

**REGULAR SESSION
MINUTES**

**MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN
TOWN OF BENTON
105 SIBLEY STREET, BENTON, BOSSIER PARISH, LOUISIANA
MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2016 7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER: Wayne Cathcart, Mayor

INVOCATION: Alderman Richard Jackson

PLEDGE: Alderman Ron Jones

PRESENT: Alderman Richard Jackson, Alderman Linda Gates, Alderman Ron Jones,
Alderman Donna Wyatt, and Alderman Tommy Hill

AGENDA: A motion by Alderman Wyatt, seconded by Alderman Jones to approve the Agenda

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

IN FAVOR 5

OPPOSED 0

MINUTES: A motion by Alderman Wyatt, seconded by Alderman Gates to approve the Minutes

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

IN FAVOR 5

OPPOSED 0

OLD BUSINESS:

1. NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **MR. ALLEN, BUSINESS OWNER:** Mrs. Allen announced their new business, Allen's Grill and their plans to open the first week in February and they will be open from 7 am -7 pm Monday - Saturday and Sundays 8 am - 3 pm. It will be home cooking food all fresh foods, breakfast all day, hamburgers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Councilmen welcomed them to the Town.

2. **DISCUSSION OF ALDERMAN JACKSON'S RESIGNATION** Stephanie Collier stated that once Alderman Jackson sends his letter of resignation to the Secretary of State and then the Secretary will send a letter to the Town notifying us of the resignation and to begin the process of filling the vacancy. Mayor Cathcart presented Alderman Jackson with a plaque and thanked him for his years of service to the Town as Alderman of District 1.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Annie Washington thanked Alderman Jackson for his service and all that he has done for District 1 and God Bless him in whatever he does in the future. Chief of Police also thanked him for his service to the Town and he will be missed. Mr. Willie Kelley said he has known Richard for years and thanked him for his service and wishes him will.

3. RESOLUTION 1 OF 2016: LGAP GRANT FUNDS REQUEST TO THE STATE

**RESOLUTION 1 OF 2016
TOWN OF BENTON**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACT ON THE BEHALF OF THE
TOWN OF BENTON AND TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO THE FY 2015-
2016 LGAP WITH THE LOUISIANA STATE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen for the Town of Benton, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, wish to authorize the Mayor of Benton to act on behalf of the Town of Benton and to sign all documents pertaining to the FY 2015-2016 LGAP Program administered by the Louisiana State Office of Community Development. **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, in regular and legal session convened this on the 11 th day of JANUARY 2016, does hereby authorize and fully support this agreement.

A motion by Alderman Wyatt, seconded by Alderman Jones to adopt RESOLUTION 1 OF 2016

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mayor asked what project this grant is intended. Stephanie Collier stated that I wrote this one to be used for the Benton Sports Complex concession stand and restroom facilities. Mayor Cathcart said that the concession stand was broken into recently and vandalized along with the Restrooms at the Complex and the Chief has already apprehended the juveniles in that case but there is damages that will need repaired.

AYES: Alderman Richard Jackson, Alderman Linda Gates, Alderman Ron Jones,
Alderman Donna Wyatt, and Alderman Tommy Hill

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

**4. KENNEY COMPUTERS CONTRACT RENEWAL FOR TOWN COMPUTER TECH
SERVICES:**

**A motion made by Alderman Hill, seconded by Alderman Wyatt to approve the contract renewal
for Kenney Computers.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

AYES: Alderman Richard Jackson, Alderman Linda Gates, Alderman Ron Jones,
Alderman Donna Wyatt, and Alderman Tommy Hill

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

5. BENTON COUNTRY STORE: REQUESTS RENEWAL OF BEER LICENSE

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Alderman Wyatt asked if there is a pending charge for selling to underage kids. Chief Pilkinton came forward and stated that Yes, that he arrested one of their store clerks who is a family member of the owner. He also stated that he has heard rumors of them selling to minors for sometime now but was finally able to make an arrest. Council members asked what should they do in this situation and James Southerland suggested that they should not deny renewal however if they are convicted that they can revoke their license at that time.

**A motion made by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Wyatt to approve the Beer License
renewal Benton Country Store**

**AYES: Alderman Richard Jackson, Alderman Linda Gates, Alderman Ron Jones,
Alderman Donna Wyatt**
NAYS: Alderman Tommy Hill
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

6. BENTON PARISH MPC BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS APPOINTEE: REAPPOINT MR. JIM MORRIS TO SERVE A FIVE-YEAR TERM ON THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS

A motion made by Alderman Hill, seconded by Alderman Wyatt to appoint Mr. Jim Morris

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

**AYES: Alderman Richard Jackson, Alderman Linda Gates, Alderman Ron Jones,
Alderman Donna Wyatt, and Alderman Tommy Hill**
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

7. ORDINANCE 539 OF 2016: INTRODUCTION AND SET FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2016

AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE SALARY OF THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF BENTON EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 8, 2016

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, in regular session convened, has considered the Mayor's request dated December 16, 2015 to reduced his salary to \$3,333.33 per month.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton does hereby set the Mayor salary to be \$3,333.33 monthly and all benefits, effective February 8, 2016.

Motion by _____ seconded by _____ this Ordinance was adopted on the _____ day of _____, 2016 by the following votes.

A motion by Alderman Wyatt, seconded by Alderman Jackson to introduce and set for public hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ROLL CALL VOTE:

**AYES: Alderman Richard Jackson, Alderman Linda Gates, Alderman Ron Jones,
Alderman Donna Wyatt, and Alderman Tommy Hill**
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Alderman Jackson wants to first thank God for his time to serve as a Councilman for the Town. He also thanked his constituents of District 1 who have trusted him with serving. Mr. Jackson then thanked Attorney Southerland for his help over the years, to Stephanie Collier for her assistance and to and to the other Aldermen of the Town. He also thanked the Chief of Police for all the years of support to him and his community and to his Parents who have backed him in every way through his years of service. Alderman Jackson asked that Mrs. Annie Washington to come forward he presented her with a plaque. He

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

A motion by Alderman Hill seconded by Alderman Wyatt to adjourn the meeting.

IN FAVOR 5
OPPOSED 0

Mayor

Clerk