



TOWN OF BENTON

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN
105 SIBLEY ST., BENTON, LA
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2026, 6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

ROLL CALL:

INVOCATION:

PLEDGE:

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA APPROVAL:

MOTION / SECOND

PUBLIC COMMENTS on approval of the agenda

VOTE

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS:

1. RESOLUTION 4 OF 2026:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2026 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the Town of Benton:

<u>MILLAGE</u>	
General Alimony # 5079 001	6.500 mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of Bossier, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2026, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

Final Vote: Resolution 4 of 2026 adopting the tax millage rates for 2026.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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TOWN OF BENTON

2. ORDINANCE 627 OF 2026:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 625 OF 2026 ESTABLISHING THE SALARY OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

WHEREAS the Town of Benton is a municipality created under the laws of the State of Louisiana and adherent to the provisions of the Lawrason Act; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen for the Town of Benton is empowered with the responsibility and authority to establish the salaries of certain municipal officers, including, but not limited to, the Mayor and Aldermen; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen for the Town of Benton has reviewed and taken into consideration the salaries of certain municipal officers of municipalities of comparable size in the area and across the State of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS the Board of Aldermen for the Town of Benton desires to establish the annual salaries for the Aldermen for the Town of Benton;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, in legal and regular session, acting as the "Governing Authority" of the Town of Benton, after a public hearing with legal notice, adopt said ordinance as outlined herein.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Aldermen for the Town of Benton, Louisiana shall be paid a monthly salary of \$550.00

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all Ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

COUNCIL COMMENTS PUBLIC COMMENTS

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3. ORDINANCE 628 OF 2026: (Amended)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2. ARTICLE I. ADDING SECTION 2.8 PROHIBITING THE UNAUTHORIZED USE OF THE TOWN SEAL FOR PURPOSES OF DECEPTION OR FINANCIAL GAIN; ESTABLISHING PENALTIES; AND PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT

BE IT ORDAINED by the governing authority of the Town of Benton, as follows:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE AND INTENT.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to protect the integrity of the official Town Seal and to prevent its misuse in a manner that could mislead, deceive, or defraud the public, particularly for monetary or personal gain.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this Ordinance:

- (a) "Town Seal" means the official seal, emblem, logo, insignia, or any reproduction thereof, used by the Town of Benton. (Exhibit A)
- (b) "Unauthorized Use" means use of the Town Seal that has not been expressly approved in writing by the Town or its designated official authority.
- (c) "Deception" means any act or practice intended to mislead the public into believing that a person, entity, document, product, or service is endorsed, approved, or affiliated with the Town when it is not.
- (d) "Monetary Gain" means any direct or indirect financial benefit, including but not limited to sales, fees, donations, investments, or other compensation.

SECTION 3. PROHIBITED ACTS.

It shall be unlawful for any person, business, or entity to:

- (a) Use or reproduce the Town Seal without authorization, to defraud the public for financial benefit, including but not limited to collections, sales, fees, donations, investments, or other compensations;
- (d) Use the Town Seal in connection with any scheme or activity intended to obtain money, property, or services through false or misleading representations;

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- (e) Sell, distribute, or display any material bearing the Town Seal for monetary gain without prior authorization from the Town.

SECTION 4. EXCEPTIONS.

This Ordinance shall not apply to:

- (a) Official Town business and authorized communications;
- (b) Reproductions approved in writing by the Town for educational, historical, or governmental purposes;
- (c) Media use in news reporting, provided such use is not misleading or used for financial exploitation.

SECTION 5. ENFORCEMENT

The Town may seek injunctive relief to immediately stop any unauthorized or deceptive use of the Town Seal.

SECTION 6. CIVIL REMEDIES.

The Town may pursue civil action to recover damages, including financial losses resulting from misuse of the Town Seal, and to obtain court orders preventing further violations.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

4. ORDINANCE 629 OF 2026:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BENTON CODE CHAPTER 2. ARTICLE 1. SECTION 2.6 BY ADDING PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES AND RULES OF DECORUM FOR THE MAYOR AND THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

WHEREAS Chapter 2. Administration, Article 1. In General, Section 2.6 Regular Meetings of the Code of Ordinances, Town of Benton, Louisiana, is hereby amended to read as follows:

WHEREAS, the Town of Benton is organized and governed pursuant to the Lawrason Act, La. R.S. 33:321 et seq. and the Louisiana Open Meetings Law, La R.S. 42:11-28; and

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WHEREAS, La. R.S. 33:405 provides that the Mayor shall preside over meetings of the Board of Aldermen and requires meetings of public bodies to be conducted openly, with proper notice, agendas, public participation, and recorded votes; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and desirable to adopt clear procedures governing council meetings to ensure orderly conduct, fair public participation, legal compliance, and efficient transaction of public business;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED

by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton:

SECTION 1. ADOPTION OF COUNCIL MEETING PROCEDURES POLICY

The Council Meeting Procedures and Rules of Decorum Policy, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit "A", is hereby adopted as the official rules governing all meetings of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

SECTION 2. AUTHORITY AND APPLICATION

A. This ordinance and the adopted policy shall govern:

- Public hearings
- Regular meetings
- Special meetings
- Emergency meetings
- Continued or rescheduled meetings

B. This policy applies to:

- The Mayor
- All Aldermen
- Municipal officers and staff
- Members of the public attending meetings

SECTION 3. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall serve as a supplemental parliamentary authority only where:

1. State law is silent, and
2. Municipal ordinances and adopted policies are silent, and
3. No conflict exists with Louisiana law.

In the event of conflict, state law and municipal ordinances shall control.

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SECTION 4. PRESIDING OFFICER

Pursuant to La. R.S. 33:405, the Mayor shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Aldermen. In the absence of the Mayor, the Mayor Pro Tempore shall preside, and in the absence of both, another Alderman may preside as authorized by law.

SECTION 5. ENFORCEMENT

The Mayor, as presiding officer, is authorized and directed to:

- Maintain order and decorum;
- Enforce time limits and procedural rules;
- Rule on Points of Order;
- Ensure compliance with all applicable statutes and adopted procedures.

SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this ordinance or the adopted policy is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict only.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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5. ORDINANCE 630 OF 2026: (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

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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.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING

All In favor

All Opposed

POSTED BY

Stephanie Collier, CAO Town of Benton ON THE 3 DAY OF JUNE, 2026 @ 3:00PM

The Public Hearing agenda and all agenda items have been reviewed and approved by:

Mayor James Friday

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**REGULAR SESSION
AGENDA
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN
105 SIBLEY ST., BENTON, LA
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2026, 6:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

ROLL CALL:

AGENDA APPROVAL:

**MOTION / SECOND
PUBLIC COMMENTS
VOTE**

MINUTES: APPROVAL:

**MOTION / SECOND
PUBLIC COMMENTS
VOTE**

REPORTS ON CURRENT PROJECTS and GUEST SPEAKERS:

**1. JIMMY HAGAN, BALAR ENGINEERS / DAVID KUNTZ, BALAR ENGINEERS
And OWNER OF ASB UTILITIES**

Discussion and addressing citizen complaints on the active Sewer Project.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

**2. MR. GARY WYCHE: Requested to address the Board concerning his retirement from the Board of
Commissioners of CBB Recreational Park**

3. Joel Hernandez with HPL Benefits: Blue Cross of Louisiana Health employee health benefits renewal:

**MOTION / SECOND
PUBLIC COMMENTS
VOTE**

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OLD BUSINESS:

1. NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **RESOLUTION 4 OF 2026: Consider approval of General Alimony millage renewal**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2026 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the Town of Benton:

<u>MILLAGE</u>	
General Alimony # 5079 001	6.500 mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of Bossier, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2026, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:
Final Vote: Resolution 4 of 2026 adopting the tax millage rates for 2026.

MOTION / SECOND

PUBLIC COMMENTS

VOTE

2. **ORDINANCE 627 OF 2026: Consider approval**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 625 OF 2026 ESTABLISHING THE SALARY OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

MOTION / SECOND

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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VOTE

3. ORDINANCE 628 OF 2026: Consider Approval

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2. ARTICLE I. ADDING SECTION 2.8 PROHIBITING THE UNAUTHORIZED USE OF THE TOWN SEAL FOR PURPOSES OF DECEPTION OR FINANCIAL GAIN; ESTABLISHING PENALTIES; AND PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT

MOTION / SECOND
PUBLIC COMMENTS
VOTE

4. ORDINANCE 629 OF 2026: Consider approval

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MOTION / SECOND
PUBLIC COMMENTS
VOTE

5. ORDINANCE 630 OF 2026: Consider approval

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

MOTION / SECOND
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6. Consider approval of monthly financials:

**MOTION / SECOND
PUBLIC COMMENTS
VOTE**

ADJOURNMENT REGULAR SESSION

**All in favor
All Opposed**

POSTED BY

Stephanie Collier, CAO Town of Benton ON THE 3 DAY OF JUNE, 2026 @ 3:00PM

The Public Hearing agenda and all agenda items have been reviewed and approved by:

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