

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, FEBRUARY 8, 2021 AT 6:00 PM

Call to Order: Mayor Shelly Horton

Pledge: By Alderman Manning

Invocation: By Alderman Cathcart

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

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

Agenda: Motion by Friday Second by Alderman Carr to approve the Public Hearing Agenda
Public Comments
In Favor
Oppose

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Public Hearing Items:

1. Ordinance 571 of 2021:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF BENTON BY ADDING THERETO SECTION 24-35 PERTAINING TO PARKING IN LOST RIVER ESTATES SUBDIVISION, AND OTHERWISE PERTAINING THERETO

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Benton, Louisiana, that the Code of Ordinances Chapter 24, Article 2, Section 24-35 of the Town of Benton to read as follows:

Section 24-35. Parking in Lost River Estates

(a) 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.

(b) No person shall stop, stand or park a motor vehicle or non-motorized vehicle as described herein, 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.

1. On a sidewalk or in a neutral area between the street and sidewalk.
2. In front of a public or private driveway.
3. Within an intersection.
4. Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant.
5. At any place where parking will obscure or obstruct visibility of any traffic control device.
6. Within forty (40) feet of any intersection whether signed or not.

(c) For purposes of this Ordinance, "Public Street" specifically applies to streets owned and maintained

by the Town of Benton within Lost River Estates.

(d) Any vehicle that is parked in violation of this section shall be subject to the following penalties:

1. For a first offense, a written notice of warning shall be issued.
2. For a second offense within the same calendar year as the first offense, said offense shall be punishable by a fine up to \$100.00.
3. For a third or any subsequent offense within the same calendar year as the prior

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offenses; said offense shall be punishable by a fine up to \$200.00.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that if any provision or item of this Ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions, items or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared severable.

Public Comments: Mr. Broughton and Mr. Grubbs both gave a brief statement in support of Ordinance 571.

Adjourn:

Motion by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Manning to adjourn Public Hearing.

In Favor 5

Opposed 0

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

Call to Order: Mayor Shelly Horton

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

Public Comments None
In Favor 5
Oppose 0

Minutes: Motion by Alderman Cathcart seconded by Alderman Friday to approve the minutes of January Meeting

Public Comments None
In Favor 5
Oppose 0

Old Business:

1. Ordinance 571 of 2021: Final Vote for Adoption

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF BENTON BY ADDING THERETO SECTION 24-35 PERTAINING TO PARKING IN LOST RIVER ESTATES SUBDIVISION, AND OTHERWISE PERTAINING THERETO

Motion by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Carr to adopt Ordinance 571 on February 8th, 2021 by the following votes:

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. Assistant Chief Weaver: New Hires – Filling two vacancies

- Officer Angela Benfield: To fill one full-time vacancy (S. Collier)

Motion by Alderman Carr seconded by Alderman Friday to approve Officer Angela Benfield to fill the full-time vacancy.

Public Comments: Council asked Officer Benfield about the distance between home and work concerning the take home car. Assistant Chief Weaver said that the Chief has a plan to for the council to consider that may resolve any issues concerning the take home car and he will be presenting that plan to the council when he returns from certification class in Baton Rouge. Council also asked Officer Benfield various questions and then welcomed her to the Town Police Department.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

- Mark Trenor: To fill one full-time vacancy (L. Taylor)

Motion by Alderman Manning seconded by Alderman Carr to approve Officer Mark Trenor to fill the full-time vacancy.

Public Comments: Council asked Officer Trenor various question and then welcomed Trenor to the Town Police Department.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

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2. Mayor Horton: request approval for sale of land in Industrial Park.

Mayor Horton made note on record that the wording of the line item on the agenda is not exact. He said that he is requesting approval to have Attorney Stinson investigate any laws which govern the sale of property in a municipal industrial park to a private business. Also, council raised questions of land use, job creation, and timeline for development of the property if sold.

Motion by Alderman Cathcart seconded by Alderman Manning to table this item until more information has been provided by the business owner on their plans for the property.

Public Comments: None

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

3. Mayor Horton: request approval for land donation (5 acres) in Industrial Park to the Benton Fire District 4 for construction of a new Training Facility

Mayor Horton stated that this has been discussed and unofficially approved in a meeting several months therefore we are asking for official approval to move forward with the donation of the land.

Motion by Alderman Manning seconded by Alderman Carr to table this item until facility plans are reviewed.

Public Comments: Alderman Manning inquired about siren noise near residential homes. Stephanie Collier replied that this facility is going to be a classroom facility with training area on the back of the property. This is not going to be a station where trucks will be coming or going with sirens on.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

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4. Mayor Horton: request approval to supply water and sewer service for new business complex, North Bossier Corporate Park

Mayor Horton mentioned that the owner is going to petition the town for annexation of the property south of Tubbs Hardware on Hwy 3. Construction drawings were provided to council to review. A business complex where office space will be leased as well as a fast-food chain interest in a space. The property owner is ready to break ground, however, before he can move forward the State requires verification of water and sewerage service. Will the council agree to provide water and sewerage services on the basis of his annexation.

Motion by Alderman Cathcart seconded by Alderman Jones to approve the services based on his petitioning for annexation.

Public Comments: Alderman Cathcart and Mayor Horton discussed the responsibility of the property owner to get approve for the project to construct water distribution and wastewater collection system in the State Hwy right of way.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

5. Mayor Horton: request approval for 2021 Street Project:

Mayor Horton discussed that Carrier Avenue has been removed from the list of streets included in this project and the remaining streets are in Council District 2.

Motion by Alderman Manning seconded by Alderman Carr to approve the 2021 street project.

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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6. Audit Letter of Engagement: Approval of Cook and Morehart letter of engagement for the 2020 audit.

Mayor Horton requested for approval to proceed with Cook and Morehart for the 2020/21 audit.

Motion by Alderman Cathcart seconded by Alderman Friday to approve
Public Comment None
In Favor 5
Opposed 0

7. Request Approval of Monthly Financials and YTD Budget (as of January 31, 2021)

Motion by Alderman Jones seconded by Alderman Manning to approve the financials.
Public Comments: None
In favor 5
Opposed 0

Adjourn Regular Session:

Motion by Alderman Carr seconded by Alderman Manning to adjourn
In favor 5
Opposed 0

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