

SHELLY HORTON JR
MAYOR



STEPHANIE SULLIVANT-COLLIER
CAO/ TOWN CLERK

TOWN OF BENTON LOUISIANA

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES TOWN OF BENTON MONDAY, JULY 8, 2024, 6:00 PM

The Town of Benton Council met in regular and legal session on the 8th day of July 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. 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 - ABSENT
Alderman Wayne Cathcart -ABSENT

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 recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Friday

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Carr and Alderman Cathcart

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS:

1. ORDINANCE 591 OF 2024

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 506 of 2013 BY AMENDING THE RATE TO BE CHARGED FOR RESIDENTIAL TRASH SERVICE FOR THE TOWN OF BENTON TO CONSUMERS INSIDE THE CORPORAL LIMITS OF BENTON

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

A person with a disability who requires assistance with accommodations or an auxiliary aid or service such as an assistive listening device or a sign language interpreter, to participate in a public meeting should contact the Stephanie Collier at (318) 965-2781 as far in advance as possible, but no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled time of the meeting.

The Town of Benton is an equal opportunity employer.

BE IT ORDAINED BY the board of aldermen of the Town of Benton, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, in regular session convened, to amend Ordinance 506 of 2013 by amending the rate to be charged to inside residential customers for trash service provided by the Town of Benton, and

WHEREAS the rate to be charged to all inside residential customers for a single trash can shall be twenty-three dollars and zero cents (\$23.00) per month, the rate to be charged for customers who request a second can, the rate shall be ten dollars and zero cents (\$10.00) monthly for each additional can. Trash service shall be billed to inside customers as a line item listed on the monthly utility bill sent from the Town of Benton.

Public Comments: Attorney Erwin asked if there was any opposition to the change. Mayor Horton stated that not at this time.

Motion was made by Alderman Friday, seconded by Alderman Manning to adjourn the Public Hearing. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Friday

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Carr and Alderman Cathcart

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**REGULAR SESSION
MINUTES
TOWN OF BENTON
MONDAY, JULY 8, 2024, 6:00 PM**

The Town of Benton Council met in regular and legal session on the 8th day of July 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.

Motion was made by Alderman Manning, seconded by Alderman Jones to amend the agenda by adding item 4a consider approval of the contract amendment for Balar on the Spray Park Project. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Friday

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Carr and Alderman Cathcart

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

YEAS: Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Friday

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Carr and Alderman Cathcart

Motion was made by Alderman Friday, seconded by Alderman Manning to approve the minutes of the June Meeting. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Friday

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Carr and Alderman Cathcart

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There was no old business to discuss.

New Business.

Final vote on Ordinance 591 of 2024

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 506 of 2013 BY AMENDING THE RATE TO BE CHARGED FOR RESIDENTIAL TRASH SERVICE FOR THE TOWN OF BENTON TO CONSUMERS INSIDE THE CORPORAL LIMITS OF BENTON

Motion was made by Alderman Friday, seconded by Alderman Manning to adopt Ordinance 591 of 2024. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Friday

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Carr and Alderman Cathcart

Vickie Case with Cook and Morehart gave a brief report on the 2023 annual audit. Mrs. Case stated that there were no findings. She reviewed the General Fund financials which included the ARPA funds and the 1978 Sales tax fund. She stated that the sales tax funds have gone flat, but this trend is Parish wide not just the Town. She moved on to the Enterprise Fund and discussed the need to increase the rates of the water and sewer due to the increasing costs of operations and expenses. Mrs. Case reported that the Town needs to increase water and sewer rates to break even in the Enterprise Fund but overall the Town is financially consistent.

Mayor Horton called for any questions from the Council. None were made moving on to scheduling a Workshop for July 22 to discuss the South Wastewater system and the different options to consider relating to outside sewer.

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Mayor Horton stated that Balar has requested an amendment to their contract for services performed on the Spray Park Project. Motion was made by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Friday to approve the amendment. Mayor Horton called for any comments, there being none the following votes recorded:

YEAS: Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Friday

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Carr and Alderman Cathcart

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

YEAS: Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, and Alderman Friday

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Alderman Carr and Alderman Cathcart

Motion made by Alderman Manning seconded by Alderman Jones to adjourn the Regular Meeting:

In Favor: 3 Ayes

Opposed: 0 Nays

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