



JAMES FRIDAY
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, JANUARY 13, 2025, 6:00 PM

The Town of Benton Council met in a regular legal session on the 13th day of January 2025, at 6:00 p.m., in the Benton Council Chambers, Benton Town Hall, 105 Sibley Street, Benton, Louisiana. Mayor James Friday 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 Tammy Brunson	PRESENT
Alderman Arshundae Perry	PRESENT
Alderman Terry Lawrence	PRESENT

Alderman Manning gave the invocation, and Alderman Perry led the pledge. Others present were Attorney Erwin, Stephanie Collier, and Chief Steve Collier, and members of the public.

Motion was made by Alderman Carr, seconded by Alderman Perry to approve the public hearing agenda.

Public Comments: None
Ayes:

PUBLIC HEARING ITEM

1. Ordinance 596 of 2024:

ANNEXATION

AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING CERTAIN LANDS AND ROADWAYS TO THE TOWN OF BENTON, LOUISIANA: DESCRIBING SAID LAND AND ROADWAYS DECLARING SAME A PART OF THE TOWN OF BENTON, LOUISIANA

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

A person with a disability who requires assistance with accommodations or an auxiliary aid or service such as an assistive listening device or a sign language interpreter, to participate in a public meeting should contact the Stephanie Collier at (318) 965-2781 as far in advance as possible, but no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled time of the meeting.

The Town of Benton is an equal opportunity employer.

BE IT ORDAINED BY the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, does hereby declare that the land and existing roadway hereinafter described is contiguous and adjacent to the Town of Benton, and the Parish of Bossier has requested in writing to the Council that said property be annexed to the Town of Benton for permanent maintenance by the town, and

WHEREAS, it appears to the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, Louisiana, that the hereinafter-described property is subject to annexation to the Town of Benton under and pursuant to the provisions of RS 33:172(A), and that 3500 feet of Palmetto Road from the Town limits to north of Lakeview Drive should be annexed and become a part of the Town of Benton, Louisiana.

Exhibit A: Map

Exhibit B: Legal Description

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED upon a motion of Alderman Cathcart seconded by Alderman Manning, this Ordinance was introduced and set for Public Hearing and final adoption on the 13 day of January and has been published once in the Bossier Press-Tribune in accordance with LA RS 33: 173-4

Mayor Friday called for public comments: Alderman Manning asked if we got the map in the last meeting? Mayor Friday stated the section of the road that this Ordinance is annexing into the town. No other comments were made.

Motion by Alderman Manning, seconded by Alderman Carr to adjourn the Public Hearing. Mayor Friday called for any comments, there being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

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**REGULAR SESSION
MINUTES
TOWN OF BENTON
MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025, 6:00 PM**

The Town of Benton Council met in a regular legal session on the 13th day of January 2025, at 6:00 p.m., in the Benton Council Chambers, Benton Town Hall, 105 Sibley Street, Benton, Louisiana. Mayor James Friday called the Regular Session meeting to order. Stephanie Collier, called the roll, with all members as follows:

Alderman Jackie Carr	PRESENT
Alderman Tiffany Manning	PRESENT
Alderman Tammy Brunson	PRESENT
Alderman Arshundae Perry	PRESENT
Alderman Terry Lawrence	PRESENT

Motion by Alderman Carr, Seconded by Alderman Lawrence to amend the agenda to add item 14. Town Appointee to the MPC Board of Commissioners. Scott Lawson. Mayor Friday called for comments, there being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

Motion by Alderman Carr, Seconded by Alderman Perry to amend the agenda to add item 15. Town Appointee to the MPC Board of Adjustments. Stormy Foster. Mayor Friday called for comments, there being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

Mayor Friday called for a vote to approve the amendments to the Agenda. The following votes were recorded:

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

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Motion by Alderman Manning, Seconded by Alderman Carr to approve the minutes of the December 9th and December 16th meetings. Mayor Friday called for comments, there being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Final Vote: Ordinance 596 of 2024:

ANNEXATION

AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING CERTAIN LANDS AND ROADWAYS TO THE TOWN OF BENTON, LOUISIANA: DESCRIBING SAID LAND AND ROADWAYS DECLARING SAME A PART OF THE TOWN OF BENTON, LOUISIANA

Mayor Friday called for the following votes were recorded:

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

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Alderman Carr, Seconded by Alderman Manning to appoint Stephanie Collier as Town Clerk for another Four-Year Term. Mayor Friday called for comments, there being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

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Motion by Alderman Carr, Seconded by Alderman Lawrence to appoint Attorney Neil Erwin as the Town Attorney. Mayor Friday called for comments, there being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

Motion by Alderman Perry, Seconded by Alderman Lawrence to appoint Tiffany Manning as Mayor Pro Tem. Mayor Friday called for comments, there being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

Motion by Alderman Carr, Seconded by Alderman Lawrence to introduce Ordinance 597 of 2025 and set for public hearing on February 10, 2025. Mayor Friday called for comments, there being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

Ordinance 597 of 2025

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF BENTON, LOUISIANA,
ESTABLISHING THE SALARY OF THE TOWN CLERK FOR 2025

Motion by Alderman Carr, Seconded by Alderman Lawrence to introduce Ordinance 597 of 2025 and set for public hearing on February 10, 2025. Mayor Friday called for comments, there being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

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ORDINANCE 598 of 2025

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE I, "ADMINISTRATION" OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, TOWN OF BENTON, LOUISIANA, BY ADDING SECTION 2.8 WHICH SHALL READ "REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN"

WHEREAS the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton desires to amend Article I by adding Section 2-8 of the Benton Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen has approved a change to the time of the regular monthly meeting, which is held on the second Monday of each month, the meeting time will be 6:30 PM.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, that the Municipal Code of Benton, Article I, ADMINISTRATION, be amended as follows:

Section 2.8, REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN:

The Board of Aldermen shall meet regularly in the Municipal Building located at 105 Sibley Street, Benton, on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 PM prevailing time. When any regular meetings of the Board of Alderman fall on a holiday, the meeting shall be held at the same hour on the next succeeding workday, which is not a holiday.

BE FURTHER ORDAINED, all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent or in opposition to the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed in their entirety. This ordinance shall take effect after final passage and publication as required by law.

Attorney Erwin clarifies that the new meeting time will not be in effect until March and the February meeting will still be at 6:00pm.

Motion by Alderman Manning, Seconded by Alderman Brunson to introduce Ordinance 598 of 2025 and set for public hearing on February 10, 2025. Mayor Friday called for comments, there being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Resolution 1 of 2025:

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RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF A STATE GRANT APPLICATION TO THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR LGAP FUNDS TO PURCHASE A MAINTENANCE TRUCK

Motion by Alderman Carr, Seconded by Alderman Lawrence to approve Resolution 1 of 2025. Mayor Friday called for comments, there being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

Resolution 2 of 2025:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF A STATE GRANT APPLICATION TO THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR CWEF FUNDS FOR WATER VALVE REPAIRS.

Motion by Alderman Manning, Seconded by Alderman Carr to approve Resolution 2 of 2025. Mayor Friday called for comments, there being none, the following votes were recorded:

Alderman Manning asked about the specific valve project. Mayor Friday responded, stating when water has to be turned off the valves turn off different sections and when one is broken that means that the turn off could affect more customers than necessary. Mayor Friday called for comments, there being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

Motion by Alderman Carr, Seconded by Alderman Lawrence to approve the permit renewal for Food Junction. Mayor Friday called for comments, there being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

Motion by Alderman Carr, Seconded by Alderman Brunson to approve the permit renewal for GPM Southeast Dixie Mart. Mayor Friday called for comments, there being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

Motion by Alderman Perry, Seconded by Alderman Lawrence to approve monthly financials. Mayor Friday called for comments, there being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

Mayor Friday announced Greg Redford as the Property Standards Inspector. Mr. Redford introduced himself and gave a brief history of his professional career.

Mayor Friday stated that we have some short educational briefings by the Town Attorney, Shonta, and Stephanie.

Attorney Erwin presented a brief on the Louisiana Lawrason act and highlighted the Roberts Rules of Order. Ms. Neal spoke to the council about how to understand the expenditure lists provided to them in each council packet. She also gave a reference guide further explaining the codes. Mrs. Collier spoke to council about the different funds and how the budget process works.

A Motion by Alderman Manning, Seconded by Alderman Carr to appoint Scott Lawson to the Benton Parish MPC board. Mayor Friday called for comments, there being none, the following votes were recorded:

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 Brunson to appoint Stormy Foster to the Benton Parish MPC board of appeals. Mayor Friday called for comments, there being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

Mayor Friday called for any comments to be made by council members.

Meeting Adjourned

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