

**PUBLIC HEARING
MINUTES**

MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN
TOWN OF BENTON
105 SIBLEY STREET, BENTON, BOSSIER PARISH, LOUISIANA
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2017 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Shelly Horton

INVOCATION: by Alderman Cathcart

PLEDGE: by Alderman Wyatt

PRESENT: Alderman Carr, Alderman Gates, Alderman Jones, Alderman Wyatt, and
Alderman Cathcart

AGENDA: Motion by Alderman Wyatt Seconded by Alderman Gates to approve the Public
Hearing Agenda

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

IN FAVOR 5 Ayes

OPPOSED 0 Nays

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. ORDINANCE 545 OF 2017: SETTING THE SALARY OF THE TOWN CLERK

AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE SALARY OF THE TOWN CLERK OF
BENTON EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 16, 2017

WHEREAS the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton has considered the Budget for
the FY 2017 and has determined to grant the Town Clerk an increase in salary.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, Bossier Parish,
Louisiana, in regular session convened, does hereby set the salary of the Town Clerk to be
\$ 41,600.00 per year effective February 16, 2017.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING

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

IN FAVOR 5 Ayes

OPPOSED 0 Nays

**REGULAR SESSION
MINUTES**

MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMAN
TOWN OF BENTON
105 SIBLEY STREET, BENTON, BOSSIER PARISH, LOUISIANA
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2017 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Shelly Horton

AGENDA: Motion by Alderman Wyatt Seconded by Alderman Carr to amend the Agenda to change item # 5 *from* passing a resolution *to* discussion of developing a resolution

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

AYES: Alderman Carr, Alderman Gates, Alderman Jones, Alderman Wyatt, and Alderman Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion by Alderman Wyatt Seconded by Alderman Carr to approve the Agenda as Amended

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

AYES: Alderman Carr, Alderman Gates, Alderman Jones, Alderman Wyatt, and Alderman Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

MINUTES: Motion by Alderman Cathcart Seconded by Alderman Wyatt to approve the January Regular Session Minutes

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

IN FAVOR 5 Ayes

OPPOSED 0 Nays

Motion by Alderman Wyatt Seconded by Alderman Gates to approve the January Special Session Minutes

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

IN FAVOR 5 Ayes

OPPOSED 0 Nays

Motion by Alderman Cathcart Seconded by Alderman Jones to approve the January Work Session Minutes

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

IN FAVOR 5 Ayes

OPPOSED 0 Nays

OLD BUSINESS:

1. ORDINANCE 545 OF 2017: Final Adoption

AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE SALARY OF THE TOWN CLERK OF BENTON
EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 16, 2017

Motion by Alderman Wyatt Seconded by Alderman Gates to adopt Ordinance 545 of 2017

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

AYES: Alderman Carr, Alderman Gates, Alderman Jones, Alderman
Wyatt, and Alderman Cathcart

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. CYPRESS BLACK BAYOU PARK UPDATE: Mr. Gary Wyche

Mr. Wyche and Robert Berry, Part Director came to provide the council with information on numerous active projects. These projects range from major repairs to facilities, park streets and new construction of cabins. Numerous updates have been made improving the overall appearance of the park as well as improvements to specific programs. They also discussed the repairs made to the damn and other vital areas. Council members commended them for their hard work and their dedication to improving the Park. Council also recognized that the Park is one of the main contributors to the continuing growth in North Bossier Parish.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

2. RESOLUTION 2 OF 2017: A resolution authorizing the Mayor to apply for a credit card with First Guaranty Bank

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CREDIT CARD IN THE NAME OF THE TOWN OF BENTON

WHEREAS, there are occasions during the transaction of town business where having a town credit card would more easily facilitate business; and

WHEREAS, having a credit card requires certain safeguards and restrictions to prevent misuse; and

WHEREAS, The Board Aldermen wish to obtain a town credit card through First Guaranty Bank , Hammond Louisiana for the principal amount not to exceed \$7,500.00; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. The Mayor is hereby authorized to apply for a credit card in the name of the Town of Benton for the principal amount not to exceed \$7,500.00 with First Guaranty Bank, Hammond Louisiana

Section 2. The Board of Aldermen hereby authorizes the Mayor to sign all documents pertaining to the application and Continuing Guaranty Agreement upon adoption of this Resolution

Motion by Alderman Cathcart Seconded by Alderman Wyatt to adopt Resolution 2 of 2017

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

AYES: Alderman Carr, Alderman Gates, Alderman Jones, Alderman Wyatt, and Alderman Cathcart
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

3. RESOLUTION 3 OF 2017: Street Master Plan / 2017 Street Project

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THOSE DOCUMENTS AND AGREEMENTS REQUIRED IN CONNECTION WITH THE 2017 STREET MASTER PLAN PROJECTS

WHEREAS, May 2015 the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton approved a Street Master Plan for improvements of deteriorated streets within the Town Limits, and

WHEREAS, in 2016 42% of the total Master Plan was complete; and

WHEREAS the Board of Aldermen desires to continue progress of the Street Master Plan by allocating funds for said projects in the 2017 General Fund Street Department Budget (Ordinance 544 of 2016).

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, Bossier Parish Louisiana does hereby authorize the Mayor to execute those documents and agreements required in connection with the 2017 Street Master Plan not to exceed the budgeted amount in Ordinance 544 of 2016 and to administer said project.

After some discussion Council members requested that a Contract for engineering provided and it should also specify the streets which will be included in the 2017 project. Mayor Horton agreed and stated that a Special Session may be needed once the Engineers contract has been provided to the Town.

NO MOTION WAS MADE
THIS RESOLUTION DIED FOR LACK OF MOTION

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

4. APPROVAL OF DOLLAR GENERAL BEER LICENSE:

Motion by Alderman Jones Seconded by Alderman Wyatt to approve the Dollar General Beer Permit

PUBLIC COMMENTS None

AYES: Alderman Carr, Alderman Jones, Alderman Wyatt, and Alderman Cathcart
NAYS: Alderman Gates
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

5. Discussion of developing a Resolution for approving a permit for PEG Bandwidth to lay fiber optic line through the Town of Benton

Mayor Horton discussed the request made by PEG to lay fiber optic line through town. He also explained that this process would include boring. This could impact and potentially damage town infrastructure. Mayor Horton also stated that if approve there should be specific agreements made prior to any work begins. The reason is due to they are "boring" to lay this fiber optic line and boring has damaged water and sewer line in similar situations and it potentially could again.

He also informed council that he has requested PEG take an alternate route and is waiting to see the revision of those plans.

Council members asked Mayor Horton to find out more information about the company and what service will this be providing and will it be beneficial to the citizens of the town. Mayor Horton agreed. This topic will be continued at a later date.

PUBLIC COMMENTS None

A motion by Alderman Cathcart, seconded by Alderman Wyatt to adjourn the meeting

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

IN FAVOR 5 Ayes

OPPOSED 0 Nays