

ORDINANCE 630 OF 2026:
Water Meters

(Amended) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE BENTON CODE CHAPTER 18, ARTICLE III, BY ADDING SECTION 18:238 WATER METERS SHALL REMAIN VISIBLE, ACCESSIBLE, AND UNOBSTRUCTED FOR TOWN MAINTENANCE

WHEREAS the Town of Benton owns and operates a municipal water system for the benefit of its residents and customers; and

WHEREAS, water meters are essential for accurate billing, system maintenance, leak detection, and public health protection; and

WHEREAS, obstructed, buried, covered, damaged, or inaccessible water meters impede meter reading, maintenance, repairs, and emergency response;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, hereby amends the Benton code CHAPTER 18 – SEWER AND WATER, ARTICLE III – WATER, adding SECTION 18: 268 to read as follows:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to ensure that all water meters serving customers of the Town of Benton Water System remain visible, accessible, and unobstructed to allow for accurate meter reading, inspection, maintenance, and repair.

SECTION 2. APPLICABILITY

This ordinance applies to all customers of the Town of Benton Water System, including residential, commercial, industrial, and governmental accounts.

SECTION 3. PROHIBITION AGAINST OBSTRUCTION OR COVERING OF WATER METERS

No customer shall cover, enclose, obstruct, block, bury, or restrict access to any water meter, meter box, meter lid, shut-off valve, or related appurtenance.

Water meters shall remain visible and accessible for Town personnel

SECTION 4. VIOLATION WARNING AND PENALTIES

Customers who restrict access to a water meter will receive a door hanger warning of the violation.

Customers will be given three (3) days to remove the obstruction. If the customer fails to remove the obstruction, a \$20.00 charge will be added to the customer's water bill for each day the violation remains uncorrected.

If the Town must remove obstructions or perform corrective work, all associated costs, including labor and equipment, will be billed to the customer as an additional charge on the water bill.

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alderman Carr

ABSTAIN: None

