



TOWN OF BENTON

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

**MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN
105 SIBLEY ST., BENTON, LA
AUGUST 10, 2026, 6:30 PM**

The Town of Benton met in a Regular Session on the 10th day of August 2026 at 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers Benton Town Hall, 105 Sibley Street, Benton, Louisiana. Mayor James Friday called the meeting to order. The mayor gave the invocation, and Alderman Perry led the Pledge of Allegiance. Debbie Rios called the roll with all members as follows:

Alderman Jackie Carr	ABSENT (no call/no show)
Alderman Tiffany Manning	ABSENT (no call/no show)
Alderman Tammy Brunson	PRESENT
Alderman Arshundae Perry	PRESENT
Alderman Terry Lawrence	PRESENT

Others present included Stephanie Collier, CAO, Robert Gonzalez, Deputy Clerk, Asst. Chief Larry Weaver and members of the public.

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Alderman Perry and seconded by Alderman Lawrence to approve the Regular Session Agenda. Mayor called for any comments. There being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

MINUTES APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Alderman Lawrence and seconded by Alderman Brunson to approve the July 13, 2026. Mayor called for any comments. There being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

105 Sibley Street / P O Box 1390
Benton, Louisiana 71006
(318) 965-2781 / (318)965-2577 fax
www.townofbentonlouisiana.webs.com website

A person with a disability who requires assistance with accommodations or an auxiliary aid or service such as an assistive listening device or a sign language interpreter, to participate in a public meeting should contact the Stephanie Collier at (318) 965-2781 as far in advance as possible, but no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled time of the meeting.

The Town of Benton is an equal opportunity employer.



TOWN OF BENTON

OLD BUSINESS: ORDINANCE 631 OF 2026: (Final Vote)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 613 OF 2025, THE FINANCIAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 FOR THE TOWN OF BENTON, LOUISIANA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOUISIANA LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET ACT

A motion was made by Alderman Lawrence and seconded by Alderman Perry to amend Ordinance 613 of 2025. Mayor Friday called for comments. There being none, the following votes were recorded:

AYES: Alderman Brunson, Alderman Perry, Alderman Lawrence

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning

ABSTAIN: None

Cypress Black Bayou Board Appointment:

Mayor Friday announced after a lot of deliberation, prayer, resumes, comments at the workshop he had chosen Matthew Marshall for appointment or the council.

A motion was made by Alderman Perry and seconded by Alderman Brunson to nominate Matthew Marshall for Cypress Black Bayou Board Appointment. Mayor called for any comments. There being none, he asked if Mr. Marshall would like to say anything. **Mr. Marshall** commented, "My wife and I talked on the way home from the workshop and I believe I was the only person in the room that didn't know anybody in the room at the time. So, I want everybody to know there is no affiliation with me with anybody. And I will do my best to represent everybody in the district with my seat on that commission." With no other comments being made, the following votes were recorded:

AYES: Alderman Brunson, Alderman Perry, Alderman Lawrence

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning

ABSTAIN: None

105 Sibley Street / P O Box 1390
Benton, Louisiana 71006
(318) 965-2781 / (318)965-2577 fax
www.townofbentonlouisiana.webs.com website

A person with a disability who requires assistance with accommodations or an auxiliary aid or service such as an assistive listening device or a sign language interpreter, to participate in a public meeting should contact the Stephanie Collier at (318) 965-2781 as far in advance as possible, but no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled time of the meeting.

The Town of Benton is an equal opportunity employer.



TOWN OF BENTON

NEW BUSINESS: Resolution 5 of 2026: Mayor Friday read aloud for the record.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR FRIDAY TO SUBMIT THE MUNICIPAL WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION (MWPP) ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT FOR 2024 AND 2025 TO REFLECT NECESSARY CHANGES AT THE 6th STREET WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY TO STAY IN COMPLIANCE WITH LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (LDEQ).

WHEREAS, the Town of Benton is in need of improvements to the sewer treatment system; and,

WHEREAS, to comply with the current LDEQ regulations, the Town must implement improvements to Town's Wastewater Facility per the regulations stated in the current MWPP Environmental Audit; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of Benton, together with Mayor James Friday, that they have reviewed the MWPP Environmental Audit and intend to move forward with the recommendations outlined in the MWPP Environmental Audit to improve the treatment capability of the wastewater treatment plant and wastewater collection system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mr. Chandler Warren, with Waggoner Engineering, is hereby designated as the Official Project Representative and is hereby given authority to complete and submit the MWPP Environmental Audit on the Town's behalf, as well as implement the needs stated in the audit and additional services.

A motion was made by Alderman Lawrence and seconded by Alderman Perry to approve Resolution 5 of 2026. Mayor called for comments. Ms. Perry just wanted to point out that there was a typo on the last page of the 2025 report total points. It states 48 but adds up to 49. No other comment being made, the following votes were recorded:

AYES: Alderman Brunson, Alderman Perry, Alderman Lawrence

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning

ABSTAIN: None

105 Sibley Street / P O Box 1390
Benton, Louisiana 71006
(318) 965-2781 / (318) 965-2577 fax
www.townofbentonlouisiana.webs.com website

A person with a disability who requires assistance with accommodations or an auxiliary aid or service such as an assistive listening device or a sign language interpreter, to participate in a public meeting should contact the Stephanie Collier at (318) 965-2781 as far in advance as possible, but no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled time of the meeting.

The Town of Benton is an equal opportunity employer.



TOWN OF BENTON

ORDINANCE 632 of 2026: Introduce and set for public hearing. Debbie Rios read aloud for the record.

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND APPROVING THE TOWN OF BENTON EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK; AUTHORIZING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HANDBOOK; AND PROVIDING FOR RELATED MATTERS.

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Ordinance is to formally adopt and approve the Town of Benton Employee Handbook, which establishes policies, procedures, benefits, standards of conduct, workplace expectations, and personnel administration guidelines for Town employees.

SECTION 2. APPROVAL AND ADOPTION

The Town of Benton Employee Handbook, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as fully set forth herein, is hereby approved and adopted as the official personnel policy manual of the Town of Benton.

SECTION 3. ADMINISTRATION

The Mayor, or his/her designee, is authorized and directed to administer, implement, and enforce the provisions of the Employee Handbook and to take all actions necessary to ensure compliance with its terms.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENTS

The Employee Handbook may be amended from time to time by ordinance, provided that any amendment shall be consistent with applicable federal and state laws and shall become effective upon approval by the governing authority unless otherwise specified.

SECTION 5. CONFLICT WITH LAW

Nothing contained in the Employee Handbook shall be construed to create a contract of employment or to alter any employment relationship recognized under applicable law. In the event of any conflict between the Handbook and applicable federal, state, or local law, the applicable law shall control.

SECTION 6. REPEALER

All ordinances, resolutions, policies, or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or provision of this Ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such determination shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

105 Sibley Street / P O Box 1390
Benton, Louisiana 71006
(318) 965-2781 / (318) 965-2577 fax
www.townofbentonlouisiana.webs.com website

A person with a disability who requires assistance with accommodations or an auxiliary aid or service such as an assistive listening device or a sign language interpreter, to participate in a public meeting should contact the Stephanie Collier at (318) 965-2781 as far in advance as possible, but no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled time of the meeting.

The Town of Benton is an equal opportunity employer.



TOWN OF BENTON

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption and shall remain in full force and effect until amended or repealed by the governing authority of the Town of Benton.

A motion was made by Alderman Perry and seconded by Alderman Lawrence to introduce and set for public hearing Ordinance 632 of 2026. Mayor called for public comments. Mr. Lawrence asked if we had ever had one and it was noted that the Town updated the previous one that was at least 15 years old. The attorney commented that the insurance broker we had here from Risk Services of Louisiana when the council voted to approve the new GL policy for the municipality and the vehicles require an updated employee handbook they can review and make sure it is in compliance. Not having one could affect our ability to obtain coverage going forward in the future. Mayor called for any other comments. There being none, the following votes were recorded:

AYES: Alderman Brunson, Alderman Perry, Alderman Lawrence

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning

ABSTAIN: None

Judy Moncrief CPA: 2025 Audit Report: Due to personal reasons, Ms. Moncrief asked to postpone until next council meeting in September.

Consider approval of the Month-to-date financials:

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

AYES: Alderman Brunson, Alderman Perry, Alderman Lawrence

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning

ABSTAIN: None

Kasandra Frederick to address the council: The mayor called for Ms. Frederick to step forward but it was noted she was not present at the meeting. No call/no show.

Mayor called for adjournment. A motion was made by Alderman Lawrence and seconded by Alderman Perry to adjourn the Regular Session.

All In favor 3

All Opposed 0

105 Sibley Street / P O Box 1390
Benton, Louisiana 71006
(318) 965-2781 / (318)965-2577 fax
www.townofbentonlouisiana.webs.com website

A person with a disability who requires assistance with accommodations or an auxiliary aid or service such as an assistive listening device or a sign language interpreter, to participate in a public meeting should contact the Stephanie Collier at (318) 965-2781 as far in advance as possible, but no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled time of the meeting.

The Town of Benton is an equal opportunity employer.