

**PUBLIC HEARING
MINUTES
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN
TOWN OF BENTON
105 SIBLEY STREET, BENTON, BOSSIER PARISH, LOUISIANA
MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2019 7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Shelly Horton
INVOCATION: By Alderman Linda Gates
PLEDGE: By Alderman Ron Jones
PRESENT: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Linda Gates, Alderman Ron Jones, and Alderman Leighton Allen
ABSENT: Alderman Wayne Cathcart
ALSO, PRESENT: Chief Pilkinton, Attorney Southerland, and Stephanie Collier
AGENDA: Motion by Alderman Jones second by Alderman Allen to approve the Public Hearing Agenda

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None
IN FAVOR: 4
OPPOSED: 0

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS:

1. ORDINANCE 561 OF 2019

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 558 OF 2018 THE
FINANCIAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 FOR THE TOWN
OF BENTON, LOUISIANA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOUISIANA
LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET ACT

BE IT ORDAINED that the Mayor has certified there are revenues and/or unencumbered fund balances available for appropriation in excess of those appropriated for specific expenditures in the budget for supplemental appropriation and/or transfer, and;

WHEREAS, the Board of Alderman of the Town of Benton, Louisiana, enacted Ordinance 558 of 2018 on December 10, 2018 adopting the 2019 General Fund, Water Sewer Enterprise Fund, and 1978 Sales Tax Fund budgets, and

003WHEREAS, the Board of Alderman does hereby desire to amend the 2019 General Fund budget by the following changes;

Revenues	From: \$(1,803,300.00)	To: \$(1,592,184.41)
Administrative	From: \$ 199,600.00	To: \$ 206,545.00
Mayor	From: \$ 44,700.00	To: \$ 46,250.00
Council	From: \$ 28,900.00	To: \$ 30,500.00
Police	From: \$ 609,300.00	To: \$ 665,131.54
Police Chief	From: \$ 88,240.00	To: \$ 74,593.00
Streets	From: \$ 651,000.00	To: \$ 448,593.25
Maintenance	From: \$ 114,765.00	To: \$ 108,255.00
Parks and Recreation	From: \$ 20,500.00	To: \$ 42,370.62
Benton Parish MPC	From: \$ 46,210.00	To: \$ 41,562.00
Net (Profit) / Loss	\$ (85.00)	\$ 71,616.00
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 1,565,209.00	\$ 1,565,294.00
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 1,565,294.00	

WHEREAS, the Board of Alderman does hereby desire to amend the 2019 1978 Sales Tax Fund by the following changes;

Revenues	From: \$ (450,000.00)	To: \$ (591,250.00)
Transfers to <u>General Fund</u>	<u>From: \$ 634,000.00</u>	<u>To: \$ 415,037.41</u>
Net (Profit) / Loss	\$184,000.00	\$ (176,212.59)
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 2,607,720.00	\$ 2,607,720.00
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 2,423,720.00	\$ 2,783,932.59

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, Louisianan, finds and determines that the General Fund and 1978 Sales Tax Fund amendments comply with all requirements set forth in the State of Louisiana Local Government Budget Act R.S. 39:1301 – 1315

Upon a motion by Alderman Carr seconded by Alderman Gates this ordinance was introduced on November 11th, 2019 and set for public hearing on December 9th, 2019.

PUBLIC COMMENTS; None

2. ORDINANCE 562 OF 2019

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2020 BUDGETS FOR REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES OF THE TOWN OF BENTON'S GENERAL FUND, WATER SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND, AND 1978 SALES TAX FUND BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2020 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020; AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF BENTON, BOSSIER PARISH, LOUISIANA IN REGULAR SESSION CONVENED THAT:

SECTION 1. The following estimates are hereby adopted to serve as a budget of revenues and expenditures of the General Fund FY 2020:

General Fund Revenues	<u>\$ (1,722,783.00)</u>
General Administrative Expenses	\$ 177,990.00
Mayor Expenses	\$ 46,700.00
Council Expenses	\$ 30,900.00
Chief of Police	\$ 73,190.00
Police Expenses	\$ 695,500.00
Street Expenses	\$ 474,012.00
Maintenance Expenses	\$ 112,581.00
Parks and Recreation Expenses	\$ 32,000.00
Benton Parish MPC	\$ 46,988.00
Total General Fund Expenses	<u>\$1,689,861.00</u>
Net (Profit) / Loss	\$ (32,922.00)
Beginning Fund Balance	\$1,493,678.00
Ending Fund Balance	\$1,526,600.00

SECTION 2. The following estimates are hereby adopted to serve as a budget of revenues and expenditures of the Water Sewer FY 2020:

General Administrative Revenues	\$ (123,700.00)
In Water Revenues	\$ (518,278.00)
Out Water Revenue	\$ (930,680.00)
In Sewer Revenue	\$ (372,000.00)
Out Sewer Revenue	\$ (441,452.00)
Solid Waste Revenue	\$ (167,000.00)
Total Revenues	<u>\$(2,553,110.00)</u>
General Administrative Expenses	\$ 232,700.00
In Water Expenses	\$ 572,500.00
Out Water Expenses	\$ 866,750.00
In Sewer Expenses	\$ 285,750.00
Out Sewer Expenses	\$ 177,605.00
Solid Waste Expenses	\$ 183,350.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$2,318,655.00</u>
Net (Profit)/ Loss	<u>\$ (234,455.00)</u>
Beginning Fund Balance	\$2,167,303.97
Ending Fund Balance	\$2,401,758.97

SECTION 3. The following estimates are hereby adopted to serve as a budget of revenues and expenditures of the 1978 Sales Tax Fund FY 2020:

Revenues	\$(591,250.00)
Expenditures	\$ 457,000.00
Net (Profit) / Loss	<u>\$ (134,250.00)</u>
Beginning Fund Balance	\$2,783,932.59
Ending Fund Balance	\$2,918,182.59

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, Louisiana, finds and determines that this budget complies with all requirements set forth in the State of Louisiana Local Government Budget Act R.S. 39:1301 – 1315

Upon a motion by Alderman Cathcart seconded by Alderman Carr this ordinance was introduced on November 11th, 2019 and set for public hearing to be held on December 9th, 2019.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

ADJOURN:

Motion by Alderman Carr second by Alderman Jones to adjourn the Public Hearing

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

IN FAVOR: 4

OPPOSED: 0

- In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Stephanie Sullivant-Collier, Town Clerk at (318) 965-2781.
- The Town of Benton is an equal opportunity employer.

REGULAR SESSION
MINUTES
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN
TOWN OF BENTON
105 SIBLEY STREET, BENTON, BOSSIER PARISH, LOUISIANA
MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2019 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Shelly Horton

AGENDA: A motion by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Carr to amend the agenda to add item 6. Reappointment Steve Vercher to the MPC Board

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None
IN FAVOR: 4
OPPOSED: 0

A motion by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Gates to approve the agenda as amended

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None
IN FAVOR: 4
OPPOSED: 0

MINUTES: A motion by Alderman Carr seconded by Alderman A to amend the agenda to add item 6. Reappointment Steve Vercher to the MPC Board

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None
IN FAVOR: 4
OPPOSED: 0

SPECIAL GUESTS: **Tamera Crain** with the **Bossier Council of Aging** spoke to council about the changes to their transportation program. Currently seniors that use the transportation program are charged \$10.00 each time. As she explained that most seniors are on a fixed income and they have had some call to cancel Dr appointments because they were not able to pay the \$10.00. She applied for a grant to cover expenses for all transportation for one calendar year and was notified that they have been awarded the grant but for half of the requested amount. So, they are will offer seniors transportation no charge for the next six months.

Gary Wyche spoke to council about all the projects at **Cypress Black Bayou Recreational Park**. He discussed all the renovated piers and the newly constructed piers and the new cabins. Also, the renovated marina and the new enclosed pavilion with air-conditioning. Robert Berry, Executive Director spoke about the upgrade to the electrical supply. And that the Lake has brought property values up to the area

OLD BUSINESS

1. ORDINANCE 561 OF 2019: FINAL VOTE

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 558 OF 2018 THE FINANCIAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 FOR THE TOWN OF BENTON, LOUISIANA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOUISIANA LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET ACT

A motion by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Carr to adopt Ordinance 561

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

AYES	Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Linda Gates, Alderman Ron Jones, and Alderman Leighton Allen
NAYS	None
ABSTAIN	None
ABSENT	Alderman Wayne Cathcart

2. ORDINANCE 562 OF 2019

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2020 BUDGETS FOR REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES OF THE TOWN OF BENTON’S GENERAL FUND, WATER SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND, AND 1978 SALES TAX FUND BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2020 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020; AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS.

A motion by Alderman Allen seconded by Alderman Jones to adopt Ordinance 562

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

AYES	Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Linda Gates, Alderman Ron Jones, and Alderman Leighton Allen
NAYS	None
ABSTAIN	None
ABSENT	Alderman Wayne Cathcart

NEW BUSINESS

1. RESOLUTION 9 OF 2019:

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING PROPOSALS AND AWARDING THE CONTRACT FOR OLD PALMETTO ROAD WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT

WHEREAS, the Town of Benton, Bossier Parish, Louisiana in accordance with RS 38:2212 (A) proposals were requested to replace the Old Palmetto Road Water Main, and

WHEREAS, proposals were received and reviewed by Balar Engineers according to law; and

WHEREAS Balar Engineers has presented a letter of recommendation to award the contract to ASB for \$138,775.00; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, in legal session convened, does hereby award the contract to ASB for \$138,775.00 to replace the Old Palmetto Road Water Main.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Aldermen does hereby authorize the Mayor to execute and administer said contract.

Motion by Alderman Carr seconded by Alderman Gates to adopt this resolution on the 9th day of December 2019 by the following votes:

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

AYES	Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Linda Gates, Alderman Ron Jones, and Alderman Leighton Allen
NAYS	None
ABSTAIN	None
ABSENT	Alderman Wayne Cathcart

2. RESOLUTION 10 OF 2019:

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BIDS AND AWARDING THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT ON THE OAKRIDGE STREET IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS, the Town of Benton, Bossier Parish, Louisiana by proper notice, advertised for bids for reconstruction of Oakridge Drive, in accordance with Louisiana RS 38:2211;

WHEREAS, bids for the Street Improvements, were received, opened and tabulated according to law; and

WHEREAS, Balar Engineers reviewed the bids and has provided the Town a letter of recommendation to award the contract to Specialty Track hoe for \$ 138,775.00.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, in legal session convened, does hereby agree with the recommendation made by Balar Engineers and awards the construction contract to Specialty Track hoe for \$ 138,775.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Aldermen does hereby authorize the Mayor to execute and administer said contract for the reconstruction of Oakridge Drive.

Motion by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Allen to adopt this resolution on the 9th day of December 2019 by the following votes:

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

AYES	Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Linda Gates, Alderman Ron Jones, and Alderman Leighton Allen
NAYS	None
ABSTAIN	None
ABSENT	Alderman Wayne Cathcart

3. REQUEST APPROVAL OF DIXIE MART BEER PERMIT RENEWAL:

A motion by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Gates to approve the renewal of Dixie Marts permit

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

AYES Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Linda Gates, Alderman Ron Jones, and Alderman Leighton Allen

NAYS None

ABSTAIN None

ABSENT Alderman Wayne Cathcart

4. APPROVE MONTHLY FINANCIALS AND BUDGET TO DATE:

A motion by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Carr to approve the financials

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

IN FAVOR: 4

OPPOSED: 0

5. DISCUSSION OF THE SALE OF THE SOUTH TREATMENT PLANT:

Mayor Horton discussed the details of the letter from Balar Engineers which summarizes the three options in which the council may choose concerning the Palmetto Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Bossier Parish Police Jury has offered the Town \$ 1.6 million to purchase the system (excluding the treatment plant). The following is a summary of the three options:

(a) Take no action and continue to operate and maintain the system and the treatment plant. Future maintenance is expected and in order to make that investment rates will have to be raised to offset the costs.

(b) The Town can have a certified appraiser evaluate the treatment plant, lift stations, collection system and convey all components of the system and present the offer of sale to the Police Jury.

(c) The Town can negotiate a contract with the Police Jury to receive and treat the wastewater flows. Rates will need to be increased to offset the costs for treatment by the Parish. This will continue to generate income for the Town.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

6. REAPPOINTMENT TO THE BENTON PARISH MPC BOARD

Mayor Horton made the recommendation to reappoint Mr. Steve Vercher

A motion by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Carr to reappoint Mr. Vercher

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

AYES	Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Linda Gates, Alderman Ron Jones, and Alderman Leighton Allen
NAYS	None
ABSTAIN	None
ABSENT	Alderman Wayne Cathcart

ADJOURN:

Motion by Alderman Jones second by Alderman Carr to adjourn the Regular Session

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

IN FAVOR: 4

OPPOSED: 0

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