

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, December 14, 2020 AT 6:00 PM

Call to Order: Mayor Shelly Horton asked that before we begin that we have a moment of silence in honor of Attorney James Southerland.

Invocation: By Alderman Cathcart

Pledge: By Alderman Jones

Present: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman Leighton Allen, Alderman Wayne Cathcart.

Present via Phone Conference: Alderman Linda Gates, members of the public.

Also, Present: Attorney Doug Stinson, Assistant Chief Collier, Stephanie Collier, and members of the public.

Agenda: Motion by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Carr to approve the Public Hearing Agenda

Public Comments: None

Ayes: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman Leighton Allen, Alderman Wayne Cathcart, and Alderman Linda Gates

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

105 Sibley Street / P O Box 1390
Benton, Louisiana 71006
(318) 965-2781 / (318)965-2577 fax
www.townofbentonlouisiana.webs.com website

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Stephanie Collier at (318) 965-2781 describing the assistance that is necessary.

The Town of Benton is an equal opportunity employer.

Public Hearing Items:

1. Ordinance 568 of 2020: An Ordinance for regulating parking on public streets of Lost River Estates Subdivision

ORDINANCE 568 OF 2020
PARKING REGULATIONS LOST RIVER ESTATES

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE STORAGE OF OR PARKING OF VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT ON THE PUBLIC STREETS OR SIDEWALKS OF LOST RIVER ESTATES, BENTON

WHEREAS “Public Street” specifically applies to streets owned and maintained by the Town of Benton within Lost River Estates.

WHEREAS No motor vehicle or non-motorized vehicle (including without limitation, trucks and recreation vehicles), boat, trailer, camper, marine craft, machinery or equipment of any kind may be parked or stored for longer than twelve (12) hours or on a daily basis on any public street of Lost River Estates, unless such vehicle or object is owned or operated by a guest of the adjacent lot owner and such does not extend beyond three (3) days in a thirty (30) day period. Notwithstanding the twelve (12) hour restriction and the guest parking exception, there shall be no overnight parking on any public street of Lost River Estates, Town of Benton, Louisiana.

WHEREAS, no person shall stop, stand or park a motor vehicle or non-motorized vehicle as described above, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic, or in compliance with the law, or traffic-control device, in any of the following places within Lost River Estates:

- A. On a sidewalk or in a neutral area between street and sidewalk.
- B. In front of a public or private driveway.
- C. Within an intersection.
- D. Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant.
- E. At any place where parking will obscure or obstruct visibility of any traffic control device.
- F. Within 40 feet of any intersection whether signed or not.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that this Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing to be held on December 14, 2020 and is adopted to promote the health, safety, and security of the community.

105 Sibley Street / P O Box 1390
Benton, Louisiana 71006
(318) 965-2781 / (318)965-2577 fax
www.townofbentonlouisiana.webs.com website

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Stephanie Collier at (318) 965-2781 describing the assistance that is necessary.

The Town of Benton is an equal opportunity employer.

Public Comments:

Charles Grubb spoke to council of his and his wife's support for this ordinance for the safety of traffic in the subdivision. He feels that the subdivision streets were not designed for the purpose of street parking and feels it is not safe. He felt that when cars are parked on the sides of the street it would make emergency vehicles difficult to maneuver through the subdivision.

Jim Broughton cited a safety study that was performed on three different widths of streets and the reported outcome was that narrower streets have a high incident rate than wider streets. He also discussed that the streets in lost river were three feet narrower than the narrowest street in the safety study and that he felt that because the developer had created the covenants which strictly prohibits parking on the streets.

Alderman Cathcart discussed the need for this o

Paul Robinson, he agreed with everything that Mr. Broughton said however, he felt that if this is passed that it will not be valid due to municipal laws cannot trump state laws. The state of Louisiana has laws that regulate parking. He went on to say that he felt that there is room for compromise and that the ordinance is not very well written. He stated that they live in a cul-de-sac and that his truck is parked in the garage along with his wife's vehicle and they have a daughter in collage who comes home often. However, he has a secondary vehicle which is his police unit and that the driveway is not built to accommodate more than three vehicles.

Tasha Robinson stated that she does not agree to a restriction on the use of her property that they have worked so hard to purchase. She also stated that a pool and pool house was in the original plans of the subdivision which would have given property owners a second option for additional parking for visitors.

Paul Robinson asked if this was going to be applied to all subdivisions in the Town or just Lost River Estates.

Alderman Cathcart stated that this ordinance would apply to Lost River Estates alone and that there are parking regulations on the majority of street in the town.

Brad Boyd stated that he and his wife oppose this ordinance and they have multiple drivers in their home.

Courtney Watson was on the phone conference and stated that she opposed to this ordinance.

105 Sibley Street / P O Box 1390
Benton, Louisiana 71006
(318) 965-2781 / (318)965-2577 fax
www.townofbentonlouisiana.webs.com website

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Stephanie Collier at (318) 965-2781 describing the assistance that is necessary.

The Town of Benton is an equal opportunity employer.

2. Ordinance 569 of 2020: An Ordinance to amend the 2020 General Fund and the 2020 1978 Sales Tax Fund

ORDINANCE 569 OF 2020

BUDGET AMENDMENT

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 562 OF 2019 THE FINANCIAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 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 562 of 2019 on December 9, 2019 adopting the 2020 General Fund, Water Sewer Enterprise Fund, and 1978 Sales Tax Fund budgets, and

Revenues	From: \$(1,722,783.00)	To: \$(1,629,979.05)
Administrative	From: \$ 177,990.00	To: \$ 143,762.00
Mayor	From: \$ 46,700.00	To: \$ 46,330.00
Council	From: \$ 30,900.00	To: \$ 30,150.00
Police	From: \$ 695,500.00	To: \$ 768,450.17
Police Chief	From: \$ 73,190.00	To: \$ 68,740.00
Streets	From: \$ 474,012.00	To: \$ 374,865.00
Maintenance	From: \$ 112,581.00	To: \$ 110,013.00
Parks and Recreation	From: \$ 32,000.00	To: \$ 41,297.00
Benton Parish MPC	From: \$ 46,988.00	To: \$ 46,278.00

WHEREAS the Board of Alderman does hereby desire to amend the 2020 General Fund budget by the following changes;

Net (Profit) / Loss	\$ (32,922.00)	\$ (93.88)
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ (1,493,678.00)	\$(1,526,600.00)
Ending Fund Balance	\$ (1,526,600.00)	\$(1,526,693.88)

105 Sibley Street / P O Box 1390
 Benton, Louisiana 71006
 (318) 965-2781 / (318)965-2577 fax
www.townofbentonlouisiana.webs.com website

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Stephanie Collier at (318) 965-2781 describing the assistance that is necessary.

The Town of Benton is an equal opportunity employer.

WHEREAS, the Board of Alderman does hereby desire to amend the 2020 1978 Sales Tax Fund by the following changes;

Revenues	From: \$ (591,250.00)	To: \$ (710,093.61)
Transfers to General Fund	From: \$ 457,000.00	To: \$ 414,297.17
<hr/>		
Net (Profit) / Loss	\$ (134,250.00)	\$ (295,796.44)
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ (2,783,933.01)	\$ (2,918,183.01)
Ending Fund Balance	\$ (2,918,183.01)	\$ (3,213,979.45)

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Benton, Louisiana, 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

Public Comments: None

3. Ordinance 570 of 2020: An Ordinance to adopt the receipts and expenditures of the 2021 General Fund, 1978 Sales Tax Fund, and the Water Sewer Enterprise Fund.

ORDINANCE 570 OF 2020

FY 2021 Budgets

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2021 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, 2021 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021; 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 2021:

General Fund Revenues	<u>\$(1,891,917.38)</u>
General Administrative Expenses	\$ 200,125.00
Mayor Expenses	\$ 46,210.00
Council Expenses	\$ 30,150.00
Chief of Police	\$ 85,450.00
Police Expenses	\$ 700,500.00

105 Sibley Street / P O Box 1390
 Benton, Louisiana 71006
 (318) 965-2781 / (318)965-2577 fax
www.townofbentonlouisiana.webs.com website

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Stephanie Collier at (318) 965-2781 describing the assistance that is necessary.

The Town of Benton is an equal opportunity employer.

Street Expenses	\$ 647,620.00
Maintenance Expenses	\$ 99,920.00
Parks and Recreation Expenses	\$ 34,500.00
Benton Parish MPC	\$ 46,988.00
Total General Fund Expenses	\$1,891,463.00
Net (Profit) / Loss	\$ (454.38)
Beginning Fund Balance	\$(1,526,693.88)
Ending Fund Balance	\$(1,527,148.26)

SECTION 2. The following estimates are hereby adopted to serve as a budget of revenues and expenditures of the Water Sewer FY 2021:

General Administrative Revenues	\$ (715,400.00)
In Water Revenues	\$ (544,500.00)
Out Water Revenue	\$ (1,041,000.00)
In Sewer Revenue	\$ (140,000.00)
Out Sewer Revenue	\$ (436,900.00)
<u>Solid Waste Revenue</u>	<u>\$ (175,000.00)</u>
Total Revenues	\$(3,052,800.00)
General Administrative Expenses	\$ 794,586.00
In Water Expenses	\$ 493,500.00
Out Water Expenses	\$ 888,500.00
In Sewer Expenses	\$ 241,500.00
Out Sewer Expenses	\$ 487,000.00
<u>Solid Waste Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 145,000.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$3,050,086.00
Net (Profit)/ Loss	\$ (2,714.00)
Beginning Fund Balance	\$(2,401,758.97)
Ending Fund Balance	\$(2,404,472.97)

SECTION 3. The following estimates are hereby adopted to serve as a budget of revenues and expenditures of the 1978 Sales Tax Fund FY 2021:

Revenues	\$(710,050.00)
Expenditures	\$ 647,500.00
<u>Net (Profit) / Loss</u>	<u>\$ (62,550.00)</u>

105 Sibley Street / P O Box 1390
Benton, Louisiana 71006
(318) 965-2781 / (318)965-2577 fax
www.townofbentonlouisiana.webs.com website

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Stephanie Collier at (318) 965-2781 describing the assistance that is necessary.

The Town of Benton is an equal opportunity employer.

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

Public Comments: None

Adjourn Public Hearing:

Motion by Alderman Cathcart seconded by Alderman Allen to adjourn
Ayes: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman Leighton
Allen, Alderman Wayne Cathcart, and Alderman Linda Gates

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

105 Sibley Street / P O Box 1390
Benton, Louisiana 71006
(318) 965-2781 / (318)965-2577 fax
www.townofbentonlouisiana.webs.com website

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Stephanie Collier at (318) 965-2781 describing the assistance that is necessary.

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 14, 2020 AT 6:00 PM

Call to Order: Mayor Shelly Horton

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

Public Comments: None

Ayes: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman Leighton Allen, Alderman Wayne Cathcart, and Alderman Linda Gates

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Minutes: Motion by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Carr to approve the minutes of November Meeting

Public Comments: None

Ayes: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman Leighton Allen, Alderman Wayne Cathcart, and Alderman Linda Gates

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Old Business:

1. Final Vote: Ordinance 568 Parking Regulations of Lost River Estates

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE STORAGE OF OR PARKING OF VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT ON THE PUBLIC STREETS OR SIDEWALKS OF LOST RIVER ESTATES, BENTON

Attorney Stinson stated that there is no penalty on the ordinance, and there has to be some type of penalty if there is not a general fine in place for parking.

Motion by Alderman Cathcart seconded by Alderman Carr to table this ordinance and add a penalty and to be reintroduced at the next meeting.

Public Comments: None

105 Sibley Street / P O Box 1390
Benton, Louisiana 71006
(318) 965-2781 / (318)965-2577 fax
www.townofbentonlouisiana.webs.com website

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Stephanie Collier at (318) 965-2781 describing the assistance that is necessary.

The Town of Benton is an equal opportunity employer.

Ayes: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman Leighton Allen, Alderman Wayne Cathcart, and Alderman Linda Gates
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

2. Final Vote: Ordinance 569 Amending the 2020 General Fund and 1978 Sales Tax Budgets

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 562 OF 2019 THE FINANCIAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 FOR THE TOWN OF BENTON, LOUISIANA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOUISIANA LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET ACT

Motion by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Allen to adopt

Public Comments: None
Ayes: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman Leighton Allen, Alderman Wayne Cathcart, and Alderman Linda Gates
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

3. Final Vote: Ordinance 570 Adopting the 2021 General Fund, 1978 Sales Tax, and Water Sewer Enterprise budgets.

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2021 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, 2021 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021; AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS.

Motion by Alderman Cathcart seconded by Alderman Carr to adopt

Public Comments: None
Ayes: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman Leighton Allen, Alderman Wayne Cathcart, and Alderman Linda Gates
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

New Business:

1. Benton Parish MPC Recommendations for approval of the following:

105 Sibley Street / P O Box 1390
Benton, Louisiana 71006
(318) 965-2781 / (318)965-2577 fax
www.townofbentonlouisiana.webs.com website

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Stephanie Collier at (318) 965-2781 describing the assistance that is necessary.

The Town of Benton is an equal opportunity employer.

- a. Hines Subdivision Minor Plat
(0.498 acres / 2 lots located in Section 29, Township 20 North, Range 13 West,
Council District 3) 915 Palmetto Road. Current land use: Single Family
Residential

Motion by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Carr

Public Comments: None

Ayes: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman Leighton
Allen, Alderman Wayne Cathcart, and Alderman Linda Gates

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

- b. Berry Subdivision Minor Plat. Three lots join together for the purpose of rebuilding a
structure replacing the storm damages building.

Motion by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Carr

Public Comments: None

Ayes: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman Leighton
Allen, Alderman Wayne Cathcart, and Alderman Linda Gates

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

2. Approval of the Year to Date Budgets and monthly Financials:

Motion by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Carr to approve

Public Comments: Alderman Jones requested that any large amount
charged on the credit card should be listed on the report.

Ayes: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman Leighton
Allen, Alderman Wayne Cathcart, and Alderman Linda Gates

Nays: None

Abstain: None

105 Sibley Street / P O Box 1390
Benton, Louisiana 71006
(318) 965-2781 / (318)965-2577 fax
www.townofbentonlouisiana.webs.com website

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Stephanie
Collier at (318) 965-2781 describing the assistance that is necessary.

The Town of Benton is an equal opportunity employer.

Absent: None

Adjourn Regular Session:

Motion by Alderman Cathcart seconded by Alderman Jones

Public Comments: None

Ayes: Alderman Jackie Carr, Alderman Ron Jones, Alderman Leighton
Allen, Alderman Wayne Cathcart, and Alderman Linda Gates

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

105 Sibley Street / P O Box 1390
Benton, Louisiana 71006
(318) 965-2781 / (318)965-2577 fax
www.townofbentonlouisiana.webs.com website

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Stephanie Collier at (318) 965-2781 describing the assistance that is necessary.

The Town of Benton is an equal opportunity employer.