

SHELLY HORTON JR  
MAYOR



STEPHANIE SULLIVANT-COLLIER  
CAO/ TOWN CLERK

## TOWN OF BENTON LOUISIANA

### PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES TOWN OF BENTON MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024, 6:00 PM

The Town of Benton Council met in regular and legal session on the 13th day of May 2024, at 6:00 p.m., in the Benton Council Chambers, Benton Town Hall, Benton, Louisiana. Mayor Shelly Horton called the Public Hearing to order. Invocation by Alderman Friday and Pledge by Alderman Jones. Stephanie Collier, called the roll, with all members as follows:

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

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

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

### PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS:

#### 1. ORDINANCE 590 OF 2024: WATER RATES SCHEDULE

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 504 OF 2013 AMENDING THE RATE SCHEDULE TO BE CHARGED FOR WATER SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE BENTON WATER SYSTEM TO CONSUMERS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CORPORAL LIMITS OF THE TOWN**

105 Sibley Street / P O Box 1390  
Benton, Louisiana 71006  
(318) 965-2781 / (318)965-2577 fax  
[www.townofbentonlouisiana.webs.com](http://www.townofbentonlouisiana.webs.com) website

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**BE IT ORDAINED BY** the board of aldermen of the Town of Benton, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, in regular session convened, that Ordinance 504 of 2013 be hereby amended by amending the rate schedule to be charged for water service provided by the Benton Water System to consumers inside and outside the corporal limits of the Town of Benton,

**WHEREAS** the rate schedule for residential water service inside the corporal limits of Benton shall be a flat fee of eight dollars and seventy-five cents (\$8.75), and six dollars and eighty-nine cents (\$ 6.89) for every 1000 gallons of water used, and

**WHEREAS** the rate schedule for compound meters and commercial water service inside the corporal limits of Benton shall be a flat fee of nine dollars and zero cents (\$9.00), and six dollars and eighty-nine cents (\$ 6.89) for every 1000 gallons of water used, and

**WHEREAS** the rate schedule for residential water service outside the corporal limits of Benton shall be a flat rate of fourteen dollars and fifty cents (\$14.50), and seven dollars and sixty cents (\$7.60) for every 1000 gallons of water used, and

**WHEREAS** the rate schedule for compound meters and commercial water service outside the corporal limits of Benton shall be a flat rate of fourteen dollars and seventy-five cents (\$14.75), and seven dollars and sixty cents (\$7.60) for every 1000 gallons of water used, and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** this Ordinance having been read in full in legal session, and considered section by section, was adopted on the 13th day of May 2024.

Mayor Horton called for public comments. There being no comments

Mayor Horton adjourned the Public Hearing Meeting

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**REGULAR SESSION MEETING  
MINUTES  
TOWN OF BENTON  
MONDAY, MAY13, 2024, 6:00 PM**

The Town of Benton Council met in regular and legal session on the 13th day of May 2024, at 6:00 p.m., in the Benton Council Chambers, Benton Town Hall, Benton, Louisiana. Mayor Shelly Horton called the Regular Session Meeting to order.

Alderman Jackie Carr	PRESENT
Alderman Tiffany Manning	Now counted as Present
Alderman Ron Jones	PRESENT
Alderman James Friday	PRESENT
Alderman Wayne Cathcart	PRESENT

Mayor Horton stated that the agenda needs to be amended to add item 8 approval of Lost River Pre Construction Plat approval. A motion by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Carr to approve the amending the agenda by adding Item 8 Lost River Plat. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

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

A motion by Alderman Cathcart seconded by Alderman Carr to approve the agenda as amended. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

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

A motion by Alderman Cathcart seconded by Alderman Carr to approve the minutes of the April Meeting. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

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

Mayor Horton called for the final vote to adopt Ordinance 590 of 2024

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 504 OF 2013 AMENDING THE RATE SCHEDULE TO BE CHARGED FOR WATER SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE BENTON WATER SYSTEM TO CONSUMERS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CORPORAL LIMITS OF THE TOWN

A motion by Alderman Friday seconded by Alderman Manning to adopt Ordinance 590 of 2024. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

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

Mayor Horton asked Mr. Kelsh to speak to the council about the Lost River South unit 2 Pre-Construction Plat. Mr. Kelsh stated that he is waiting on the Parish to approve the construction of the entrance road. Upon a motion by Alderman Friday and seconded by Alderman Manning to approve Lost River South Unit 2 pre-construction plat contingent on the Police Jury's approval of the construction entrance. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

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

Resolution 7 of 2024 A resolution to approve Performance Services to perform an audit on the water system to calculate the towns lost revenues due to water meters losing calibration over time. Mayor Horton turned it over to Performance Services and to Jason with Underground Utility Supply. Performance discussed that their services provide an audit to see how much the Town is losing in water revenues due to meter calibration. She stated that most water meters lose calibration over time because of the working parts. The newer meters (hydro meters) do not have working parts. These meters are far more accurate than the conventional meters. Right now,

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we are asking you to perform the audit with no commitment to any further services. If we perform the audit and our numbers are wrong, then there is no charge for the audit and no commitment to any further services. If we perform the audit and our numbers are correct, then you only pay for the audit and you have the choice to move to the next step or choose not to continue. If you choose to take the next step, we will change out every meter in the towns system with hydro meters and the meters will be on an upgraded system that reads via tower and the information you will receive will be real time information. This will allow you to see customer leaks instantly and stop them before they either cost the customer a high bill or even the town's expense for water loss. Alderman Cathcart asked what is it we are committing to with this resolution? Performance stated that right now you are allowing us to perform the audit on the system and no other commitment. If our numbers are correct, you will pay us for the audit and then you can decide if you want to take the next step. Alderman Friday and seconded by Alderman Jones to table this Resolution until a later date. Mayor Horton called for comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Mayor Horton explained that our curbside trash service contract is expiring with Republic Waste, so we sent out requests for proposals to all the service providers in our area. Live Oak's proposal came back as the best price and service for the town. The price will be going up. We will have to increase what we charge customers, but it is still lower than what people would normally pay for individual monthly trash service.

### **RESOLUTION 8 OF 2024 - TABLED**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton in regular and legal session on this 13th day of May 2024, that it does hereby accept the proposal of Live Oak to provide solid waste curbside service to inside customers of the Town of Benton for a term of 3 years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Aldermen does hereby authorize the mayor to execute and administer all documents in connection with said contract. This resolution was offered by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Manning, it was duly adopted on this 13th day of May 2024. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Cathcart

NAYS: Alderman Carr

ABSTAIN: Alderman Friday

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ABSENT: None

Mayor Horton explained that the Dodge Charger police unit is going to be donated to the Town of Plain Dealing Police Department along with the equipment remaining on the car. We must declare it surplus in order to make the donation.

2014 Dodge Charger Vin# 2C3CDXAGSEH287588 (*Estimated value 4,000.00*)

1ea. Stalker Radar

1ea. Push Bumper

1ea. Interior Cage

Emergency Lights and lighting control bar.

(*Equipment estimated total value 2,000.00*)

A motion by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Manning to declare the 2014 Dodge Charger Police Unit last four vin # 7588 and the equipment as surplus. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

**RESOLUTION 9 OF 2024: A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT FOR THE DONATION OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT TO THE TOWN OF PLAIN DEALING POLICE DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS the Town of Benton, Louisiana intends to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Town of Plain Dealing for the donation of surplus equipment; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, Louisiana does hereby authorize the mayor to sign all documents on behalf of the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Town of Plain Dealing for the donation of surplus equipment. This resolution was offered by Alderman Friday, seconded by Alderman Carr, it was duly adopted on this 13th day of May 2024. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

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ABSENT: None

A motion made by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Carr to reappoint Stephanie Collier to the Board of Commissioners of the Benton Fire District #4. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Stephanie Collier explained that Mr. Huddleston could not be present due to a conflict in his schedule. Mrs. Collier informed council members that Chief Wallace has already vetted Mr. Huddleston and I have personally spoke with him as well and confirmed he is in favor to be appointed. He will be filling a vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. McGinty. Alderman Cathcart asked are the appointments supposed to be from Benton. Stephanie Collier responded that they do not have to be strictly from Benton proper. Alderman Cathcart stated that we will appoint him as the interim appointee and would like to meet him. A motion made by Alderman Manning seconded by Alderman Carr to appoint Gerald Huddleston to the Board of Commissioners of the Benton Fire District #4. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

A motion by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Cathcart to approve the month to date budget and financials. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

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**PUBLIC NOTICE:**

**Stephaie Collier announced that the Town will be holding a public hearing on June 10, 2024 at 6pm at the Town Council chambers 105 Sibley Street, Benton for the consideration of renewing the millage rate for the Town of Benton 2024.**

A motion by Alderman Manning seconded by Alderman Carr to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting.

In favor: 5 ayes  
Opposed: 0 nays

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