



SHELLY HORTON JR
MAYOR

STEPHANIE SULLIVANT-COLLIER
CAO/ TOWN CLERK

TOWN OF BENTON LOUISIANA

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN
TOWN OF BENTON

105 SIBLEY STREET, BENTON, BOSSIER PARISH, LOUISIANA
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023, 6:00 PM

The Town of Benton Council met in regular and legal session on the 13th day of November 2023, at 6:00 p.m., in the Benton Council Chambers, Benton Town Hall, Benton, Louisiana. The Mayor, Shelly Horton, called the Regular Session to order. Stephanie Collier, called the roll, with all members as follows:

Alderman Jackie Carr – PRESENT
Alderman Tiffany Manning – PRESENT
Alderman Ron Jones – PRESENT
Alderman James Friday - PRESENT
Alderman Wayne Cathcart -PRESENT

Others present were Stephanie Collier, Attorney Neil Erwin, Chief Collier, Officer Mora, and members of the public. The Invocation was made by Alderman Friday, and the Pledge was let by Alderman Jones.

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

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart.

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

105 Sibley Street / P O Box 1390
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Motion was made by Alderman Cathcart, seconded by Alderman Jones to approve the Work Session Minutes of September 21st. The mayor called for public comments. There being none, motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart.

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Motion was made by Alderman Cathcart, seconded by Alderman Carr to adopt Resolution 17 of 2023 Approving the Master Plan Plat for Lost River Estates South Unit 2. The mayor called for public comments. Mr. Kelsh was present on behalf of the developers and spoke to the council about how they have met all the requirements.

Motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart.

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion was made by Alderman Friday, seconded by Alderman Manning to adopt Resolution 16 of 2023 Approving the Hazard Mitigation Plan update for the Town of Benotn. The mayor called for public comments. There being none. Motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart.

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

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Motion was made by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Carr to introduce Ordinance 585 of 2023 and set for public hearing on December 11th 2023. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 582 OF 2022 AMENDING THE 2023 GENERAL FUND AND 1978 SALES TAX BUDGETS The mayor called for public comments. There being none. Motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart.

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion was made by Alderman Friday, seconded by Alderman Carr to introduce Ordinance 586 of 2023 and set for public hearing on December 11th, 2023. AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2024 GENERAL FUND, 1978 SALES TAX, AND WATER SEWER ENTERPRISE BUDGETS The mayor called for public comments. Dawn Bushnell asked about the funds budgeted in the Parks and Recreation department and wanted to know what those funds were for. Mayor Horton stated that those funds were dedicated to new lighting and for a storage building requested by the Board of Directors of the Benton Dixie League. Mrs. Bushnell also spoke about the issue with traffic and speeders on Red River during ball season and that we need flashing stop signs or something that will slow them down. Chief Collier stated that the town can purchase another one of those stationary speed signs that is on 5th street. He explained how it has been very successful in slowing traffic down. Motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart.

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion was made by Alderman Friday, seconded by Alderman Carr to approve the monthly financials and the year-to-date budgets. The mayor called for public comments. There being none. Motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart.

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

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Motion was made by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Manning to TABLE Ordinance 587 of 2023 until the December meeting. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 130, ARTICLE 7, SECTION 130-182 OF THE TOWN OF BENTON CODE OF ORDINANCES. The mayor called for public comments. There being none. Motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart.

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Mayor Horton explained the emergency in Palmetto Subdivision where a sewer line had collapsed under the street and had been eroding away the ground under the street. Emergency repairs had to be made and it is going to be a substantial bill. He requested a Proclamation Emergency declaration be approved for the repairs and not having the time to bid out the project which will exceed the bid law limits.

Motion was made by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Manning to approve the Proclamation to declare an emergency repair on the Palmetto Sewer line. The mayor called for public comments. There being none. Motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart.

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Mayor Horton requested to amend the agenda and add Item 8, a request made by the developers of Palmetto Point Subdivision. A Motion was made by Alderman Friday, seconded by Alderman Jones to amend the agenda adding item 8. The mayor called for public comments. There being none. Motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart.

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

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

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart.

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Mayor Horton explained that the Subdivision is still going through the MPC's process and has not completed the full approval process but requested permission to begin the first stages of infrastructure construction to avoid the wet weather season. Alderman Cathcart stated that he would not approve that because it needs to complete the approval process. Alderman Jones agreed that he did not want to approve the request.

This item died for the lack of a motion.

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

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart.

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

A motion was made by Alderman Manning, seconded by Alderman Carr to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart.

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

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