



SHELLY HORTON JR
MAYOR

STEPHANIE SULLIVANT-COLLIER
CAO/ TOWN CLERK

TOWN OF BENTON LOUISIANA

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES TOWN OF BENTON MONDAY OCTOBER 14, 2024 @ 6:PM

The Town of Benton Council met in regular and legal session on the 14th day of October 2024, at 6:00 p.m., in the Benton Council Chambers, Benton Town Hall, Benton, Louisiana. Mayor Shelly Horton called the Public Hearing to order. Invocation by Alderman Manning and Pledge by Alderman Jones. 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

A motion by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Cathcart to approve the Public Hearing agenda. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Public Hearing items:

1. ORDINANCE 592 OF 2024 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE BY AMENDING CHAPTER 2. ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE 3. LAW ENFORCEMENT ADDING SECTION (A) AUTHORITY OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

105 Sibley Street / P O Box 1390
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BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, Bossier Parish, Louisiana in legal session convened, does hereby authorize the elected chief of police, of the Town of Benton to appoint, promote, discipline, and dismiss police personnel subject to the budgetary limitations, pertaining to the number of allotted positions of the police department.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the chief of police shall be authorized to take whatever steps are necessary to effect disciplinary action concerning police personnel, including but not limited to the suspension of police personnel. Any such disciplinary action shall be taken without regard to race, creed, or color. This provision shall not, however, prohibit a police department employee from making a direct appeal to the board of aldermen, who shall have the authority to modify or reverse any actions of the chief of police.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Alderman Cathcart stated that in the last meeting, he opposed this action but has now reconsidered. He supports this; however, he has a question about the last statement, which states that the entire ordinance gives the Chief authority to deal with his employees but, in the end, gives it back to the council if the employee wishes to appeal. Alderman Cathcart asked Attorney Erwin if this is the correct way to do this. Attorney Erwin stated that it is common to give employees an option to appeal negative actions taken against them.

Attorney Ewin read the current statute on the records. Mayor Horton stated that this Resolution will be sent to the State Legislature for their approval and then they will change it in the RS Code if they agree. This will be effective next year in their regular session.

2. RESOLUTION 17 OF 2024

Stephanie Collier explained to the council that the state denied the original adoption of the millage due to the wording on the agenda. Using the words consider is not clearly stating the councils intent to adopt.

BE IT RESOLVED that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2024 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the Town of Benton:

MILLAGE

General Alimony # 5079001	6.500 mills
Streets #5079002	4.350 mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of Bossier, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2024, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed

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for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

No public comments were made

Mayor Horton closed the Public Hearing

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**REGULAR SESSION
MINUTES
TOWN OF BENTON
MONDAY OCTOBER 14, 2024 @ 6:PM**

The Town of Benton Council met in regular and legal session on the 14th day of October 2024, at 6:00 p.m., in the Benton Council Chambers, Benton Town Hall, Benton, Louisiana. Mayor Shelly Horton called the Regular Session Meeting to order.

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

Mayor Horton stated that the agenda needs to be amended to add item 7 to approve the Monjouns Beer permit. And I want to remove item 4. Resolution 18. A motion by Alderman Cathcart was seconded by Alderman Manning to add item 7. Beer permit and remove item 4. Resolution 18. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

A motion by Alderman Friday was seconded by Alderman Manning to approve the agenda as amended. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

A motion by Alderman Cathcart was seconded by Alderman Friday to approve the minutes of the September meeting. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none 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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Old Business:
None
New Business:

Final vote: ORDINANCE 592 OF 2024 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE BY AMENDING CHAPTER 2. ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE 3. LAW ENFORCEMENT ADDING SECTION (A) AUTHORITY OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE
No Public comments were made.

A motion by Alderman Cathcart was seconded by Alderman Carr to adopt Ordinance 592 of 2024. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Final vote for adoption Resolution 17 of 2024 adopting the 2024 tax millage

BE IT RESOLVED that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2024 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the Town of Benton:

MILLAGE

General Alimony # 5079001	6.500 mills
Streets #5079002	4.350 mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of Bossier, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2024, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

No Public comments were made

A motion by Alderman Jones was seconded by Alderman Carr to adopt Resolution 17 of 2024. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none 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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Representatives with Squire Group (Health Services), Brian and Mark Squire spoke to council about their services they offer. TelaHealth services, life insurance, accident insurance, and their rates are competitive. After some discussion Mayor Horton suggested that they schedule a time to come in and visit with the employees and see if the employees are interested.

Resolution 18 of 2024: A Resolution suspending Ordinance 173 of 1986 – Removed by agenda amendment.

ORDINANCE 593 OF 2024: SEWER RATES Introduce and set for public hearing

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 505 OF 2013 BY AMENDING THE RATE SCHEDULE TO BE CHARGED FOR SEWER SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE BENTON SEWER SYSTEM TO CONSUMERS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CORPORAL LIMITS OF BENTON

BE IT ORDAINED BY the board of aldermen of the Town of Benton, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, in regular session convened, to amend Ordinance 591 of 2013 by amending the rate schedule to be charged for sewer service provided by the Benton Sewer System to consumers inside and outside the corporal limits of Benton,

WHEREAS the rate schedule for sewer service to consumers inside the corporal limits of Benton shall be a flat fee of three dollars and zero cents (\$3.00), and two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) for every 1000 gallons of sewer used and

WHEREAS the rate schedule for sewer service to consumers outside the corporal limits of Benton shall be a flat rate of seven dollars and fifty cents (\$7.5), and four dollars and zero cents (\$4.00) for every 1000 gallons of sewer used, and

A motion by Alderman Jones was seconded by Alderman Friday to introduce Ordinance 593 and set for public hearing in November. Mayor Horton called for public comments, there being none 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 by Alderman Jones was seconded by Alderman Manning to approve the Month-to-date financials. Mayor Horton called for public comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

A motion by Alderman Cathcart was seconded by Alderman Carr to approve the beer permit for Monjouns. Mayor Horton called for public comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

A motion by Alderman Manning was seconded by Alderman Jones to adjourn the Regular Session meeting. Mayor Horton called for public comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Notice is hereby given that at its meeting to be held on Monday, November 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at its regular meeting place, the Town Hall, 105 Sibley Street, Benton, Louisiana, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, State of Louisiana, plans to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling an election to be held in the Town of Benton, State of Louisiana to authorize the renewal or continuation of an ad valorem tax therein.

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