



SHELLY HORTON JR
MAYOR

STEPHANIE SULLIVANT-COLLIER
CAO/ TOWN CLERK

TOWN OF BENTON
LOUISIANA

REGULAR SESSION
MINUTES
TOWN OF BENTON
MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2024, 6:00 PM

The Town of Benton Council met in regular and legal session on the 8th day of April 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. Invocation by Alderman Friday and Pledge by Alderman Manning. Stephanie Collier, called the roll, with all members as follows:

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

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

YEAS: Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Friday

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Cathcart and Alderman Carr

A motion by Alderman Friday seconded by Alderman Jones to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Friday

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Cathcart and Alderman Carr

105 Sibley Street / P O Box 1390
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www.townofbentonlouisiana.webs.com website

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OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS

Stephen Maxwell provided the current policy renewal material to council members and reviewed the various changes. Travelers Liability Insurance Policy renewal. Mr. Maxwell reviewed the liability policy, discussing the increase in commercial property coverage by 6,650.00, the general liability policy increased 986.00, law enforcement increased 1,667.00, and the commercial auto increased 11,049.00, the total premium being 248,972.00. Alderman Friday asked if there are any other quotes. Mr. Maxwell explained that there are no other companies in Louisiana that offer municipal liability insurance. Mayor Horton stated what a great job Mr. Maxwell does for the town and that they are grateful for his service.

A motion by Alderman Friday seconded by Alderman Manning to approve the Travelers Insurance policy renewal. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Friday

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Cathcart and Alderman Carr

ORDINANCE 590 of 2024 Water Rates

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

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

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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.

A motion by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Friday to introduce and set for Public Hearing on May 13, 2024. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Friday

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Cathcart and Alderman Carr

Mayor Horton explained the upcoming expiration of the lease agreement with SBA Tower, and he briefly discussed the terms of the proposed agreement from SBA. He also stated that SBA has made another offer to purchase the land which is smaller than a half-acre. After some discussion a motion was made by Alderman Friday seconded by Alderman Jones to approve the mayor to negotiate with SBA on the best deal for the lease. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Friday

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Cathcart and Alderman Carr

RESOLUTION 6 OF 2024

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF WATER METERS AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF MINDEN

WHEREAS the Town of Benton utilizes a single brand of water meters throughout the Benton water system to keep costs low and efficiencies high; and

WHEREAS the Town of Benton is continually replacing and upgrading old meters to maintain accuracy; and

WHEREAS the FY 2024 budget included funding for the purchase of meters as well as other related equipment; and

WHEREAS, due to supply chain issues the annual order has been on hold until June 2024; and

WHEREAS, with the assistance of Underground Utility Supply the Town of Benton was able to locate sixty-four new meters in the City of Minden; and

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WHEREAS, the City of Minden has declared the sixty-four meters to be surplus and has presented the Town of Benton with a Cooperative Purchasing Agreement for the meters.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Board of Alderman of the Town of Benton, Louisiana does hereby authorize the purchase 37 - ¾ inch meters and 27- 1-inch meters from the City of Minden for \$11,168.78.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the mayor is hereby authorized to sign all documents relating to the purchase of said meters. The foregoing resolution was presented by Alderman Jones and seconded by Alderman Manning for approval by the following vote.

YEAS: Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Friday

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Cathcart and Alderman Carr

Beer permit renewals:

Brookshires Grocery Store and Food Junction

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

YEAS: Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Friday

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Cathcart and Alderman Carr

Monthly financials and budget-to-date update:

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

YEAS: Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Friday

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Cathcart and Alderman Carr

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

YEAS: Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Friday

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Cathcart and Alderman Carr

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