

ORDINANCE 633 OF 2026

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 622 OF 2026 RELATIVE TO COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL; PROVIDING THAT COMPENSATION SHALL BE PAID AS A PER DIEM FOR ACTUAL ATTENDANCE AT REGULARLY SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETINGS

WHEREAS Ordinance 622 of 2026 established the monthly compensation for the Town of Benton Council for attendance at regularly scheduled meetings; and

WHEREAS the Town Council seeks to ensure accountability and the proper use of public funds by making compensation a per diem earned through attendance and participation at regularly scheduled council meetings; and

WHEREAS the Town Council finds that public funds should be expended only for services rendered and that attendance at regularly scheduled meetings is an essential duty of elected council members; and

WHEREAS Louisiana Revised Statute 14:138 provides that public officers are prohibited from authorizing payment for services not rendered; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Benton, Louisiana, that:

SECTION 1.

Ordinance No. 622 of 2026 is hereby amended by adding the following provision:

Attendance Requirement for Payment of Per Diem

A. Beginning upon the effective date of this Ordinance, per diem payable to a member of the Town Council shall be earned only through attendance at the regularly scheduled meetings of the Town Council.

B. Any council member who fails to attend a regularly scheduled council meeting shall not receive compensation attributable to that meeting.

C. The Clerk shall maintain attendance records for all regular meetings and shall certify attendance to the finance department prior to the issuance of compensation.

E. For purposes of this Ordinance, attendance shall mean physical presence at the meeting or lawful participation through any means authorized by state law.

F. This Section shall not apply when a council member's absence may be excused by a unanimous vote of the Council for the following reasons:

1. Military service

2. Court order
3. Jury duty

SECTION 2.

The Town Council declares that this amendment is intended to promote compliance with Louisiana Revised Statute 14:138 concerning payment for public funds and to ensure that public funds are expended only for services actually rendered. [\[legis.la.gov\]](http://legis.la.gov), [\[law.justia.com\]](http://law.justia.com)

SECTION 3.

If any provision or item of this Ordinance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items, or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision, item, or application, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared severable.

SECTION 4.

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

SECTION 5.

This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption and publication as required by law.