

ORDINANCE 627 OF 2026:

TABLED until July 13, 2026

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 625 OF 2026 ESTABLISHING THE SALARY OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

WHEREAS the Town of Benton is a municipality created under the laws of the State of Louisiana and adherent to the provisions of the Lawrason Act; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen for the Town of Benton is empowered with the responsibility and authority to establish the salaries of certain municipal officers, including, but not limited to, the Mayor and Aldermen; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen for the Town of Benton has reviewed and taken into consideration the salaries of certain municipal officers of municipalities of comparable size in the area and across the State of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS the Board of Aldermen for the Town of Benton desires to establish the annual salaries for the Aldermen for the Town of Benton;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, in legal and regular session, acting as the “Governing Authority” of the Town of Benton, after a public hearing with legal notice, adopt said ordinance as outlined herein.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Aldermen for the Town of Benton, Louisiana shall be paid a monthly salary of \$550.00

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all Ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Mayor Friday called for any comments:

Alderman Perry read the following: With careful consideration, I want to ensure there is no misunderstanding regarding my intentions in introducing this amendment. I proposed reducing alderman compensation for a straightforward reason. Although I initially voted in favor of the increase, upon further reflection, I concluded that the amount approved was higher than I could personally support. In evaluating the matter, I considered three questions: Is this amount reasonable? Is it considerate? Of our community's circumstances, is it ethically and morally sound? After thoughtful review, my answer to each of these questions was no. I fully recognize that the aldermen have not received a salary increase in many years. I am not opposed to an increase; in fact, I support providing fair and appropriate compensation for the responsibilities of the office. I believe that a proposed increase of \$550 per month represents a fair and fiscally responsible adjustment. As elected leaders, we establish precedents for those who will serve after us, and our decisions regarding compensation should reflect fairness, accountability, and long-term sustainability. We owe that level of stewardship to the communities we represent. Additionally, the Louisiana Revised Statutes, 33:4 and 4.1, do not permit changes to alderman compensation during the current term of office. I would like to amend my proposed ordinance to include the language, This ordinance will take effect at the start of the next election term per Louisiana statutes. Thank you.

Attorney Murphy: Well, Mayor, I would simply say this. We can probably go ahead and make a public comment on it, but since Miss Perry does wish to amend, to add that language being very specific about when it will go into effect, which would be January 1, 2029, if my Math of the election cycle is correct for the town of Benton. Uh, twenty-seven. So y'all are up for election in November of twenty twenty-seven? No, twenty-nine. Twenty-nine, twenty-eight. Yeah, okay. All right, uh I think that maybe this ordinance should be tabled because the amendment, in speaking with Mrs. Collier, must be put forth in writing, and that amendment must be voted on, So I would think that six, twenty-even by Miss Perry should probably be tabled at this point and then brought back up once it is fully amended or corrected with the language that Miss Perry would like to add as partner statement.

Mayor Friday called for any other comments: None were made