



TOWN OF BENTON LOUISIANA

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES TOWN OF BENTON MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024 6:00 PM

The Town of Benton Council met in a regular legal session on the 9th day of December 2024, at 6:00 p.m., in the Benton Council Chambers, Benton Town Hall, 105 Sibley Street, Benton, Louisiana. Mayor Shelly Horton called the Regular Session to order. 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

Alderman Manning gave the invocation, and Alderman Cathcart led the pledge. Others present were Attorney Erwin, Stephanie Collier, and Chief Steve Collier, and members of the public. Motion was made by Alderman Friday, seconded by Alderman Jones to approve the agenda. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

Motion was made by Alderman Friday, seconded by Alderman Jones to approve the minutes of the November Work Session, Public Hearing, and Regular Session meetings. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

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Mayor Horton stated there is no old business.

New business we have Ordinance 596 of 2024. Mayor Horton gave a brief explanation of this agreement with the Parish.

**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

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 on the ___ day of ___ (10 days prior to its adoption) in accordance with LA RS 33: 173-4

Item 2 2024 Budget Amendments and 2025 Budget Adoptions there was an issue with the publications of the budgets, so we have postponed the meeting on the budgets until December 16 2024.

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An award ceremony was held in honor of Mayor Horton, Alderman James Friday, Alderman Ron Jones, and Alderman Cathcart.

Mayor Horton turned over the official gavel to James Friday the new mayor. Stephanie Collier presented the following service awards.

James Friday for 13 years of service as Alderman of district 3, from 2005 – 2013 and 2021 – 2024.

Ron Jones for 20 years of service as Alderman of district 4 from 2005 – 2024 and as Mayor Pro Tem from 2011 – 2024.

Wayne Cathcart for 14 years of service as Mayor from 2011 – 2016 and Alderman of district 5 from 2017 – 2024

Shelly Horton for 8 years of service as Mayor from 2017 to 2024.

Motion was made by Alderman Cathcart, seconded by Alderman Manning to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Carr

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**PUBLIC HEARING
MINUTES
TOWN OF BENTON
MONDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2024**

The Town of Benton Council met in a regular legal session on the 11th day of November 2024, at 6:00 p.m., in the Benton Council Chambers, Benton Town Hall, 105 Sibley Street, Benton, Louisiana. Mayor Shelly Horton 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 Ron Jones	PRESENT
Alderman James Friday	PRESENT
Alderman Wayne Cathcart	ABSENT

Others present were Attorney Erwin, Stephanie Collier, and Chief Steve Collier, and members of the public. Motion was made by Alderman Friday, seconded by Alderman Manning to approve the agenda. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Cathcart

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS:

1. ORDINANCE 593 OF 2024: SEWER RATES

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 505 OF 2013 BY AMENDING THE RATE SCHEDULE TO BE CHARGED FOR SEWER SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE BENTON SEWER SYSTEM TO CONSUMERS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CORPORAL LIMITS 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 505 of 2013 by amending the rate schedule to be charged for sewer service provided by the Benton Sewer System to consumers inside and outside the corporal limits of Benton,

Whereas the rate schedule for sewer service to consumers inside the corporal limits of Benton shall be a flat fee of three dollars and zero cents (\$3.00), and two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) for every 1000 gallons of sewer used and

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Whereas the rate schedule for sewer service to consumers outside the corporal limits of Benton shall be a flat rate of seven dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50), and four dollars and zero cents (\$4.00) for every 1000 gallons of sewer used, and

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING

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MONDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2024**

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

Others present were Attorney Erwin, Stephanie Collier, and Chief Steve Collier, and members of the public. Motion was made by Alderman Friday, seconded by Alderman Jones to amend the agenda to add item 7. Resolution 21 of 2024 approving Balar Engineers contract for water sector project. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Cathcart

Motion was made by Alderman Carr, seconded by Alderman Friday to approve the agenda as amended. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Cathcart

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Motion was made by Alderman Carr, seconded by Alderman Friday to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Mayor Horton called for comments, there being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Cathcart

OLD BUSINESS:

1. ORDINANCE 593 OF 2024: SEWER RATES (FINAL VOTE)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 505 OF 2013 BY AMENDING THE RATE SCHEDULE TO BE CHARGED FOR SEWER SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE BENTON SEWER SYSTEM TO CONSUMERS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CORPORAL LIMITS OF BENTON

Motion was made by Alderman Friday, seconded by Alderman Manning to adopt Ordinance 593. Mayor Horton called for comments, there being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Cathcart

NEW BUSINESS:

The following resolution was offered by Alderman Tiffany Manning, and seconded by Alderman James Friday:

RESOLUTION 18 of 2024

A resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in the Town of Benton, State of Louisiana, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein, making application to the State Bond Commission, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of the Town of Benton, State of Louisiana (the "Town"), that:

SECTION 1. Election Call. Subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission, and under the authority conferred by the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, including Article VI, Section 27 thereof, the applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, and other constitutional and statutory authority, a special

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election is hereby called and ordered to be held in the Town on **SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025**, between the hours of seven o'clock (7:00) a.m. and eight o'clock (8:00) p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541, and at the said election there shall be submitted to all registered voters qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and laws of this State and the Constitution of the United States, the following proposition, to-wit:

PROPOSITION
(MILLAGE RENEWAL)

Shall the Town of Benton, State of Louisiana (the "Town"), continue to levy and collect a special tax of 4.90 mills on all property subject to taxation in the Town (an estimated \$94,700 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of 10 years, beginning with the year 2026 and ending with the year 2035, for the purpose of maintaining the streets of the Town?

SECTION 2. Publication of Notice of Election. A Notice of Special Election shall be published in the official journal of the Town once a week for four consecutive weeks, with the first publication to be made not less than forty-five (45) days nor more than ninety (90) days prior to the date of the election, which Notice shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as "Exhibit A" and incorporated herein by reference the same as if it were set forth herein in full.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, prior to the publication of the Notice of Election, the Mayor is authorized and directed to make any amendments to the foregoing proposition that may be required to comply with any state or federal regulatory agencies.

SECTION 3. Canvass. This Governing Authority shall meet at its regular meeting place, the Town Hall, 105 Sibley Street, Benton, Louisiana, on **MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.**, and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the said special election.

SECTION 4. Polling Places. The polling places for the precincts set forth in the aforesaid Notice of Special Election are hereby designated as the polling places at which to hold the said election, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, will be the same persons as those designated in accordance with law.

SECTION 5. Election Commissioners; Voting Machines. The officers designated to serve as Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners pursuant to Section 4 hereof, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1287, shall hold the said special election as herein provided, and shall make due returns of said election for the meeting of the Governing Authority to be held as provided in Section 3 hereof. All registered voters in the Town will be entitled to vote at the special election, and voting machines shall be used.

SECTION 6. Authorization of Officers. The Clerk of the Town is hereby empowered, authorized and directed to arrange for and to furnish to said election officers in ample time for the holding of said election, the necessary equipment, forms and other paraphernalia essential to the proper holding of said election and the Mayor and/or Clerk of the Town are further authorized, empowered and directed to take any and all further action required by State and/or Federal law to arrange for the election.

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SECTION 7. Furnishing Election Call to Election Officials. Certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State, the Clerk of Court and *Ex-Officio* Parish Custodian of Voting Machines of Bossier Parish and the Registrar of Voters of Bossier Parish, as notification of the special election, in order that each may prepare for said election and perform their respective functions as required by law.

SECTION 8. Application to State Bond Commission. Application is made to the State Bond Commission for consent and authority to hold the special election as herein provided, and in the event said election carries for further consent and authority to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein. A certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the State Bond Commission on behalf of this Governing Authority, together with a letter requesting the prompt consideration and approval of this application.

SECTION 9. Employment of Counsel. This Governing Authority finds and determines that a real necessity exists for the employment of special counsel on matters related to the special election, and accordingly, Foley & Judell, L.L.P., is hereby employed as special counsel for said purpose for a term not exceeding one (1) year from the date of this resolution. The fee to be paid said special counsel shall be an amount computed at hourly rate based on the Attorney General's then current Maximum Hourly Fee Schedule, not to exceed \$1,000 in the aggregate, together with reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses, and the Clerk is authorized to pay such invoices as and when presented. The scope of this legal representation does not involve federal claims.

Mayor Horton called for public comments. There being none the vote thereon was as follows:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alderman Cathcart

RESOLUTION 19 OF 2024: WATER SECTOR PROJECT LOCAL FUNDS MATCH APPROVAL

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COMMITMENT OF \$1,791,680 IN RESERVE FUNDS TO SERVE AS THE REQUIRED LOCAL MATCH ON THE TOWN'S WATER SECTOR PROGRAM (WSP) PHASE 2 APPLICATION.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the Town of Benton, Parish of Bossier, State of Louisiana, wish to apply for grant funds from the Louisiana Water Sector Program (WSP) for wastewater collection and treatment improvements;

WHEREAS, the Town of Benton owns, operates, and maintains a large wastewater system serving approximately 6,500 residents in north-central Bossier Parish, Louisiana;

WHEREAS, the Town's wastewater system includes a wastewater treatment plant on Palmetto Rd. generally referred to as the Palmetto wastewater treatment plant (WWTP);

WHEREAS, the Palmetto WWTP has had long-term documented operational issues and regularly violates the Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) discharge permit LA0102890 issued by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) for the Palmetto WWTP;

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WHEREAS, the Town received *Administrative Order CWA-06-2024-1717* from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on December 18, 2023 for recurring violations of its LPDES discharge permit at the Palmetto WWTP;

WHEREAS, *Administrative Order CWA-06-2024-1717* requires the Town of Benton to take such measures as are necessary to comply with all permit conditions including effluent permit limitations at the Palmetto WWTP no later than thirty (30) days from the effective date of the order;

WHEREAS, the Water Sector Program (WSP) is a potential source of 75% grant funding for the needed wastewater collection and treatment improvements that will enable the Town of Benton to punctually, efficiently, and effectively address the mandates in *Administrative Order CWA-06-2024-1717*;

WHEREAS, the Water Sector Program (WSP) requires a minimum commitment of 25% of the overall project cost in local funds, awards three (3) additional rating points for providing a 26% local match, and awards ten (10) additional rating points if documentation that matching funds are available to be spent is included in the application submittal;

WHEREAS, the anticipated overall project cost is \$7,166,400 and the Town of Benton anticipates receiving 13 additional rating points for providing a 26% local match and documentation submitted with the WSP application confirming that matching funds are available to be spent on the project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Aldermen, in a regular session convened, this 11th day of November 2024 that they do hereby authorize and fully support the Town's application for Water Sector Program (WSP) funding and authorize the commitment of local funds equivalent to 26% of the overall project cost.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed.

On motion of Alderman Ron Jones, seconded by Alderman Tiffany Manning, this resolution was duly adopted this 11th day of November 2024. Mayor Horton called for public comments, none being made the following votes were recorded:

Ayes: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Friday.

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Alderman Cathcart

1. RESOLUTION 20 OF 2024: BALAR CONTRACT APPROVAL CAPITAL OUTLAY Wastewater Collections System Improvements (Courthouse Sewer Subbasin) Phase 1.

WHEREAS the Town of Benton has applied for funding through Capital Outlay for Wastewater Collection System Improvements; and

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WHEREAS Balar Engineers has presented the Town with an agreement for engineering services for the 2024 Wastewater Collection System project # 24019.00 which includes engineering design and professional services associated with the Courthouse Sewer Subbasin project:

- Basic design fees were calculated using Facility Planning and Control (FP&C) guidelines are estimated at \$72,500.00 Resident Project Representative (inspections) estimated at 28,500 based on 300 hours of inspection at a rate of \$95/hour, over an eight-month
- Additional Services include \$8,000 for surveying and construction layout, \$5,000 for geotechnical investigation & report, and \$2,667 for construction material testing. Estimated total cost for engineering: \$116,667.00
- The total anticipated match paid with local funds (Town Funds) that are required by Capital Outlay is \$156,667.00

WHEREAS all contract amendments must be approved by adoption of a Resolution of the Board of Alderman

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, Bossier Parish Louisiana does hereby authorize the mayor, Shelly Horton to execute and administer said contract with Balar Engineers for engineering services of the Wastewater Collection System Improvements Phase 1. (Courthouse Sewer Subbasin). For the total amount of \$116,667.00.

On motion of Alderman Friday, seconded by Alderman Carr this resolution was duly adopted this 11th day of November 2024. Mayor Horton called for public comments, none being made the following votes were recorded:

Ayes: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Friday.

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Alderman Cathcart

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2. ORDINANCE 594 OF 2024: AMENDING 2024 GENERAL FUND AND 1978 FUND BUDGETS:
 Introduce and set for public hearing on December 9, 2024
 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 586 OF 2023 THE FINANCIAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 FOR THE TOWN OF BENTON, LOUISIANA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOUISIANA LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET ACT

BE IT ORDAINED the Board of Alderman of the Town of Benton, Louisiana, enacted Ordinance 586 of 2023 on December 11, 2023, adopting the 2024 General Fund, Water Sewer Enterprise Fund, and 1978 Sales Tax Fund budgets, and

WHEREAS the Board of Alderman does hereby desire to amend the 2024 General Fund budget by the following changes;

Revenues:	General Revenues	From:	(1,939,600.00)	To:	(2,026,350.00)
	Trans from 1978	From:	(810,592.00)	To:	(748,563.00)
	Total Revenues	From:	(2,750,192.00)	To:	(2,774,913.00)
Expenses:	Administrative	From:	414,859.00	To:	405,113.00
	Mayor	From:	45,860.00	To:	43,905.00
	Council	From;	28,000.00	To:	27,500.00
	Chief of Police	From:	87,650.00	To:	91,080.00
	Police Department	From:	857,091.00	To:	1,030,375.00
	Streets	From:	605,806.00	To:	663,989.00
	Maintenance	From:	120,119.00	To:	108,031.00
	Parks & Recreation	From:	468,175.00	To;	88,250.00
	Benton MPC	From:	73,552.00	To:	56,796.00
	Total Expenses	From:	2,701,112.00	To:	2,516,039.00
	Net (Profit) / Loss	From:	49,080.00	To:	258,874.00
	Beginning Balance	From:	(2,745,353.00)	To:	(2,745,353.00)
	End Fund Balance	From:	(2,794,433.00)	To:	(3,004,227.00)

WHEREAS the Board of Alderman does hereby desire to amend the 2024 1978 Sales Tax Fund by the following changes:

Revenues:	1978 Sales Tax	From:	(827,000.00)	To:	(955,243.00)
	Interest Income	From:	(1,200.00)	To:	(28,820.00)

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	Total Revenues		(828,200.00)		(984,063.00)
Expenses:	Transfer to General Fund	From:	810,592.00	To:	748,563.00
	Transfer Water Sewer	From:		To:	
	Net (Profit) / Loss	From:	17,608.00	To:	235,500.00
	Beginning Balance	From:	(4,798,692.00)	To:	(4,798,692.00)
	Ending Balance	From:	(4,816,300.00)	To:	(5,034,192.00)

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, Louisiana, finds and determines that the General Fund and 1978 Sales Tax Fund amendments comply with all requirements set forth in the State of Louisiana Local Government Budget Act R.S. 39:1301 – 1315

On motion of Alderman Friday, seconded by Alderman Jones Ordinance 594 introduced and set for public hearing on December 9th. Mayor Horton called for public comments, none being made the following votes were recorded:

Ayes: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Friday.
 Nays: None
 Abstain: None
 Absent: Alderman Cathcart

3. ORDINANCE 595 OF 2024 ADOPTING THE 2025 GENERAL FUND, 1978 FUND, AND WATER SEWER ENTERPRISE BUDGETS

ORDINANCE 595 OF 2024

FY 2025 Budgets

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2025 BUDGETS FOR REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES OF THE TOWN OF BENTON’S GENERAL FUND, WATER SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND, 1978 SALES TAX FUND, BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025; AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF BENTON, BOSSIER PARISH, LOUISIANA IN REGULAR SESSION CONVENED THAT:

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SECTION 1. The following estimates are hereby adopted to serve as a budget of revenues and expenditures of the General Fund FY 2025:

General Fund Revenues	(1,761,503.00)
Trans in from 1978 Sales Tax	(912,500.00)
Total Revenues	(2,674,003.00)
General Administrative Expenses	421,984.00
Mayor Expenses	45,310.00
Council Expenses	28,000.00
Chief of Police	92,650.00
Police Expenses	981,462.00
Street Expenses	845,000.00
Maintenance Expenses	110,070.00
Parks and Recreation Expenses	60,000.00
Benton Parish MPC	85,569.00
Total General Fund Expenses	2,670,045.00
Net (Profit) / Loss	(3,958.00)
Beginning Fund Balance	\$(3,004,227.00)
Ending Fund Balance	\$(3,008,185.00)

SECTION 2. The following estimates are hereby adopted to serve as a budget of revenues and expenditures of the Water Sewer FY 2025:

General Administrative Revenues	(821,164.00)
In Water Revenues	(562,269.00)
Out Water Revenue	(1,212,334.00)
In Sewer Revenue	(956,000.00)
Out Sewer Revenue	(418,632.00)
<u>Solid Waste Revenue</u>	<u>(219,730.00)</u>
Total Revenues	(4,190,129.00)
General Administrative Expenses	1,148,129.00
In Water Expenses	580,000.00
Out Water Expenses	629,000.00
In Sewer Expenses	550,500.00
Out Sewer Expenses	1,117,500.00
<u>Solid Waste Expenses</u>	<u>165,000.00</u>
Total Expenses	4,190,129.00
Net (Profit)/ Loss	(0.00)
Beginning Fund Balance	(9,573,323.00)
Ending Fund Balance	(9,573,323.00)

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SECTION 3. The following estimates are hereby adopted to serve as a budget of revenues and expenditures of the 1978 Sales Tax Fund FY 2025:

<u>Revenues</u>	(983,000.00)
Expenditure General Fund	912,500.00
<u>Expenditures Water Sewer</u>	<u>36,739.00</u>
Net (Profit) / Loss	(33,761.00)
Beginning Fund Balance	(5,034,192.00)
Ending Fund Balance	(5,067,953.00)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, Louisiana, finds and determines that this budget complies with all requirements set forth in the State of Louisiana Local Government Budget Act R.S. 39:1301 – 1315

On motion of Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Manning Ordinance 595 introduced and set for public hearing on December 9th. Mayor Horton called for public comments, none being made the following votes were recorded:

Ayes: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Friday.
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Alderman Cathcart

6. CONSIDER YTD BUDGETS AND MTD FINANCIALS

On motion of Alderman Friday, seconded by Alderman Carr the monthly financials approved. Mayor Horton called for public comments, none being made the following votes were recorded:

Ayes: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Friday.
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Alderman Cathcart

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7. RESOLUTION 21 OF 2024 BALAR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR WATER SECTOR PROJECT

RESOLUTION 21 OF 2024

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE PALMETTO WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT CLOSURE PROJECT WATER SECTOR PROGRAM AND LOCAL FUNDS

WHEREAS the Town of Benton has applied for \$6,460,000 Water Sector funds managed by Louisiana Office of Community Development division of Facility Planning and Control (FP&C) for closure of the Palmetto Wastewater Treatment Plant and to construct an effluent pump station and sewer force main to the North Wastewater Treatment Plant (Rock Reed) and for the expansion of the North WWTP (Rock Reed); and

WHEREAS Balar Engineers has presented the Town with an agreement for engineering services for the Palmetto WWTP closure and sewer expansion project # 24033.00 which includes engineering design and professional services associated with said project:

- Basic design fees were calculated using Facility Planning and Control (FP&C) guidelines are estimated at \$450,400, Resident Project Representative (inspections) estimated at \$152,000 based on 1,600 hours of inspection at a rate of \$95/hour, over an estimated twelve-months.
- Additional Services include \$24,000 for surveying and construction layout, \$15,000 for easements, right-of-way, and servitudes, \$10,000 for geotechnical investigation & report, \$10,000 for construction material testing, and \$15,000 for permits (LDOTD, Parish, and Railroad).
- Total overall basic and additional engineering fees are \$676,400 and this amount will be part of the Town of Benton's \$1,791,680 local funds contribution to the project required by the Water Sector Program.

WHEREAS any amendments to said contract must be approved by Resolution adopted by the Board of Alderman

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, Bossier Parish Louisiana does hereby authorize the mayor, Shelly Horton to execute and administer said contract with Balar Engineers for engineering services of the Palmetto Wastewater Treatment Plant closure and construction

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of an effluent pump station and sewer force main to the North Wastewater Treatment Plant (Rock Reed) and for the expansion of the North WWTP (Rock Reed) Project # 24033.00.

Upon a motion of Alderman Manning, seconded by Alderman Jones, Resolution 21 of 2024 was adopted on the 11th day of November 2024. Mayor Horton called for public comments. There being none the following votes were recorded:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Cathcart

Upon a motion of Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Manning the regular session was adjourned. Mayor Horton called for public comments. There being none the following votes were recorded:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Cathcart

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