

**SHELLY HORTON JR**  
MAYOR



**STEPHANIE SULLIVANT-COLLIER**  
CAO/TOWN CLERK

# **TOWN OF BENTON**

## **LOUISIANA**

### **PUBLIC HEARING** **MINUTES**

**MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN**  
**TOWN OF BENTON**

**105 SIBLEY STREET, BENTON, BOSSIER PARISH, LOUISIANA**  
**MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022 6:00pm**

The Town of Benton Council met in regular and legal session on the 9th day of May 2022, at 6:00 p.m., in the Benton Council Chambers, Benton Town Hall, Benton, Louisiana. The Mayor, Shelly Horton, called the Public Hearing 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 present as follows:

Alderman Jackie Carr  
Alderman Tiffany Manning  
Alderman Ron Jones  
Alderman James Friday  
Alderman Wayne Cathcart

Others present were Police Chief, Steve Collier and Attorney Neil Erwin, Tim Chance, guest, and other members of the public.

Motion was made by Alderman Carr, seconded by Alderman Friday to approve the Public Hearing agenda. The mayor called for public comments. There being none, motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Tiffany Manning, Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman James Friday, and Alderman Wayne Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

**Items 1. Consider adoption of Ordinance 576 AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH  
COMPENSATION OF THE BENTON TOWN CLERK**

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

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Stephanie Collier at (318) 965-2781 describing the assistance that is necessary.

The Town of Benton is an equal opportunity employer.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, in legal session convened, has reviewed the budgets for 2022, and the funds allocated for compensation of services of the Town Clerk; and

WHEREAS unless otherwise specified, all wages shall be paid from the General Fund, \$4,333.34 per month, payable weekly.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all ordinances or part of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed. This ordinance shall take effect upon final adoption May 9,2022

The mayor called for public comments. There being none.

## **REGULAR SESSION MEETING**

The Mayor, Shelly Horton, called the Regular Session meeting to order.

Motion was made by Alderman Friday, seconded by Alderman Manning to approve the Regular Session Agenda. The mayor called for public comments. There being none, motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Tiffany Manning. Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman James Friday, and Alderman Wayne Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

## **OLD BUSINESS ITEMS**

Consider final adoption of Ordinance 576 An Ordinance to establish compensation for the Benton Town Clerk

Motion was made by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Manning to adopt Ordinance 576 of 2022. The mayor called for public comments. There being none, motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Tiffany Manning. Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman James Friday, and Alderman Wayne Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

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

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Stephanie Collier at (318) 965-2781 describing the assistance that is necessary.

The Town of Benton is an equal opportunity employer.

## NEW BUSINESS

Consider scheduling a public hearing on June 14, 2022, to consider amending Articles III and IV of Chapter 14, Nuisances of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Benton. Mayor Horton stated that this is setting it for Public Hearing and at that time members of the public can make their comments at that time. Any member of the public here may have a copy of the proposed amendment to review. He briefly summarized the reason for the amendment. Mayor Horton stated that he is considering a workshop to cover these changes.

Motion was made by Alderman Cathcart, seconded by Alderman Carr to schedule a public hearing on June 14, 2022. The mayor called for public comments. There being none, motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Tiffany Manning, Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman James Friday, and Alderman Wayne Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

Consider appointment of Attorney Neil Erwin as the Town Attorney. Mayor Horton discussed the vacancy of Town Attorney caused by the Election of Attorney Doug Stinson needs to be filled and my recommendation to appoint Neil Erwin is based on his experience and knowledge of municipal law. He can assist us with the property standards. After some discussion a Motion was made by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Friday to appoint Attorney Erwin as the Benton Town Attorney and to pay a retainer fee of \$1150.00 per month for services. The mayor called for public comments. There being none, motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Tiffany Manning, Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman James Friday, and Alderman Wayne Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

Consider request made by Tim Chance for additional parking on North Sibley for the Shopping Center. Mayor Horton introduced Mr. Chance but discussed his various projects he is currently working on such as the property behind Sam's eatery. Mr. Chance stated that he has purchased the old masonic lodge and the gymnastics business overflows in that building. He discussed how it is dangerous for the customers of the gymnastic business to cross the street on highway 162, especially with all this traffic from the bridge being closed. Mr. Chance presented a drawing showing seven new spaces for parking on the east side of North Sibley, north of intersection of Fifth Street (Hwy 162). Alderman Friday

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

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Stephanie Collier at (318) 965-2781 describing the assistance that is necessary.

The Town of Benton is an equal opportunity employer.

asked if the town could install some type of flashing caution signs at both intersections. Mayor Horton stated that he will find some signs and get those installed. Mr. Chance directed the council's attention to the drawing he provided and that there is a 27 ft setback to avoid blocking the view on N Sibley at the stop sign. Alderman Manning mentioned that that intersection is very difficult to see when making any kind of turn. Alderman Cathcart asked if this is something we should have our engineer's review the drawing. Mayor Horton said he will have them look it over before any changes are made. Motion was made by Alderman Cathcart, seconded by Alderman Jones to approve the additional parking on North Sibley. The mayor called for public comments. There being none, motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Tiffany Manning, Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman James Friday, and Alderman Wayne Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

Consider approval for contracts for Water and Wastewater licenses Operator and authorization to execute documents. Mayor Horton informed council of the previous class three operator, Jerry Bordelon and the total pay+ benefits is close to the amount we can pay Manchac Engineers for a Licensed Operator annually. For \$60k annually, Manchac will provide us with a licenses operator, on sight four days per week and one weekend per month, checking lift stations. Manchac will also handle any reports required by the state. Alderman Cathcart asked that basically we are contracting with the Cooperation not an individual for a licensed operators service. Yes, we will have the backing of Manchac has agreed to carry a portion of liability on that operator. Motion was made by Alderman Manning, seconded by Alderman Carr to approve contracting with Manchac Engineering for a Licensed Operator for the Towns water and wastewater system and to authorize the mayor to execute the documents. The mayor called for public comments. There being none, motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Tiffany Manning, Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman James Friday, and Alderman Wayne Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

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

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Stephanie Collier at (318) 965-2781 describing the assistance that is necessary.

The Town of Benton is an equal opportunity employer.

Consider approval of contract service of Property Standard Personnel and authorize execution of documents. Mayor Horton discussed the need for an individual who will solely focus on Property Standards violations. The individual would do this on an as need basis. The mayor said it is very hard for us to do this in the office because of the amount of time it takes for one person to stay on top of the follow up required on each violation. Councilmen Cathcart asked if that person would attend all the council meetings to report activities. Mayor Horton said yes, they will. Councilman Carr asked if the council will still be making the decisions on property. Mayor Horton said yes, all cases will still come before this council for final decisions. Councilman Friday asked what kind of enforcement powers this person will have in order to follow through with the violations. Will this person have the ability to assess a ticket or a fine and enforce it on persons in violation. The Mayor Stated that a law has been passed in the State that for the removal of items on the property that we can only charge someone \$ 200.00 for the removal. If they don't pay it we issue a lien. Councilman Cathcart asked what the steps are taken once a violation has been identified, such as junk or vehicles on someone's property. Mayor Horton explains that a letter is sent giving the owner a specific amount of time to remove it from the property. If the items are not removed, then we go in and remove them and charge the owner. Councilman Friday asked if he would drive around town looking for violations. Mayor Horton stated that no, it is not good for a town to just be out looking for violations. We don't want to create a landslide of people who dislike their neighbors and call things in on them, using the town as tool in a feud. Citizen states that grass is one thing, and we need a group of volunteers who can mow yards for seniors who are unable to mow for themselves. Motion was made by Alderman Cathcart, seconded by Alderman Manning to approve contract for Property Standards Personnel to oversee the Towns Property Standard Violations and to authorize the mayor to execute the documents. The mayor called for public comments. There being none, motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Tiffany Manning, Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman James Friday, and Alderman Wayne Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

Consider approval of Flash Market L.L.C., (formerly Dixie Mart) Beer Permit. Motion was made by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Friday to approve the beer permit for Flash Market. The mayor called for public comments. There being none, motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Tiffany Manning, Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman James Friday, and Alderman Wayne Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

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

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Stephanie Collier at (318) 965-2781 describing the assistance that is necessary.

The Town of Benton is an equal opportunity employer.

Consider approval of Bossier Press Tribune newspaper as the Official Journal of the Town of Benton Motion was made by Alderman Cathcart, seconded by Alderman Manning to approve the Bossier Press Tribune as the Official Journal of the Town of Benton. The mayor called for public comments. There being none, motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Tiffany Manning, Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman James Friday, and Alderman Wayne Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

Consider adoption of Resolution 8 authorizing submittal of a state grant application to the Office of Community Development for LGAP funds for the purchase of a Police unit. Motion was made by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Manning to adopt Resolution 8. The mayor called for public comments. There being none, motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Tiffany Manning, Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman James Friday, and Alderman Wayne Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

Consider adoption of Resolution 9 authorizing submittal of a state grant application to the Office of Community Development for CWF funds for funding a Water Valve Infrastructure Project. Motion was made by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Carr to adopt Resolution 9. The mayor called for public comments. There being none, motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Tiffany Manning, Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman James Friday, and Alderman Wayne Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

Consider approval of reappointment of Mrs. Stephanie Collier to the Board of Commissioners of the Benton Fire District # 4 to serve a 2-year term. (Expires May 30, 2024) . Motion was made by Alderman Carr, seconded by Alderman Manning to reappoint Stephanie Collier to the Board of Commissioners of the Benton Fire District #4. The mayor called for public comments. There being none, motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Tiffany Manning, Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman James Friday, and Alderman Wayne Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

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

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Stephanie Collier at (318) 965-2781 describing the assistance that is necessary.

The Town of Benton is an equal opportunity employer.

Consider approval of reappointment of Mr. Jason McGinty to the Board of Commissioners of the Benton Fire District # 4 to serve a 2-year term. (Expires May 30, 2024) Motion was made by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Friday to reappoint Jason McGinty to the Board of Commissioners of the Benton Fire District #4. The mayor called for public comments. There being none, motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Tiffany Manning, Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman James Friday, and Alderman Wayne Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

Consider approval of the monthly financials for April and the year-to-date budget reports.  
No motion was made

## **ADJOURN**

Motion was made by Alderman Cathcart, seconded by Alderman Manning to adjourn the Regular Session. The mayor called for public comments. There being none, motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Tiffany Manning, Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman James Friday, and Alderman Wayne Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

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

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Stephanie Collier at (318) 965-2781 describing the assistance that is necessary.

The Town of Benton is an equal opportunity employer.