hereby adopted to serve as a budget of revenues and expenditures of the 1978 Sales Tax Fund FY 2024:

<u>Revenues</u>	<u>(828,200.00)</u>
Expenditure General Fund	810,592.00
<u>Expenditures Water Sewer</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net (Profit) / Loss	(17,608.00)
Beginning Fund Balance	(4,675,697.00)
Ending Fund Balance	(4,693,305.00)

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

No Public Comments were made.

A motion by Alderman Jones and seconded by Alderman Carr to adjourn the Public Hearing. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

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REGULAR SESSION
MINUTES
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN
TOWN OF BENTON
105 SIBLEY STREET, BENTON, BOSSIER PARISH, LOUISIANA
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023, 6:00 PM

The Town of Benton Council met in regular and legal session on the 11th day of December 2023, at 6:00 p.m., in the Benton Council Chambers, Benton Town Hall, Benton, Louisiana. Mayor Shelly Horton called the Regular Session to order. All members were as follows:

Alderman Jackie Carr – PRESENT
Alderman Tiffany Manning – PRESENT
Alderman Ron Jones – PRESENT
Alderman James Friday - PRESENT
Alderman Wayne Cathcart -ABSENT

Motion was made by Alderman Cathcart seconded by Alderman Manning to approve the agenda. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion was made by Alderman Carr seconded by Alderman Cathcart to approve the November minutes. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

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OLD BUSINESS:

Final Vote: **Ordinance 585 of 2023**

2023 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 582 OF 2022 THE FINANCIAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 FOR THE TOWN OF BENTON, LOUISIANA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOUISIANA LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET ACT

A Motion was made by Alderman Cathcart seconded by Alderman Carr to adopt Ordinance 585 of 2023. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Final Vote: **Ordinance 586 of 2023**

FY 2024 Budgets

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2024 BUDGETS FOR REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES OF THE TOWN OF BENTON'S GENERAL FUND, WATER SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND, 1978 SALES TAX FUND, AND THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024; AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS.

A Motion was made by Alderman Friday seconded by Alderman Jones to adopt Ordinance 586 of 2023. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

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NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Horton explained that the Engineer is here for Lost River if council has any questions. We do have the two maintenance bonds, but we cannot find where the inspection fees were paid. Mayor Horton stated that we do have a letter clearing the project and recommending the town accept ownership. Mayor Horton said we can go ahead and accept the resolution contingent that the inspection fees will be paid. Alderman Cathcart asked, how much are the inspection fees? Stephanie Collier said they are a little above \$12,000.00.

RESOLUTION 18 OF 2023

WHEREAS it is a function of the Town of Benton to operate and maintain public roads, drainage, and public water and sewer infrastructure; and

WHEREAS the construction of streets, drainage, water, and sewer infrastructure in Lost River North Unit 5 was monitored and inspected by Balar Engineers; and

WHEREAS Balar Engineers has submitted a letter stating that all work associated with the project has been completed in accordance with the drawings approved on August 24, 2022, and recommends acceptance of said infrastructure; and

WHEREAS the Board of Aldermen finds that it is in the best interest of the public to accept said streets, drainage, and public water and sewer infrastructure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF BENTON, LOUISIANA:

§1. No lots may be sold, and no building permits shall be issued until the 3% inspections fees have been paid and that the appropriate two (2) year maintenance bonds are received and appropriately filed with the Bossier Parish Clerk of Court by each respective Contractor prior to final acceptance.

§2. This Resolution shall become effective upon final adoption and signature by the mayor.

Said Resolution having been read and considered by a quorum of the Board of Aldermen and upon a motion of Alderman Cathcart seconded by Alderman Carr this Resolution was adopted on 11th day of December 2023. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

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Consider approval of **Palmetto Point Subdivision Unit 1**, Pre-Construction Plat Approval: Mayor Horton stated that the developer is here if council has any questions. Alderman Cathcart asked if any of the surrounding neighbors opposed the development? Carlotta Brown stated that no one has opposed the development. Mayor Horton asked what the lot sizes and he are stated that they are 3.8 to 4.1 acre lots. There will be very little water and sewer lines and very short street. It will be a very small development.

A Motion was made by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Manning to approve Palmetto Point Subdivision Unit 1 pre-construction plat. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Ordinance 587 of 2023 an Ordinance amending Chapter 130, Article 7, Section 130 – 182 of the Town of Benton Code of Ordinances

Mayor Horton stated that Mr. Tim Chance is here to answer any questions council may have. Mr. Chance stated that he was sorry he was not present at the last meeting, and it had to be tabled. He went on to say that some changes have been made and the entire structure will be a warehouse. He stated that a large oil and gas company is moving their headquarters to Benton, and they have committed to leasing space in the new office buildings next to the Courthouse. He stated that they will need a warehouse to house their parts. Alderman Jones asked about if there will be noise? He stated that the apartments are right next door. Mr. Chance stated that there will be no noise problem, that this company is using to store spare parts for when equipment must be repaired and there will be very little traffic to and from the facility. Alderman Cathcart asked about the hours of operation. Mr. Chance stated that there are really no hours of operation and that the company is a 24/7 business and that if they had an issue with equipment late at night, they would need to access the warehouse. Council members agreed. Carlotta stated that because this is going to be a warehouse only the required parking spaces are reduced to 1 space per 1000 sq ft. A Motion was made by Alderman Cathcart seconded by Alderman Carr to introduce and set for public hearing on January 8th Ordinance 587 of 2023 Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

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Ordinance 588 of 2023 an Ordinance amending Ordinance 559 of 2019 setting the annual salary of the chief of police.

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 559 OF 2019
ESTABLISHING THE COMPENSATION OF THE CHIEF OF
POLICE FOR THE TOWN OF BENTON**

WHEREAS the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, in legal session convened, has reviewed the budgets for 2024, and the budgeted funds for compensation for services of the Chief of Police, and;

WHEREAS the Board of Alderman has determined that the compensation of the Chief of Police shall set and paid on a weekly basis and shall be paid from the General Fund.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that the Chief of Police shall be compensated \$1,120.00 weekly (\$58,240.00 annually) effect upon final adoption on January 8th.

A Motion was made by Alderman Friday seconded by Alderman Manning to introduce and set for public hearing on January 8th Ordinance 588 of 2023 Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

A Motion was made by Alderman Friday seconded by Alderman Manning to approve the monthly financials and year to date budget. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

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Announcement of Public Meeting

Notice is hereby given that at its meeting to be held on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at its regular meeting place, the Town Hall, 105 Sibley Street, Benton, Louisiana, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, State of Louisiana, plans to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling elections to be held in the Town of Benton, State of Louisiana to authorize the renewal of an ad valorem tax and the levy of a sales and use tax therein.

A Motion was made by Alderman Cathcart seconded by Alderman Carr to adjourn the Regular Session. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:
YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

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