

SHELLY HORTON JR
MAYOR



STEPHANIE SULLIVANT-COLLIER
CAO/ TOWN CLERK

TOWN OF BENTON LOUISIANA

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN
TOWN OF BENTON

105 SIBLEY STREET, BENTON, BOSSIER PARISH, LOUISIANA
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2021, AT 6:00 PM

Call to Order: Mayor Shelly Horton

Pledge: By Alderman Cathcart

Invocation: By Alderman Friday

Present: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Tiffany Manning, Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman James Friday, and Alderman Wayne Cathcart.

Agenda: Motion by Alderman Carr seconded by Alderman Friday to approve the public hearing agenda

Public Comments: None

In favor: 5 ayes

Opposed: 0 nays

Public Hearing Items:

1. Ordinance 573 of 2021:

ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RE-ENACTING CHAPTER 125 – SUBDIVISIONS, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF BENTON, LOUISIANA

WHEREAS, Act 558 of 1956 of the State of Louisiana, Section 2, Subdivision Regulations, requires that the Benton – Parish Metropolitan Planning Commission (the “MPC”) adopt regulations governing the subdivision of land within the metropolitan planning area; and,

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WHEREAS, Chapter 125 – Subdivisions, of the Benton Code of Ordinances is also known as the “Subdivision Code”; and,

WHEREAS, the MPC has studied the Subdivision Code and prepared amendments to be re-enacted to replace Chapter 125 of the Code of Ordinances for the purpose of:

- the harmonious development of the Benton metropolitan planning area; and
- the coordination of streets within subdivisions with other existing or planned streets and the requirements as to the extent to which and the manner in which streets shall be graded and improved; and
- coordination with other features of the master plan or official map of the metropolitan planning area; and
- adequate open spaces for traffic, recreation, light, and air; and
- distribution of population and traffic which will tend to create conditions favorable to health, safety, convenience, or prosperity; and
- sustainability of the Town in an efficient and economic manner.

WHEREAS, on September 13, 2021, at its regular meeting with a quorum present, the MPC conducted a public hearing, received comments, and voted to approve the amended Subdivision Code;

WHEREAS, the MPC recommends approval of the Subdivision Code by the Town of Benton and incorporation of the amended and re-enacted Subdivision Code into the Benton Code of Ordinances as Chapter 125 - Subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to amend and re-enact Chapter 125 – Subdivisions of the Code of Ordinances;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF BENTON, LOUISIANA:

§1. The Town amends and re-enacts Chapter 125 - Subdivisions of the Code of Ordinances and adopts the Subdivision Code dated September 13, 2021.

§2. The Town supersedes and replaces the Original Chapter 125 – Subdivisions of the Code of Ordinances.

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§3. If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause and/or phrase of this Ordinance or the application thereof is declared unconstitutional, unenforceable or invalid by the valid judgment of any court of competent jurisdiction such unconstitutionality, unenforceability or invalidity shall not affect any of the remaining sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and/or phrases of this Ordinance, since the same would have been enacted by the Town without the incorporation of this Ordinance of any such unconstitutional, unenforceable or invalid section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase. To this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared severable.

§4. All other Ordinances, or parts thereof, which are in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance, are hereby repealed. To the extent that any provision or provisions of this Ordinance are inconsistent or in conflict with any other provision of the Code of Ordinances or any regulation of the Town, the provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed to control.

§5. This Ordinance shall become effective upon final adoption and publication of the same in the manner prescribed by law.

Public Comments: Pat Doane and Carlotta Brown both gave a brief statement on how this will clarify and simplify future zoning requests.

Adjourn: Motion by Alderman Friday seconded by Alderman Carr to adjourn the Public Hearing

In Favor: 5 Ayes

Opposed: 0 Nays

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**REGULAR SESSION
MINUTES
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN
TOWN OF BENTON
105 SIBLEY STREET, BENTON, BOSSIER PARISH, LOUISIANA
NOVEMBER 8, 2021, 6:00 PM**

Call to Order: Mayor Shelly Horton

Agenda: Motion by Alderman Cathcart seconded by Alderman Jones to approve the Regular Session agenda

Public Comments: None

In favor: 5 ayes

Opposed: 0 nays

Minutes: Motion by Alderman Carr seconded by Alderman Friday to approve the minutes from the October meeting

Public Comments: None

In favor: 5 ayes

Opposed: 0 nays

Old Business:

1. Ordinance 573 of 2021: Final Vote

**ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RE-ENACTING CHAPTER 125 –
SUBDIVISIONS, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN
OF BENTON, LOUISIANA**

Motion by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Manning to adopt Ordinance 573

Public Comments: None

Ayes: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart.

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

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New Business:

1. Mayor Horton: Consider approval of minor plat T-17-21:

Motion by Alderman Cathcart seconded by Alderman Jones to approve the minor plat.

Public Comments: None

Ayes: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart.

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

2. Mayor Horton: Discussion of emergency repairs to the South Wastewater Treatment Plant (levee:

Mayor Horton discussed the repairs to the South Treatment Plants on Palmetto levees and that the nature of the repairs an emergency. The work is currently in progress and requested the council ratify the emergency repairs.

Motion by Alderman Friday seconded by Alderman Jones to ratify the emergency declaration for repairs.

Public Comments: None

Ayes: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart.

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

3. Consider approval of Beer Permit renewal for Dixie Mart:

Motion by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Carr to approve the permit renewal

Public Comments: None

Ayes: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart.

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

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4. Stephanie Collier: Requesting approval for a Digital Monument Sign for Town Hall

Stephanie spoke to council about purchasing a digital monument sign for town hall and that it is budgeted in this year budget. Stephanie presented the council with two bids for two different sizes of signs.

A motion by Alderman Carr seconded by Alderman Manning to approve the purchase of a digital sign for the Town Hall and to accept the higher bid for the larger digital sign.

Public Comments: Carlotta Brown suggested that a automatic dimmer be requested on the digital screen.

In favor: 5 ayes

Opposed: 0 nays

5. Ordinance 574 of 2021: Amending the 2021 General Fund and 1978 Sales Tax Budget

Mayor Horton and Stephanie gave a brief statement on the increase in revenues by 16 % in the General Fund and that not all of the 1978 sales tax money budgeted was not used which still ended the year with a profit in the General Fund.

Motion by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Carr to introduce and set for public hearing.

Public Comments: None

Ayes: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart.

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

6. Ordinance 575 of 2021: Adopting the 2022 General Fund, Water Sewer Enterprise, and 1978 Sales Tax Budgets.

Alderman Cathcart mentioned his concerns about the total budget for the Police Department increasing by 77,000.00. He feels this is to much money for such a small department and plans to discuss this with the Chief later next week. Alderman Friday and Alderman Jones stated that the 77,000.00 was for two vehicles and one will be paid for by LGAP.

Motion by Alderman Carr seconded by Alderman Manning to introduce and set for public hearing.

Public Comments: None

Ayes: Alderman Carr, Alderman Manning, Alderman Jones, Alderman Friday, and Alderman Cathcart.

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

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7. Approval of the Monthly Financials:

Motion by Alderman Friday seconded by Alderman Carr to approve the monthly financials.

Public Comments: None

In favor: 5 ayes

Opposed: 0 nays

Mayor Horton asked guests

Adjourn:

Motion by Alderman Friday seconded by Alderman Manning to adjourn

In favor: 5 ayes

Opposed: 0 nays

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ORDINANCE 574 OF 2021

BUDGET AMENDMENT

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 569 OF 2020 THE FINANCIAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 FOR THE TOWN OF BENTON, LOUISIANA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOUISIANA LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET ACT

BE IT ORDAINED the Board of Alderman of the Town of Benton, Louisiana, enacted Ordinance 569 of 2020 on December 14, 2020 adopting the 2021 General Fund, Water Sewer Enterprise Fund, and 1978 Sales Tax Fund budgets, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Alderman does hereby desire to amend the 2021 General Fund budget by the following changes;

Revenues	From: \$ (1,891,917.38)	To: \$(2,217,791.00)
Administrative	From: \$ 200,125.00	To: \$ 278,508.00
Mayor	From: \$ 46,210.00	To: \$ 42,889.00
Council	From: \$ 30,150.00	To: \$ 30,150.00
Police	From: \$ 700,500.00	To: \$ 726,511.00
Police Chief	From: \$ 85,450.00	To: \$ 79,430.00
Streets	From: \$ 674,620.00	To: \$ 616,531.00
Maintenance	From: \$ 99,920.00	To: \$ 106,617.00
Parks and Recreation	From: \$ 34,500.00	To: \$ 8,908.00
Benton Parish MPC	From: \$ 46,988.00	To: \$ 47,811.00
Total Expenses	From: \$ 1,891,463.00	To: \$ 1,937,355.00
Net (Profit)/Loss	\$ (454.38)	\$ (280,436.00)
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ (1,526,693.88)	\$(1,526,693.88)
Ending Fund Balance	\$ (1,527,148.26)	\$(1,807,129.88)

WHEREAS, the Board of Alderman does hereby desire to amend the 2021 1978 Sales Tax Fund by the following changes;

Revenues	From: \$ (710,050.00)	To: \$ (880,221.00)
Transfers to General Fund	From: \$ 647,500.00	To: \$ 608,807.00
Net (Profit) / Loss	\$ (62,550.00)	\$ (271,414.00)
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ (2,834,429.00)	\$ (2,834,429.00)
Ending Fund Balance	\$ (2,896,979.00)	\$ (3,105,834.00)

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

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ORDINANCE 575 OF 2021

FY 2022 Budgets

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2022 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, 2022 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022; 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 2022:

General Fund Revenues	<u>\$(2,149,570.00)</u>
General Administrative Expenses	\$ 238,980.00
Mayor Expenses	\$ 44,160.00
Council Expenses	\$ 27,150.00
Chief of Police	\$ 82,150.00
Police Expenses	\$ 770,000.00
Street Expenses	\$ 391,000.00
Maintenance Expenses	\$ 104,000.00
Parks and Recreation Expenses	\$ 10,500.00
Benton Parish MPC	<u>\$ 46,988.00</u>
Total General Fund Expenses	\$1,714,928.00
Net (Profit) / Loss	\$ (434,642.00)
Beginning Fund Balance	\$(1,972,318.00)
Ending Fund Balance	\$(2,406,960.00)

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SECTION 2. The following estimates are hereby adopted to serve as a budget of revenues and expenditures of the Water Sewer FY 2022:

General Administrative Revenues	\$ (1,220,461.00)
In Water Revenues	\$ (427,675.00)
Out Water Revenue	\$ (1,108,993.00)
In Sewer Revenue	\$ (140,000.00)
Out Sewer Revenue	\$ (380,000.00)
Solid Waste Revenue	\$ (175,000.00)
Total Revenues	\$ (3,452,129.00)
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General Administrative Expenses	\$ 923,900.00
In Water Expenses	\$ 622,000.00
Out Water Expenses	\$ 804,000.00
In Sewer Expenses	\$ 304,000.00
Out Sewer Expenses	\$ 639,000.00
Solid Waste Expenses	\$ 145,000.00
Total Expenses	\$ 3,437,900.00
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Net (Profit)/ Loss	\$ (14,229.00)
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Beginning Fund Balance	\$(3,080,267.00)
Ending Fund Balance	\$(3,094,496.00)

SECTION 3. The following estimates are hereby adopted to serve as a budget of revenues and expenditures of the 1978 Sales Tax Fund FY 2022:

Revenues	\$(710,050.00)
Expenditures	\$ 647,500.00
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Net (Profit) / Loss	\$ (62,550.00)
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Beginning Fund Balance	\$(3,213,979.45)
Ending Fund Balance	\$(3,276,529.45)

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

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