

SHELLY HORTON JR
MAYOR



STEPHANIE SULLIVANT-COLLIER
CAO/TOWN CLERK

TOWN OF BENTON LOUISIANA

REGULAR SESSION MUNUTES MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN TOWN OF BENTON 105 SIBLEY STREET, BENTON, BOSSIER PARISH, LOUISIANA MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2022, 6:00 PM

The Town of Benton Council met in regular and legal session on the 8th day of August 2022, at 6:00 p.m., in the Benton Council Chambers, Benton Town Hall, Benton, Louisiana. The Mayor, Shelly Horton, called the Regular Session meeting to order. The invocation was given by Alderman Manning, and the pledge of allegiance was led by Alderman Jones. Mrs. Stephanie Collier, Town Clerk, called the roll, with all members as follows:

Alderman Jackie Carr	- Absent
Alderman Tiffany Manning	- Present
Alderman Ron Jones	- Present
Alderman James Friday	- Absent
Alderman Wayne Cathcart	- Present

Others present were Attorney Neil Erwin, and Chief Collier and members of the public.

Motion was made by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Cathcart to amend the agenda by adding item #6: Water Main Construction. The mayor called for public comments. There being none, motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Tiffany Manning, and Alderman Ron Jones, and Alderman Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Friday and Alderman Carr

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

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Motion was made by Alderman Manning, seconded by Alderman Jones to approve the agenda as amended. The mayor called for public comments. There being none, motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Tiffany Manning, and Alderman Ron Jones, and Alderman Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Friday and Alderman Carr

Motion was made by Alderman Manning seconded by Alderman Jones to approve the Minutes of the July meeting. The mayor called for public comments. There being none, motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Friday and Alderman Carr

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Auditor Travis Morehart summarized the 2021 audit results. First page referenced is page 62 reviewing any findings of the audit. He then reviewed page 51 and 52 discussed the General Fund and 1978 Sales Tax funds. The General Fund increased \$191k. Sales Tax increased \$421k. Page 19 for the Water Sewer which is in good shape. Operations under cash flow statement ended 2021 cash -391k due to increase in repairs of \$286k. Ending the 2021 net increase \$413k increase even removing the projects and ARCA money. Mr. Morehart stated that the Water Sewer still made money even taking out all the repairs and additional money. However, rates need to be reviewed for increase. Mayor Horton stated that we have put in for a rate study. Mr. Morehart said you cannot sit still on your rates because costs keep going up and rates haven't been increased since 2013. Mr. Morehart closed with the statement that the Town is in great shape.

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Mayor Horton discussed the plat changes and introduced Mr. Youngblood. Mr. Youngblood gave details about the changed of this plat. He stated that the home next door to the plat he owns, and the home was constructed on the lot to where the lines go through the middle of the home. The plat changes the property line of both lots and make each lot the same size and both lots are in compliance with the Benton Parish MPC requirements. Motion was made by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Manning to approve the Plat. The mayor called for public comments. There being none, motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Friday and Alderman Carr

Mayor Horton stated that Item 3 and 4 are one in the same. We are going to set the plans for public hearing at the next regular session. Mayor called for a motion to set for public hearing. A motion was made by Alderman Cathcart and seconded by Alderman Manning to set for public hearing. The Mayor Called for public comments. There being none, motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Friday and Alderman Carr

- ALL PLANS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC VIEWING AT 105 SIBLEY STREET
BENTON LA

Mayor Horton asked if council had any questions about the financials. A motion was made by Alderman Jones and seconded by Alderman Manning to approve the year-to-date budget and monthly financials. The Mayor Called for public comments. There being none, motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Friday and Alderman Carr

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Mayor Horton discussed the application for funds for improvements to the water system. Right now there is a lot of money out there available for water systems. The project we are applying for is to construct a secondary water main from the Bossier Tower directly to our water tower so in the case of a failure to our current water main we can switch over without lose of water for the town. Mayor Horton stated that if we submit engineering plans with the application that will give us more points. This is somewhat of a risk to put money towards a project; however, it will increase our chances for being awarded the grant. Alderman Cathcart felt he needed more information and was unsure of what was being asked of the council to approve. Mayor Horton stated he is not asking for anything I am just informing the council of the funds that are available and we plan to make application anyway for the project. Alderman Cathcart asked that if we spend 50k for engineering to increase our chances to get the grant. Alderman Jones stated that this may be something we need to go ahead and do. A motion was made by Alderman Cathcart and seconded by Alderman Manning to approve paying for engineering for applying for funds to construct a secondary water main. The Mayor Called for public comments. There being none, motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Friday and Alderman Carr

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Alderman Cathcart and seconded by Alderman Manning to adjourn.

Motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Friday and Alderman Carr

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By: _____

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