



SHELLY HORTON JR  
MAYOR

STEPHANIE SULLIVANT-COLLIER  
CAO/ TOWN CLERK

## TOWN OF BENTON LOUISIANA

### REGULAR SESSION MINUTES TOWN OF BENTON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2024 @ 6:PM

The Town of Benton Council met in a regular legal session on the 9th day of September 2024, at 6:00 p.m., in the Benton Council Chambers, Benton Town Hall, Benton, Louisiana. Mayor Shelly Horton called the Regular Session to order. Stephanie Collier, called the roll, with all members as follows:

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

Alderman Friday gave the invocation, and Alderman Jones led the pledge. Others present were Attorney Erwin, Stephanie Collier, and members of the public. Motion was made by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Friday to approve the agenda. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none, the following votes were recorded:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Carr

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[www.townofbentonlouisiana.webs.com](http://www.townofbentonlouisiana.webs.com) website

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The Town of Benton is an equal opportunity employer.

Motion was made by Alderman Cathcart, seconded by Alderman Jones to approve the minutes. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Carr

There was no Old Business.

New Business:

Chief Collier introduced Aaron Lewis as the new full-time hire to replace Officer Trenor. Chief Collier stated Mr. Lewis' years of experience at the Terrebonne Sheriff Department and recently a Bossier City Marshall. Motion was made by Alderman Cathcart seconded by Alderman Manning to approve Aaron Lewis as the new full-time officer. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Carr

## **RESOLUTION 12 OF 2024**

WHEREAS the Town of Benton, Bossier Parish, Louisiana by proper notice, solicited bids for Rate of Interest and Security on Reserve Funds and Certificates of Deposits in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1211 – 1235; and

WHEREAS sealed bids received from bidders have been evaluated to determine the lowest responsible and responsive bidder who submitted a bid in compliance with the reasonable and stated specifications; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council, after full consideration of all bids submitted, finds that Home Federal Bank of Benton submitted the highest rate of interest and security on Town operating accounts and Certificate of Deposits and finds that it is in the best interest of the Town to award contract to Home Federal Bank, for the following:

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# 4380-10	2,090,695.08
# 4380-15	1,045,347.54
# 4380-20	1,045,347.54
# 4380-25	203,872.19

WHEREAS the total amount of deposit of Four million three hundred eighty-five thousand two hundred sixty-two dollars and thirty-five cents (\$4,385,262.35), for deposit said rate of interest being in accordance with the Proposal and other bid documentation submitted by Home Federal Bank of Benton in response to notice of bid, the same being attached hereto and made part of this resolution by reference; and

WHEREAS in addition Home Federal Bank has agreed to a higher rate of interest on all town operating accounts (4.5 %).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Town Clerk are hereby authorized to sign said Certificates of Deposits with Home Federal Bank.

The foregoing Resolution was read in full at open and legal session convened, was on motion of Alderman Cathcart, and seconded by Alderman Friday and adopted on the 9th day of September, 2024, by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Carr

## **RESOLUTION 14 OF 2024**

### **APPROVING FINAL PLAT OF PALMETTO POINT SUBDIVISION OF THE TOWN OF BENTON, LOUISIANA**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Benton, on August 14, 2023, approved the Final Plat Pre-Construction of Palmetto Point Subdivision for construction; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Benton's Town Engineer, Balar, is recommending approval of the final plat for Palmetto Point Subdivision; and,

**WHEREAS**, by approving this final plat the Town of Benton accepts the infrastructure as shown on the final plat, including water, streets and drainage improvements, and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF BENTON, LOUISIANA**, that the final plat Palmetto Point Subdivision be approved and the infrastructure shown on the final plat be accepted by the Town of Benton, subject to the suspensive conditions as set forth below and compliance with Town code requirements, with the signature of the

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Mayor, Shelley Horton, on the final plat to indicate satisfaction of the suspensive conditions and the acceptance of infrastructure by the Town of Benton:

- 1) Developer to provide a 2-year maintenance bond in favor of the Town of Benton in the sum of \$22,764.44 for Roads, Drainage, and Water Improvements in a form acceptable to the Town of Benton.
- 2) The developer shall reimburse all outstanding costs for inspections and associated items to the Town relative to Palmetto Point Subdivision.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor, Shelley Horton, upon satisfaction of the suspensive conditions, is authorized and empowered to execute the final plat of Palmetto Point Subdivision, and to execute any other documents and to do all things necessary to carry out this Resolution and to fulfill its objects and purposes.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution shall become effective upon final adoption and signature by the mayor.

Upon Motion by Alderman Cathcart, duly seconded by Alderman Friday and carried, the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Town of Benton in a regular session convened on September 9, 2024 with a quorum present. Mayor Horton called for public comments, there being none the following vote was recorded:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Carr

## **RESOLUTION 15 OF 2024**

WHEREAS the Town of Benton has applied to the State of Louisiana Office of Facility, Planning, and Control for Capital Outlay funds to assist the Town with a wastewater project.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, does hereby authorize the mayor to sign all documents pertaining to the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Office of Facility, Planning, and Control, project # 50-M33-24-01, for funds to assistance with the wastewater project.

A motion by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Manning Resolution 15 was adopted on the 9TH th day of September 2024, in regular session. Mayor Horton called for public comments, there being none the vote was recorded as follows:

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

## **RESOLUTION 16 OF 2024**

WHEREAS Balar Engineers has submitted a proposal for engineering services (\$36,000.00) to repair levees at the North WWTP (Rock Reed); and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, in legal session convened, do hereby accept the proposal of Balar Engineers for \$36,000.00 engineering of the levee project at the North WWTP (Rock Reed).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Aldermen does hereby authorize the mayor to execute and administer said contract with Balar Engineers.

Upon a motion made by Alderman Jones duly seconded by Alderman Manning, Resolution 16 of 2024 was adopted the 9th day of September 2024. Mayor Horton called for public comments, there being none the vote was recorded as follows:

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

Motion was made by Alderman Manning, seconded by Alderman Friday to approve the amendment to the Balar contract for Bellemere WW Project. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

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

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**ORDINANCE 592 OF 2024**

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.

Alderman Cathcart stated that he did understand why this is being brought to council because the Lawrason act clearly states that the Chief must have council approval. Chief Collier explained that 80 other municipalities have passed this same ordinance and it gets sent to the state legislature for approval and then the RS code is amended. Alderman Jones stated that he felt the Lawrason act should be changed because the Chief is elected just like the mayor is and the mayor doesn't have to get permission to hire employees. Motion was made by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Manning to introduce and set for public hearing in October. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

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

Motion was made by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Manning to approve the month-to-date budgets and financials. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

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

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Motion was made by Alderman Cathcart, seconded by Alderman Jones to adjourn the meeting. The following votes recorded:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Carr

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