



TOWN OF BENTON

LOUISIANA

REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES TOWN OF BENTON 105 SIBLEY STREET MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025, 6:30 PM

The Town of Benton met in a regular legal session on the 8th day of September 2025 at 6:30 PM in the Benton Council Chambers, Benton Town Hall, 105 Sibley Street, Benton, Louisiana. Mayor James Friday called the meeting to order. **Tiffany Manning:** “Mayor before we accept the agenda, I would like to...” **Mayor:** “We haven’t gotten to a roll call yet”. **Manning:** “Oh, OK”. Stephanie Collier called the roll with all members as follows:

Alderman Jackie Carr	PRESENT
Alderman Tiffany Manning	PRESENT
Alderman Tammy Brunson	PRESENT
Alderman Arshundae Perry	PRESENT CAME IN AFTER ROLL CALL
Alderman Terry Lawrence	PRESENT

Alderman Brunson led the invocation, and Alderman Lawrence led the prayer. Others present were Stephanie Collier, Debbie Rios, Stacey Holland, Joey Plunkett, Officer Cesar Mora, Attorney Neil Erwin and members of the public.

Mayor Friday called for motion and second to approve the agenda for the regular session. **Manning:** “OK. I’m sorry. Now is the time. I would like to amend the agenda cause we need a policy on council receiving the packets timely to discuss an ordinance for advanced delivery of the council meeting packets”.

Alderman Manning motioned to amend, and Alderman Carr seconded.

Mayor: “OK, before y’all vote on this I would rather you would have discussed this in a workshop instead of putting this on the agenda tonight so we can discuss this in detail because some people don’t understand some of the rules that’s y’all are pulling up so if y’all would I’d like to table this to put it in a workshop situation so let’s have a...” **Manning:** “Mr. Neil, is that how an added amendment goes?” **Neil:** “That is correct. You’ve made the motion, it’s been seconded and there has to be a vote”.

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Manning: “We haven’t voted”. **Mayor:** “No, we haven’t voted yet but I’m asking that y’all to deny it tonight and put it in a workshop”. **Manning:** “Yes, we can”. **Carr:** “We can table it for a workshop as the mayor suggested”. **Mayor:** “OK we are fixing to vote so say ‘no’”. **Neil:** “Now are you withdrawing your motion?” **Manning:** “I’m not but, no, I’m not”. **Neil:** “OK, is the second being withdrawn or not?” **Carr:** “No”.

Mayor called for a vote:

AYES: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Brunson, Alderman Perry, Alderman Lawrence

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Stephanie: “That’s to amend the agenda, correct?” **Manning:** “Yes”. **Mayor:** So we will put that as item number one in New Business-and what was the purpose of the motion?” **Manning:** “Advanced delivery of council meeting packets”.

Mayor: “Alright we need to approve the agenda as amended. We need a motion and a second”.

Alderman Carr motioned to approve, and Alderman Perry seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Mayor called for roll call vote.

AYES: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Brunson, Alderman Perry, Alderman Lawrence

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Mayor called for a motion and second to approve the August minutes. It should have been in all your emails. **Perry:** “I wasn’t able to access the email with the information that we set up the last time”. [She was provided with a paper copy on her desk before the meeting was called to order.] **Manning:** (passed out papers to the council) “ I read over the minutes and I do want to make it clear with the transportation add for publication, I did some research and I spoke with the people at the transportation publication and they stated that they did speak with Hope Murphy(?), under your leadership mayor, concerning the ad. And I just wanted to make sure that I clear the name of the company that you worked for concerning this ad cause it’s not identified in the meeting minutes. So, I just want to make clear of that”. **Mayor:** “So you’re saying the previous company that I used to work for”? **Manning:** “Yes. They contacted me and said they had no association with the town at all”. **Mayor:** “Yes, correct”. **Manning:** “And that the ad that was published and it was stated that someone from the office, Hope Murphy(?) sent in the business card for approval and that’s how the ad got into the...” **Mayor:** “No, no one sent the business card in. As you are stating here, they had no affiliation with the State of Louisiana in any form. They are just a magazine. And that’s all. We didn’t give them

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any approval for this magazine ad and if you see on the back they put a blank card in there with the phone number, Town of Benton, and the seal on it. They didn't put anybody's name or address on there and that was a scam type deal the way they did it. We tried to refuse it, but they had already published it, and we had to pay for it even though they didn't get actual authorization from either one of us to put it in the paper. I was not aware of the situation till after the fact". **Carr:** "Now let me just asked a question. Ms. Manning said she spoke with them, and they mentioned Ms. Hope. How would they know that Ms. Hope worked here"? **Mayor:** "They called on the phone, they called here directly from wherever they're out of..." **Carr:** "So you're saying the add that was placed, they just went in a searched the Town of Benton and put that..." **Mayor:** "That was a bad mistake and nothing we can do about it now". **Manning:** "Yes, I just wanted to clarify the name and provide the council board with documentation of the publication". **Mayor:** "So noted". **Manning:** "Thank you".

Mayor called for a motion and a second to approve the August Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Alderman Carr and seconded by Alderman Perry.

Mayor Friday called for roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

AYES: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Brunson, Alderman Perry, Alderman Lawrence

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

OLD BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 10 OF 2025 TO APROVE THE WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT WITH CORE AND MAIN

Mayor: "We have the representatives here. You have in front of you the proposals from the town. We need a motion and a second to consider this resolution to approve the water system improvement project with Core & Main".

A motion was made by Alderman Lawrence to approve and a seconded by Alderman Brunson.

Mayor called for public comments and to have Core & Main come forward to go over this one more time.

Barry, the Sales Representative and Thad Crawford with Core & Main came up to speak. Mayor also noted that Stacey Holland, town employee, is here to tell you what his job will be as far as working on this project. He reminded this is on the water meters upgrade. Half we are working on already-this will be about wi fi and the electrical stuff needed for the operation of the system and so we can do our billing. **Barry:** So currently y'all use our 'drive by system' and have an employee drive around in his truck with a collector and gets all those readings. This upgrade is going to put three towers in the system where all those readings will be sent to the collectors and then those collectors will send all that

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information here. So, you won't have to have somebody drive around all the time; it frees up a man to do maintenance and things that you may have. Plus, you will get real time information. So instead of getting information once a month when they drive by or happen to drive by when a customer has an issue you can just look at it on the computer. It puts out four readings a day and we can schedule those to be within business hours, and it will be hourly data. You will have more information at your fingertips". **Carr:** "So this will be put on all the water...?" **Barry:** "So this quote is for the three collectors. The meters you have in the ground right now will work with that for the most part. There may be some older ones that may need to be replaced at some point. We won't know how many that will be until we get the actual collectors up and we see what all reports in. From what I understand y'all do have a guy putting antennas out that do need to be attached to the meters. Y'all have a bunch, and we have a bunch that we are giving the town so if y'all need more". **Carr:** "Roughly how many meters will y'all be doing?" **Barry:** "So, right now we're not going to be doing any meters. All the meters that you have in the ground right now will remain. This is strictly infra-structure". **Carr:** "OK, so the antennas?" **Barry:** "The antennas will have to be put on every meter". **Carr:** "OK that's what I'm asking about, I'm sorry. How many antennas are you going to need?" **Barry:** "So y'all have 2,776 active meters right now so that's how many antennas will need to be put on". **Thad:** "And the antennas are no cost to you. We are providing those." **Barry:** "The town is providing the labor to put them on". **Carr:** "So what is the connective end points that we will be billed for at \$4.32 annually?" **Barry:** "So essentially that's going to be sort of like a subscription to our website. Like your software on the internet, its cloud based basically, a subscription per meter per year that y'all will pay for the software as a service." **Manning:** "And it says 'each' so ..." **Barry:** Yes, so it's \$4.32 per meter per year and y'all have 2776 so it's coming up to that \$11,992." **Manning:** "Yeah, got you." **Barry:** "Which y'all do already pay, not quite that much, but y'all do currently have a subscription to that Neptune 360 system". **Manning:** "OK so the \$100K is what we would be paying, just the one-time fee or..." **Barry:** "Correct. And that's us doing the installation. We've got a subcontractor we work with that will put the antennas on. Really the only thing that you'll be responsible for is any electric that needs to be run to the site cause obviously the collectors have to have power. Part of that, we do have a like a backup battery system in case of power outage you'll still have temporary electricity running the collectors". **Manning:** "OK cool".

Mayor: "Alright, any more questions on anything? Alright I have a resolution here Resolution 10 of 2025 to approve the water system improvement project with Core & Main. He continued by reading the resolution:

WHEREAS. The Board of Alderman of the Town of Benton, Bossier Parrish, Louisiana, and desires to improve the water system to provide better service of water to customers; and

WHEREAS the project consists of water read equipment, smart read meters for continuously monitoring usage, analyzing flow data, and early detection of irregularities, software upgrades will allow customers to monitor consumption in real-time; and

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WHEREAS the smart readers and register changes will be on an as-needed basis.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, in legal session convened, that it has considered all the needs for service improvements to the Benton water system and does hereby approve the water system improvement project.

Mayor: “I don’t know whether y’all have seen it this week but Bossier City is spending 3 million dollars to upgrade their system, which we are already starting to do here, so that’s how much they’ve [inaudible] out it improve theirs”.

Manning: “Mayor, I don’t have that. I don’t have that resolution”.

Mayor: “I know, nobody does yet. I just read it. (He passed out the resolution to the council to re-read) We are going to vote on it”.

Manning: “I don’t have it. It wasn’t at my seat”.

[Council given time to re-read the resolution he just read.]

Carr: “Mr. Friday, I want to ask a question. Up here I see it says ‘bid proposal’. Was this bidded out? Was this the lowest bid?”

Mayor: “Core & Main already has all their equipment we’ve always used and bought in the ground. We did have a bid that came in a while back, but it was a lot higher than this one here as far as operating these facilities. I don’t know if you remember it not when we had a lady and man come here and one was selling and one was going to do the installation and all that. Well, we already have this stuff in the ground, so we don’t need to do all that. They were wanting like \$40-\$50K up front”.

Carr: “I remember but I’m still asking if this was bidded out and this was the lowest bid?”

Mayor: “No, it was not bid out because this is an upgrade to the infra-structure we already have and they’re the only ones that are capable of doing that without changing out and going to another brand”.

Carr: “So basically it didn’t need to be bid out. That’s what I’m asking”.

Mayor: “No, it didn’t need to be bid out”.

Carr: “OK, and I see that the total is \$112,557.32, so this amount, this won’t cause anybody’s water bill to increase to cover this?”

Mayor: “No. Hopefully in the event of us upgrading the system and getting newer meters put in, because we will be able to detect which meters are bad, and which ones are not working properly as far as the gear ratio as far as the flow of water going to their house, because some of them are 25-30 years old and they’re not giving a true reading. They may be using more water than what is actually being transmitted back to us as far as meter readers”.

Carr: “OK”.

Manning: “So you’re saying we don’t need a bid because they already our vender? And it’s over \$30K? You’re saying we don’t need another bid for this because they are already providing the services and it’s over \$30K? Is that what you’re saying? We don’t need a bid?”

Mayor: “No”.

Manning: “Oh”.

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Carr: “I guess the reason we’re asking cause you know in our audit report the Town got a finding because somebody purchased something that was \$30K and we got a fine because they didn’t bid it out so that’s what I’m asking”.

Mayor: “Well this is for infra-structure upgrades for the Town. It’s not like we’re purchasing a vehicle or”.

Carr: This is not free so no [inaudible]”.

Mayor: “Yes, but if we don’t provide this then we’re not going to be able to upgrade our water system with the Neptune system that they have and with the Core & Main system that we already have in the ground, which is all of them, we’re not able to-unless we want to change and go back with the other company which is going to be astronomical compared to this one”.

Carr: “I was simply asking a question”.

Carr: “And we’re just wanting to know if we’re following the Bid Law. That’s it.”

Carr: “Mr. Neil, are we following the Bid Law?”

Mr. Neil: “ I haven’t reviewed this”.

Manning: “It says a ‘proposal for a bid’”. I’m not saying that we don’t want to have it”.

Mayor: “Here’s the [inaudible], we’ve had a workshop for this, and we’ve had open meetings for this already and now you’re coming up here wanting to ask all these questions”.

Carr: “Because we can”.

Mayor: “Yes you can but you should have done it at the other meetings when the [inaudible] guys were here”.

Carr: “At the other meetings I believe we discussed water rate increases. I didn’t really see Core & Main but we’re just simply asking a question that deserves an answer”.

Mayor: “Yes ma’am. Go back into your minutes and you’ll see where you talked about it. What’s the fellas name, Rick?”

Barry: “Yes”.

Manning: “Yes, they did not provide the bid. It is in our meeting minutes”.

Mayor: No, they didn’t have them ready. That’s why we have them here tonight”.

Manning: “So this is our first time seeing it”.

Mayor: “Alright, for further a due, let’s either have a roll call vote to accept the proposal for the resolution...”.

Cortez Bridges: “What about your public comments mayor? You’ve missed public comments three times now”.

Mayor: “I have not missed them three times”.

Bridges: “Yes sir you have. You did not allow public comment on the agenda...”

Mayor: “I did say public comments on the agenda then they started talking. You’re welcome if you want to walk up here and sign in, go ahead and do so. I mean you don’t live in the town but...”

Bridges: “I’ve made that clear several times. Every time I come up here mayor. And I’m trying to help ‘you’. Whether you realize that or not. The questions they’re asking are valid questions. You cannot expect this council or this public body to hear a proposal that you’re just now presenting to these people. You don’t have to answer my question, and I recommend that you ‘don’t’ say anything sir. I apologize, but please, you’re digging yourself a hole far greater than you’re going to get yourself out

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of. Your attorney, your town attorney sitting there, just said he's not even reviewed the proposal. And the two councilmen that made a motion and seconded it, I highly suggest you retract that. Or at least someone make a motion to table this to give your council time to review it; to give your town attorney time to review it sir. And I'd like to go back and have the privilege to discuss the agenda and the minutes that have already been passed over and approved prior to you allowing us to speak on that". After speaking with the Town Attorney, Mr. Neil, the mayor stated, "Arigh so we will ask for the Tabeling of the Core & Main Resolution, which I don't know how we will find out this information from but we'll see what we can do. So, I need a motion to table it and a second".

Bridges: "With all due respect Mayor you have a motion and a second to approve it".

Mayor: "That was to approve it. Now they don't want to do it. They want to Table it.

Public member (male): "Do you know what 'Robers Rules of Order' are? [inaudible] follow that because you're not at all. That's what he's stating is correct. You have a motion, and you have a second on the floor. You either need to vote to amend that motion or it needs to be withdrawn, then you can move forward."

Mark Crouch: "Mayor I'd like to speak". The mayor is consulting with the town attorney.

Mayor: "Under the advice of the attorney, is that we have a motion and a second. But, we can have a substitute motion to vote on it as is or table it to the next meeting".

Alderman Manning made a substitute motion to table it, seconded by Alderman Carr.

Mayor Friday called for a roll call vote but was reminded by Mr. Neil to take public comments: he called for any public comments.

Crouch: "Mr. Mayor I agree with Mr. Bridges".

Mayor: "Is that all you got to say there?" **Crouch:** "No, that's not all I've got to say. I agree with Mr. Bridges.

Crouch: You let me talk. I'm a public citizen, ok? Don't interrupt me while I'm talking, ok? I agree with Mr. Bridges on exactly what he said. You want to get up here and you want the town council to vote on something that they have not even looked at. They don't even know what you're talking about, and you want them to vote on it. And your town attorney don't even know what you're talking about. So, there you go again, you're trying to run stuff by the town council and by the public and we don't even know what y'all doing and the town council members don't even know what you're talking about. After everything that you discussed up there to the town council, you're supposed to advise the public if they have any comments which you have not done tonight on three different occasions".

Mayor: "You got anything else?"

Crouch: "No, not on this particular subject".

Mayor: "Thank you. Alright, are there any other comments on the substitute motion that was made?"

Manning: "No. I just wanted to...no...no...none for me".

Mayor: Called for any other comments; there being none the following votes were recorded to table this until the next meeting:

AYES: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Brunson, Alderman Perry, Alderman Lawrence
NAYS: None

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ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Mayor: “Alright, second item on the list is:

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF WAGGONER GROUP CONTRACT RENEWAL FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEM CERTIFIED OPERATIONS

We have researched trying to find competitive people to compare these to. The engineering groups that are out of town did not respond to us and we did find here in Bossier we do have a total of five people in the water system. Two of them work for the Waggoner Group-one is a level two and the other is a level four. As far as research and finding anybody to work on the water system or maintain the water system that is required by the state, that’s all we were able to locate. So with that being said you have the proposal with the contract in front of you again. We’ve tabled this one time so here we are. I need a motion and a second to approve the Waggoner Group contract.

Carr: “I’d like to ask a question please. I understand why we need the Waggoner Group and I’m sure they do a fine job, but it’s my understand that we have two employees that are trying to get their certification so we don’t have to pay Waggoner, right?”

Mayor: “At a certain point in time, correct”.

Carr: “Can the council get like an update on the gentlemen that are going to the schools for certification like, how far along are they? Have they taken any tests?”

Mayor: “You sure can. Matter of fact they’re here tonight if you would like to talk to them”.

Carr: “I would”.

Mayor: “Stacey and Joey would y’all step forward please?”

Carr: “I’m not familiar with either one of you so would you please [inaudible]”.

Joey Plunkett: “I’m Joey Plunkett. I’m currently Level Two Certified in wastewater and water”.

Stacey Holland: “I’m Stacey Holland and I’m certified in wastewater Level Two”.

Carr: “OK. So, you’re Stacey right?”

Stacey: “Yes ma’am”.

Carr: “Stacey, you all have been taking these classes so how far along are you from being completed and have you taken any tests that [inaudible]”.

Stacey: “It’s an extensive point system that they go by and it has to do with work and education. Right now I’m great at work and lacking the education on it. So, I can’t take my (level) three’s in wastewater until I start building up some more education. Which I am going to do by taking my water courses and getting certified in my water which will give me my points to be able to go to my (level) threes and then everything”.

Joey: “I’m waiting. I have to require more time on the job before they’ll let me test for my level threes”.

Carr: “So have either one of you taken a test or anything?”

Joey: “Oh we’ve taken several tests”.

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Carr: “And how have you done if you don’t mind me asking?”

Joey: “Passed”.

Stacey: “I’ve passed”.

Carr: “Thank you both”.

Joey: “Yes ma’am”.

Mayor: “Anybody else have any questions for them?”

Ms. Perry: “How many levels is it?”

Manning: “Four”.

Perry: “OK”.

Mayor: “That’s Ben, the co-owner of the Waggoner Group sitting out there so if y’all need to talk to him or Rebecca about any of this?”

Carr: “No, not unless the council”.

Mayor Friday called for any public comments; there being none the following votes were recorded for the approval of the Waggoner Group contract renewal:

AYES: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Brunson, Alderman Perry, Alderman Lawrence

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

NEW BUSINESS

Consider approval of the Month-to-date financials:

Mayor: “I assume she got them out enough for y’all to see them this afternoon”.

Manning: “No she did not. We’re just getting the financials now. [inaudible] And since we’re just now getting them we’ll need time to review them”.

Mayor: “Alright so we’ll need to have a motion and a second and a roll call vote to wait on those”.

Perry: “A motion and a second to ‘wait’? I didn’t hear you. Meaning postpone the approval of them?”

Mayor: “Yes ma’am”.

Motion by Alderman Perry and seconded by Alderman Manning to postpone the month-to-date financials until the next meeting.

Stephanie Collier: “Meaning they’re tabled right? You said postponed”.

Mayor: “Yes, postponed”.

Mayor Friday called for any public comments:

Crouch: “I’d like to comment. Just asking a question about...I think this is a Stephanie question. I’m asking a question about the town minutes. Is it required that y’all have the town minutes from the

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previous meeting sent to The Bossier Press Tribune, y'all's legal paper, within ten day of the Town Council meeting?

Stephanie: "Twenty days. And, yes, they were late this time because they were 16 pages long."

Crouch: "Oh, they were what?"

Stephanie: "Sixteen pages long".

Crouch: "Um-kay".

Stephanie: "And I did them verbatim".

Crouch: "OK, and you say the time limit is sixteen days from the..".

Stephanie: "Twenty days".

Crouch: "Twenty day from the time of the council meeting? OK I called and talked to the legal department at Bossier Press Tribune about the town council minutes not being sent to them on time and the response I got from the legal department at Bossier Press Tribune, "This is not the first time that they have been late". And I'm just curious to why town council minutes are being sent late to the Bossier Press Tribune. She did not state how many months. "This happens a lot", is the statement she gave me".

Stephanie: "That's not true. I don't know that they said that. That's not true. I've been late one time before and it was years ago".

Crouch: "Yeah, I just wanted to ask a question".

Stephanie: "We're talking about the financials".

Mayor: "Let's stop this right here. We're on financials. He is changing the subject about what we're [inaudible] on. So, we need to get back to the month-to-date financials and vote on it".

Crouch: "Well is that something that needs to be brought up Mayor to be put on the agenda to talk about-the minutes?"

Mayor: If you want to have it put on the agenda you can call up here and ask them to put it on it".

Crouch: "Oh, thank you".

Carr: Mr. Friday I just want to say, and I'm speaking only for myself, I've been on this council for nine years and this is the first time, ever, that we did not have the financial documents. And I think that's just unacceptable".

Mayor: "Well I think there's a rule on it that says that the only thing that...". Interrupted by

Carr: Well the rule should be, if it's not already, that if you want the council to make wise decisions, that everything they need to do that be given to them in a timely manner".

Mayor: So we got this tabled for the financials to review them for this month.

Mayor Friday called for a roll call vote with the following votes recorded:

AYES: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Brunson, Alderman Perry, Alderman Lawrence

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

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Mayor: “Alright, we still have the delivery of the packets Ms. Manning had brought up”. She passed out papers to the council.

Manning: “This is just an introduction for a discussion the board members to put in policies and procedures or some type of guidelines around us receiving the council packet. So, I don’t know if it needs to read or we need to do we need to discuss this...what?”

Mayor: “This will be listed as an ordinance?”

Manning: “Yes. And I can read it out loud because these are some of the things that we have failed to do”. The following is what she passed out to council and mayor:

AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING ADVANCED DELIVERY OF COUNCIL MEETING PACKETS

WHEREAS , THE City Council recognizes the importance of informed decision-making and transparency in government; and

WHEREAS, the timely delivery of council meeting materials ensures members have adequate time to review and prepare for each meeting; and

WHEREAS, including prior meeting minutes and financial expenditure reports contributes to accountability and informed governance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BENTON, LOUISIANA:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish a standard timeline and content requirements for the delivery of council meeting packets to elected officials.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

a. **“Council Meeting Packet”** means all documentation and materials intended for review and discussion at a scheduled council meeting, including:

- The meeting agenda
- Supporting documents or exhibits
- Draft minutes from the previous council meeting
- A detailed outline of the financial expenditures since the last regular meeting

SECTION 3. PACKET DELIVERY TIMELINE

Council meeting packets shall be delivered to all council members **no later than five (5) calendar days** prior to any regular or special council meeting.

Delivery may be by:

- Physical mail or courier to the members’ official address on file; and/or

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- Secure electronic transmission (e.g., email, share document link), as agreed on by the Council.

SECTION 4. CONTENT REQUIREMENTS

Each Council Meeting Packet shall include, at a minimum:

1. A complete agenda for the upcoming meeting;
2. Detailed draft minutes from the immediately preceding council meeting (regular or special);
3. A report of financial expenditures incurred at the last council meeting, including:
 - General fund disbursements
 - Departmental expenditures
 - Outstanding obligations or encumbrances

SECTION 5. ENFORCEMENT

Failure to comply with this ordinance shall be addressed as follows:

- The City Clerk or designee shall provide written justification to the Council for any delay in packet delivery;
- In cases of repeated non-compliance, the matter may be placed on the agenda for Council review and corrective action.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall become effective immediately and publish in accordance with local law.

PASSED AND APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Manning: “Now this is an introduction or proposal. This is not stating that we will adopt this ordinance, but I wanted to bring it to the Council board members so that we can discuss a more appropriate delivery because we’ve been getting packets late or we have not been getting all the packet information together and if the town have an ordinance together already about this we would like to see it. But if we don’t I think the board need to adopt something that will allow the board members to have time to make sure that we are informed and knowledgeable on what we are going to be discussing on the day of and not receiving our packets the day of or when the public gets it”.

Stephanie: “ When have I been late with Council packets?” **Manning:** “Mayor, so, so, the mayor?”

Stephanie: “No, so I have a question. When have I been late with council packets? When have I ever been late?” **Manning:** “February. March”. **Stephanie:** “Really? How was I late because I’ve always

gotten them to you on Friday at the latest and Friday is well within the 24-hour period not counting weekends. That’s what the law states”. **Manning:** “So we’re trying to put in policy and procedures

around this and you have been late, yes”. **Stephanie:** “No, I’ve never been late with the council

packets ever. Ever”. **Mayor:** “She made this as an introduction tonight. Most people are agreeing that the 15th, a Monday night, we’re going to have a workshop, and we will have this on the workshop and

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then we will discuss the other matters we have decided to put on tonight on the workshop as well”.

Carr: “Stephanie, you said we are supposed to get the, by law, we are supposed to get them 24 hours for our [inaudible]”. **Stephanie:** “Get notice. Get notice. Notice. It’s what the law states. It doesn’t say packets. It says notice. Is that correct Mr. Neil?” **Mr. Neil:** “That is correct”. **Carr:** “We’re talking about our agenda. Our agenda”. **Stephanie:** “That is your agenda. Notice is the agenda”. **Carr:** “OK can you all or Mr. Neil send that to me so I can read it for myself”. **Stephanie:** “Right there. The Open Meeting Law”. **Manning:** “Yes that is correct. However, I spoke with LMA today and they stated that it is up to the municipality to put policies and procedures in place that accommodate our town”.

Stephanie: “That’s fine but I just don’t want the impression that I’ve ever been late before a council meeting because I have not”. **Manning:** “And you have been late Stephanie because you have text me and told me that you would deliver the packet to my house yourself, so you have been late. I know I haven’t received a packet...”. **Stephanie:** “That wasn’t late. I had sent them out timely it’s just you and I had a meeting”. **Manning:** “Thank you”. **Stephanie:** “Don’t do that”. **Manning:** “Thank you. I’m done mayor. That’s all I had”.

Mayor: “On the mayors comments just wanted to let you know that we have the two projects-main projects, water sector for the new lift station has been put in the paper and been released for bid and also the job for the repair at the levee at the Rock Reed has also been approved and released for bid. So those are out for advertisement and bid. We will be opening those up, probably I believe in October depending on when all the bids come in and from Balar and that way we will have an open bid to the public and the lowest bid wins. Also, tonight they are having management training at the Bossier Parish Sub Station for the operators-a four-hour thing our fellas are going to. Continuing education for those guys. (He passed the information out to council.) Any other comments from the council?” **Ben Rauschenbauch:** “Mayor, if I may just briefly, please read the packet because it would be beneficial, I think, for some you all to go to that and the town gets bonus points on their water grade for doing so”. **Rebecca Bellemin:** “It’s free. You just have to pre-register. The link is on the paperwork. It’s presented by Louisiana Rural Water Association so there’s no charge to the municipality”. **Ben:** “It’s really good. I think you’d find it informative. It would give you some insight into what your personnel is doing day in and day out”. **Manning:** “OK”. **Mayor:** “OK. The council has already spoken. Terry, are you going to be out the 15th?” **Lawrence:** “I will be, on the 15th, for work”. **Mayor:** “Anymore comments from the audience before we adjourn the meeting tonight?” **Michael Corbin:** External Affairs Coordinator with Swepco. He passed out information about a new payment assistance program they just came out with. More information is available at the Town Hall if needed. **Mayor:** Recapped SWEPCO information.

Mayor Friday called for a motion to adjourn.

Perry: “I have a quick question. Not really for you to answer here because I know we’re going to talk about it in the workshop but when it comes to the meeting minutes, I think you mentioned it has to be there 20 days from the meeting, what’s the plan of action, Ms. Stephanie if you could just think about this, what’s the plan of action to insure the minutes are at the Tribune at the 10th day or whatever you plan is, given let’s say it is the only time it’s been late, what’s your plan of action to insure it’s not late

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the next time and what's in place for the accountability? And this is just something for you to think about. If you don't have a plan of action lets put in a plan of action so that next time we can have it in there because we have, I think, your assistant in place and I don't know if she's fully trained or not, but in my mind where there's an issue if there's a problem you go ahead of time, if there is one let's plan for it not to happen again rather than the first or the fifth time". **Stephanie:** "Absolutely it won't happen again". **Perry:** "So just introduce to us what that plan of action is and what the accountability is in place". **Stephanie:** "Will do".

Mayor Friday called for a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Alderman Perry and seconded by Alderman Carr.

Meeting adjourned.

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