TOWN OF BENTON

PUBLIC HEARING
MINUTES
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN
105 SIBLEY STREET, BENTON, LA
OCTOBER 12, 2026, 6:30 PM

The Town of Benton met in a regular session on the 12th day of October 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Benton Town Hall, 105 Sibley Street, Benton, Louisiana. Mayor James Friday called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call. Debbie Rios, Administrative Assistant, called the roll with all members as follows:

Alderman Jacqueline Neal Carr	ABSENT	(Notified/Sick)
Alderman Tiffany Manning	ABSENT	(No call/No show)
Alderman Tammy Brunson	PRESENT	
Alderman Arshundae Perry	PRESENT	
Alderman Terry Lawrence	PRESENT	

Alderman Perry gave the invocation, and Alderman Brunson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Others present included Asst. Chief Weaver, Lt. Mora and members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA APPROVAL:
A motion was made by Alderman Perry and seconded by Alderman Lawrence to approve the Public Hearing Agenda. Mayor called for comments. There being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS: Mayor Friday asked Debbie Rios to read aloud for the record.

Ordinance 634 of 2026:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 591 OF 2024 BY AMENDING THE RATE TO BE CHARGED FOR RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE SERVICE FOR THE TOWN OF BENTON TO CONSUMERS INSIDE THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF BENTON

TOWN OF BENTON

BE IT ORDAINED BY the board of aldermen of the Town of Benton, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, in regular session convened, to amend Ordinance 591 of 2024 by amending the rate to be charged to inside residential customers for garbage service provided by the Town of Benton, and

WHEREAS the rate to be charged to inside residential customers for a single garbage can shall be twenty-four dollars and zero cents ($24.00) per month, the rate to be charged for residential customers who request a second garbage can shall be thirty-five dollars and zero cents ($35.00) per month. Garbage service shall be billed to inside customers as a line item listed on the monthly utility bill sent from the Town of Benton.

WHEREAS, the Town may grant an exception to the mandatory garbage service requirement for residential properties that are vacant and unoccupied for an extended period of time, provided the property owner submits a written request and receives approval from the Town.

WHEREAS to qualify for this exemption:

1. The property must be a privately owned residence that is vacant and not occupied by any person.
2. The property shall not be used as a rental property, leased residence, short-term rental, vacation rental, Airbnb, VRBO, or any similar transient lodging arrangement.
3. Water service may remain active at the owner's request while the property is vacant.
4. Upon approval, the Town shall remove and retain the garbage container until service is reinstated.
5. Properties receiving this exemption shall not be eligible for curbside yard waste, grass clipping, leaf, limb, or brush collection services provided by the Town.
6. The property owner shall notify the Town when the property becomes occupied. At that time, the Town shall reinstate garbage service for a $25.00 reinstatement fee, and all applicable fees shall resume.
7. The Town reserves the right to inspect or otherwise verify vacancy status and to revoke the exemption if the property is found to be occupied or used in a manner that disqualifies it from the exemption.

Mayor Friday called for public comments and **Chris Redford** approached and asked, "How long is an 'extended amount of time' mentioned in the ordinance"? Mayor explained that it had not been set depending on what they were doing with the property. He thought it would be at least six months to a year. **Redford** explained he commented because in the (Facebook) post that sparked his question, the lady had admitted that she had family staying there periodically and to him, that would mean somebody was staying in the house. **Mayor:** "That's correct and that's not allowed. That's why it (the ordinance) says no one can occupy it; the house."

Mayor called for any other comments. There being none, a motion was made by Alderman Lawrence and seconded by Alderman Brunson to adjourn the public hearing.

In Favor: 3 Ayes
Opposed : 0

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.

TOWN OF BENTON

REGULAR SESSION
MINUTES
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN
105 SIBLEY ST., BENTON, LA
October 12, 2026, 6:30 PM

The Town of Benton met in a regular session on the 12th day of October 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Benton Town Hall, 105 Sibley Street, Benton, Louisiana. Mayor James Friday called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call. Debbie Rios, Administrative Assistant, called the roll with all members as follows:

Alderman Jacqueline Neal Carr	ABSENT	(Notified/Sick)
Alderman Tiffany Manning	ABSENT	(No call/No show)
Alderman Tammy Brunson	PRESENT	
Alderman Arshundae Perry	PRESENT	
Alderman Terry Lawrence	PRESENT	

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA APPROVAL:
A motion was made by Alderman Lawrence and seconded by Alderman Perry to approve the regular session agenda. Mayor called for comments. There being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

MINUTES:
August 25, 2026, Special Session: A motion was made by Alderman Perry and seconded by Alderman Lawrence to approve August 25, 2026, Special Session minutes. Mayor called for comments. There being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

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.

TOWN OF BENTON

September 14, 2026, Meeting: A motion was made by Alderman Lawrence and seconded by Alderman Perry to approve September 14, 2026, meeting minutes. Mayor called for comments-**Chris Redford** approached stating, "I wasn't here but I watched it on Bossier Watch and I just wanted to have it included in the minutes that at least one if not two council members that sit at this table and make it their mission to uncover corruption and misuse of funds by this administration yet neither has shown *any* evidence. They even questioned the spending of $34.00 by the police Chief to feed his officers while they stayed all night at the police department to serve the community during inclement weather. But last month's meeting, what was it, the September meeting, an auditor mentioned *not once but twice* possible criminal misuse of funds by a former bookkeeper. And neither Alderman, who question every expenditure that this town has, batted an eye. Didn't even blink. Didn't even ask one question. I just thought that was pretty rich and I just wanted to let that be in the minutes and that I think that created a lot of concern from the citizens. It even brought the KTBS news angle that two council members who made it their mission for the last eight or nine months to uncover any and all corruption have yet to show any evidence. But the second an **auditor** uncovers something they don't so much as ask *one* question or blink an eye. Thank you".

Mayor again called for comments. There being none, the mayor added a comment about the audit that it wasn't our goal to find any wrong doing on anyone. It just happened to be discovered during a deep through audit; not trying to find anybody at fault. With no other comments made, the following votes were recorded:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Ordinance 634 of 2026: final vote:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 591 of 2024 BY AMENDING THE RATE TO BE CHARGED FOR RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE SERVICE FOR THE TOWN OF BENTON TO CONSUMERS INSIDE THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF BENTON

A motion was made by Alderman Perry and seconded by Alderman Lawrence to amend Ordinance 591 of 2024. Mayor called for any comments. There being none, the following votes were recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Brunson, Alderman Perry, Alderman Lawrence

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.

NAYS: None
ABSENT: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning
ABSTAIN: None

NEW BUSINESS:
Consider approval of the Month-to-date financials: Mayor noted that Ms. Perry had caught a printing error involving the codes being cut off. He advised them to be sure and look at the corrected and centered set given to them at the start of the meeting.

A motion was made by Alderman Lawrence and seconded by Alderman Brunson to approve the month-to-date-financials. Mayor called for comments. There being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

One last comment was made by **Alderman Lawrence** concerning the metal Simpson Park sign being hit. It was advised we had found out who hit it, it was already being repaired, and the Town would likely be sending them a bill.
The mayor made his last comment regarding the ordinance on the mobile home/RV park and parking and suggested re-reading it to help understand more about it.

Mayor called to adjourn. A motion was made by Alderman Lawrence and seconded by Alderman Perry to adjourn the regular session.

All In favor 3 Ayes
All Opposed 0

Meeting ended at 6:46 p.m.