



**MINUTES
TOWN OF BENTON
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
105 SIBLEY STREET
BENTON, LOUISIANA
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025, 6:30 PM**

The Town of Benton met in a regular legal session on the 10th day of November 2025 at 6:30 PM in the Benton Council Chambers, Benton Town Hall, 105 Sibley Street, Benton, Louisiana. Mayor James Friday called the meeting to order and gave the invocation, and Alderman Brunson led the Pledge of Allegiance. 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

Others present were Attorney Chance Nerren, Officer Cesar Mora, Debbie Rios, and members of the public.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Alderman Carr, seconded by Alderman Lawrence to approve the agenda. Mayor Friday called for public comments. Alderman Manning brought up four ordinances for discussion: 1) Advanced delivery of council packets, 2) Roberts Rule of order, 3) Timed public comments, 4) Mayor to inform council members better. She requested to amend the agenda to add the four ordinances for discussion. A motion made by Alderman Manning, seconded by Alderman Carr to amend the agenda to add the ordinances for discussion.

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

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

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The Town of Benton is an equal opportunity employer.

A motion was made by Alderman Carr and seconded by Alderman Lawrence to approve the October 13th minutes. Mayor Friday called for public comments. There being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance 610 of 2025 introduce and set for public hearing on December 8th

AN ORDINANCE, GRANTING UNTO SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY, THE RIGHT, PRIVILEGE AND FRANCHISE TO ACQUIRE, CONSTRUCT, ERECT, MAINTAIN, REPAIR, RECONSTRUCT, REMOVE AND OPERATE A SYSTEM OF ELECTRIC POWER LINES, WIRES, TRANSFORMERS, COMMUNICATION CABLES AND OTHER RELATED AND NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE APPURTENANCES IN, UNDER, OVER, ACROSS, THROUGH AND ALONG ANY AND ALL OF THE PRESENT AND FUTURE STREETS, AVENUES, ALLEYS, THOROUGHFARES, ROADS, HIGHWAYS, SIDEWALKS, BRIDGES AND PUBLIC GROUNDS AND PUBLIC PLACES OF THE TOWN OF BENTON, LOUISIANA, FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRANSMITTING AND DISTRIBUTING ELECTRIC POWER TO THE TOWN AND ITS INHABITANTS AND ANY OTHER PERSON OR PERSONS, FIRMS AND CORPORATIONS FOR A TERM OF TWENTY FIVE YEARS; REGULATING THE USE OF STREETS BY THE COMPANY AND REPAIR AND RESTORATION OF THE STREETS DISTURBED BY CONSTRUCTION; PROVIDING FOR COMPENSATION TO BE PAID TO THE TOWN; PROVIDING THAT THIS FRANCHISE SHALL NOT BE EXCLUSIVE; PROVIDING THE COMPANY'S OBLIGATIONS TO FURNISH EFFICIENT SERVICE; PROVIDING FOR INDEMNITY BY THE COMPANY TO THE TOWN; PROVIDING FOR CONDITIONAL FORFEITURE IN EVENT OF

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**DEFAULT BY THE COMPANY; MAKING MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
RELATIVE TO THIS GRANT OF FRANCHISE; PROVIDING FOR
ACCEPTANCE BY COMPANY; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE;
AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

A motion was made by Alderman Perry and seconded by Alderman Manning. Mayor Friday called for public comments. There being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

**Ordinance 611 of 2025 (T-16-25) introduce and set for public hearing December 8th
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 130, ARTICLE 7, SECTION 130-182 OF
THE TOWN OF BENTON CODE OF ORDINANCES**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Board of Alderman of the Town of Benton, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, convened in regular session, does hereby amend Chapter 130-Zoning, Article 7-Zoning Amendments, Section 130-182 of the Town of Benton Code of Ordinances to reflect the Zoning Classification of a tract of land being 0.42 acres more or less, from R-2 (Multi-Family Residence District) to a R-3 (Residence Mobile Home Park District) located South of Old Plain Dealing Rd and West of Brunson Lane. Town of Benton, La. (Town of Benton Council District 3) (Police Jury District 4)

A motion was made by Alderman Carr and seconded by Alderman Lawrence. Mayor Friday called for public comments. Alderman Manning asked what other things can be in There being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

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Reappointment of Steve Vercher to the Benton MPC Board.

A motion was made by Alderman Lawrence and seconded by Alderman Manning. Mayor Friday called for public comments. There being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

Month-to-date financials:

A motion was made by Alderman Lawrence and seconded by Alderman Manning to approve the October financials. Mayor Friday called for public comments. Alderman Manning had several things to point out on the expenditure list. Manning requested more details on the contract labor and about Shannon Hammond. Mayor Friday stated she comes two days per week to pay bills. PMI does journal entries and in-depth accounting. The balance on the balance sheet and expenditure don't add up. She also asked why the street department didn't have employees. She asked about CDC, and Mrs. Collier explained the LCDBG admin for those grants. Manning stated that she disapproved of the town using Little Joe's Welding for any town work. Due to her being confused about an ad the city ran in a publication. The mayor stated so noted. With no other comments having been made, the following votes were recorded:

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

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Alderman Manning discussed her proposed ordinances:

Manning stated that the ordinance has been discussed in a workshop and why hasn't it been on the agenda? She said that we discussed it. Mayor Friday stated that he does not agree with the Packet Delivery ordinance because the packets have been delivered on time for 18 years, and when I was a council person, I never had an issue with the delivery of them. Chris Redford asked Manning what her problem was with reviewing their packets over the weekend. It was clarified to Manning that the Ordinance has not been officially introduced or scheduled for a public hearing.

Stephanie Collier stated that the agenda will need to be amended, not changed from discussion to the introduction.

Alderman Manning made a motion to amend the agenda to add the Ordinance to be introduced and set for public hearing. Alderman Carr seconded the motion. Mayor called for public comments. There being none the following votes were recorded:

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

Mrs. Manning read the ordinance into the record.

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH POLICY FOR THE TIMELY DELIVERY OF COUNCIL PACKETS

Motion by Alderman Carr and seconded by Alderman Manning to introduce and set for public hearing on December 8. Mayor called for public comments. There being none the following votes were recorded:

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

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Manning continued her discussion of other ordinances she wishes the council to consider. Ordinance #2, which established the adoption of the Roberts Rule of Order for how we conduct our meetings. Mrs. Collier asked is this adoption Roberts Rule of Order as a whole? Manning stated that this could be something we can work on in a workshop or the other council members can give input. Mrs. Carr asked Attorney Nerren his thoughts and he stated you can adopt as a whole or find which parts you want and then pull them together for an ordinance. Mayor Friday stated he opposes Robert's Rules of Order. Mrs. Carr asked if he could pick out parts he would agree to for adoption of the meetings. Moved on to the Ordinance #3 which is time limits for guest speakers being 5 minutes and not 3 minutes. She moved to Ordinance # 4 which is not Manning to establish a formal process to keep the board informed. She requests information on new hires and terminated employees. Manning stated this ordinance is to keep the board informed about the employment. Mayor Friday opposed this ordinance due to it is encroaching on the Lawrason Act and the mayor's powers. Attorney Nerren stated that there are some legal issues that we can review concerning this type of request.

Manning stated that she needs more time to review the budget changes and it was agreed upon by council to change the budget workshop to Monday the 17th.

A motion by Alderman Carr seconded by Alderman Lawrence to adjourn.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

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