

Town of Benton
Board of Aldermen
June 2, 2026
220 East Rail Road Ave.
Benton, MS 39040
6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Kim Martin with Alderman Demus opening with prayer. The following members were present: Robert Demus, Colby Parks, Steve Pigg and Greg Shaffer.

Minutes of the May 5, 2026 meeting were emailed to the Mayor and Aldermen on May 7, 2026. Motion to approve was made by Tamara Boatner, seconded by Steve Pigg, with Colby Parks and Robert Demus approving via email.

The Mayor began with an update on Kim Tyler who is currently in the hospital with severe lung issues. She asks that we all be in prayer for Kim's recovery.

~~April~~ ^{May} expenditures were read and approved with motion made by Colby Parks, seconded by Steve Pigg; motion passed with all in favor.

Paul Johnson reviewed the possibility of increasing insurance coverage on the fire truck from \$60,000 to \$350,000 for an additional \$334 cost. After some discussion, Colby Parks made a motion to take the increased coverage with copy of the quote from the insurance to be emailed to the aldermen for review; motion seconded by Greg Shaffer, the motion passed with all in favor.

The mayor reviewed the need for a second computer in the office. She noted it will give the town a backup for the water program in the event the current computer fails; it will also allow two work spaces with access to computer. Quotes from BBI for a desktop and a laptop with all programs installed was reviewed; prices were also reviewed for just a computer and a laptop with no additional programs installed. Motion was made by Colby Parks to approve the laptop purchase from BBI; seconded by Robert Demus; motion was passed with all in favor.

The mayor stated because of the outcry of the public regarding the impending charge increase for water and/or sewer, she did a quick study on recent facts and figures of cost for maintenance of the water/sewer system. As maintenance is above half the cost of the income from the system, Mayor Martin suggested the

town get an expert to do a study to determine if and how much of an increase is needed to keep our current system in good condition. After a lengthy discussion with the townspeople present regarding the need to prioritize our water/sewer requirements, maintain the current system of a flat rate or move to meter usage (meters placed several years ago are no longer useful) and move toward what is best for the community, it was determined to review this matter at the next meeting as well as review further detailed cost and revenue. General consensus among the aldermen was agreement to delay the increase of rates until further study and to rediscuss this possibility at the next meeting.

Monica Willis respectfully requested that the alert system be used for any future announcements noting it would not require any staff to come into the office but can be done from an iPhone. The mayor agreed to take this action.

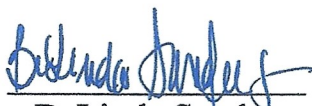
Thelma Burks requested a copy of the Ordinance for demolition of a building. The clerk will make a copy of this Ordinance and give Ms. Burks a call.

Paul Johnson presented the Volunteer Fire Department report noting a response to 28 calls during the month of May. Colby Parks thanked the department for all that it does.

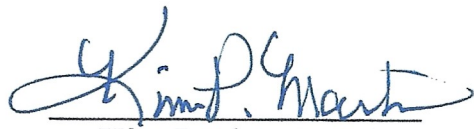
Paul presented an approximate quote of \$5500 from Delta Hydraulics to repair hydraulic system on the town's backhoe. The board requested Paul obtain additional quotes for this repair and use the lowest cost one.

General discussion was made by community members present concerning limbs that need removing from a ditch as well as tall weeds along street that need cutting.

The mayor asked if any other business needed to come before the board; motion to adjourn was made by Colby Parks, seconded by Robert Demus and passed with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm on June 2, 2026.



BeLinda Sanders
Clerk



Kim Puckett Martin
Mayor

Town of Bentonia
May 5, 2026
220 East Rail Road Ave.
Bentonia, MS 39040
6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Kim Martin, Alderman Demus opened with prayer. The following members were present: Tamara Boatner, Robert Demus, Colby Parks, Steve Pigg and Greg Shaffer.

Minutes of the April 7, 2026 meeting were emailed to the Mayor and Aldermen on April 8, 2026. Motion to approve was made by Colby Parks, seconded by Robert Demus via email with Tamara Boatner approving at current meeting.

Steve Pigg stated he would like to bring back to this meeting the \$50,000 from fire insurance on old building approved in April meeting to be given to the VFD. He stated the town provides the building for the fire department and the insurance payment was on behalf of the loss of the building and did not include any contents; the point being that the total money should stay in the town. The mayor noted the \$400,000 grant given the Fire Department was based on replacing the building. After discussion, motion was made to retain the \$50,000 from the insurance and pay for VFD new building expenditures as needed and requested by the VFD. Motion was made by Greg Shaffer, seconded by Colby Parks and carried with approval from all aldermen.

April expenditures were read and approved with motion made by Colby Parks, seconded by Tamara Boatner, motion passed with all in favor.

The variance letter request from Nina Demus was reviewed.

The mayor reviewed an issue with the town ordinance requiring mobile homes lots to be at least 70x140; she stated many lots in the town are only 60x140 which is simply not large enough to allow a home and the variances of 25 ft on all sides. After discussion, motion was made by Steve Pigg, seconded by Greg Shaffer to change the town ordinance to reflect mobile home sites of 60x140 and 15 ft variance on all sides. Motion was carried with all in favor.

The mayor addressed the issue of the mobile home on Loretta Thornton's property that has not yet been removed from the property. Loretta Thornton informed the board she had signed an affidavit against the previous contractor that she had hired to remove the home and is at this time waiting to go to court and get the return of her money; she will then get another contractor to have the home removed.

Paul Johnson reviewed the need for a transformer replacement on the water well generator. The transformer must manually be turned on/off after each power failure. After discussion of cost and labor, motion was made by Colby Parks, seconded by Steve Pigg, and carried with all in favor to move forward with this project.

The mayor noted the date and time for the ribbon cutting on the new town sign will be June 2, 5:30 pm before the next board meeting. Mayor Martin noted the flower garden will be dedicated to Ms. Owens who allows use of her property during the Blues Festival.

The mayor presented and reviewed the information provided by Ivan Holder regarding the cost of material and labor to tap and provide water and sewer on any system. After discussing the fixed cost and the possible cost that could arise due to distance of tap spot from home, it was determined the contractor (Savell Services, LLC) should go to the site and assess with the homeowner what is needed, then the town can give the homeowner the cost with minimum tap fee being \$1400. Robert Demus noted the meter site should always be where it can be reached without going on homeowner's property.

Noting the increased number of breakdowns in the current water and sewer system, the mayor addressed increasing monthly fees. Ms. Monica Willis asked to speak; voicing her opinion that the board was not doing their best for the town but wanting instead to tax those on Social Security; the board responded to her complaints and addressed those issues with Ms. Willis. With further discussion, motion was made by Steve Pigg, seconded by Colby Parks, to increase monthly fees for residential usage to \$35 for water and \$35 for sewer and to increase business fees to \$100 for water and \$100 for sewer. Motion was carried with all in favor.

Mayor Martin noted complaints received about ATV riding in town and on railroad track. She reviewed the ordinance about riding ATVs on street and noted that it is illegal to ride on railroad tracks.

Insurance proposal on Fire Pumper Truck was presented by Paul Johnson. He noted the proposal from Volunteer Fire Insurance of Mississippi at a cost of \$1,649.00 for a year. Motion made by Colby Parks, seconded by Tamara Boatner, to accept this proposal. Motion carried with full approval.

Presented by Mayor Martin was a Mobile Home Checklist which will be added to the website so that it can be easily accessed by anyone interested in moving a mobile home into the city limits.

Steve Pigg stated the Asphalt company on the highway needs to remove the tin on its property and the town needs to find why their taxes are going to Madison County. Other places needing clean up were then discussed as well as some continuing to get water but have no meter.

The mayor asked if any other business needed to come before the board. Motion to adjourn was made by Colby Parks, seconded by Steve Pigg, motion passed with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM on May 5, 2026.


BeLinda Sanders
Clerk


Kim Puckett Martin
Mayor

Town of Bentonina
April 7, 2026
220 East Rail Road Ave.
Bentonina, MS 39040
6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Kim Martin, Mr. Demus opening with prayer. The following members were present: Robert Demus, Colby Parks, Tamara Boatner. Absent: Steve Pigg and Greg Shaffer.

March 2026 minutes were approved via email March 5, 2026. Motion was made by Tamara Boatner, seconded by Colby Parks, with Steve Pigg approving as well. No vote from Robert Demus. No vote from absent member, Greg Shaffer. Motion passed with majority in favor.

The mayor introduced BeLinda Sanders who will be taking over some of Kim Tyer's duties. The mayor noted that Kim will be working less; she also noted how much she has enjoyed working with Kim Tyer and how much she will miss seeing and being around her.

March expenditures were approved with Colby Parks making motion, seconded by Robert Demus, motion passed with all in favor. Mr. Demus requested that all expenditures be read in full in the future meetings.

A couple of the citizens in attendance asked about the letter regarding the missed water sample. The mayor apologized and explained the notice to the Town was not received until after the incident was negated, however, the law still required notice be sent to the public.

Amy Glascoe addressed the mayor and board requesting a permit to move a mobile home on M Bar S Lane and connect to the town's sewer system. After discussion and review of paperwork, motion was made by Colby Parks, seconded by Robert Demus, motion passed with all in favor.

Kelsey Harber addressed the mayor and board of alderman requesting a permit to tear down their current home and move a mobile home into its space. After review of the documents presented by Ms. Harber, discussion was had as to the proper tear

down and removal of old home if it has any asbestos. Ms. Harber noted the home was being demolished by an experienced local contractor. Motion for approval was made by Tamara Boatner, seconded by Colby Parks, motion passed with all in favor.

Monica Willis questioned the maintenance policy as to fair and consistent to all residents noting that for the last two years that the grass on the town right of way would be cut up to her property line, skip her property, then move on to the property beyond hers. She noted she has seen an employer in town truck during the day cutting down a tree in the yard of a neighbor. The mayor addressed the maintenance complaint noting she would not allow her staff to be endangered while cutting grass on a steep embankment. Ms. Willis asked about weed eating the ditch. The mayor asked Paul Johnson to speak on this matter. Paul noted if the yards look to be maintained by the owner, then the town does not maintain. He noted that all the ditches are cut by a weed eater if can't be maintained by lawnmower; he also offered if the homeowner ask for a for additional weed eating, he will be glad to take additional swipes of the cutter. As to the tree cutting, the mayor noted we have staff who also volunteer during firefighting needs and perhaps this staff was in the volunteer mode at that moment. She also noted Ms. Willis should file a complaint on this type issue by written means with the mayor.

The mayor noted that although we did not get the grant from Benny Thompson's office, Lobbyist Sam Martin met with us today to say we have been awarded \$400,000 through the State Senate and Legislature to help get new fire station and we should receive funds by June 1. This is almost enough to allow the purchase of the Yazoo Embroidery building from Roger Hancock. The mayor then asked Paul to speak on this. Paul stated in addition to the purchase of the building, retrofitting of the building to fire station standards will cost \$135,000. The mayor noted insurance from Nationwide paid \$25,000 for Volunteer Fire Department and \$25,000 to the old town hall. She then noted the funds allocated to the town hall could be given to VFD. Motion made by Colby Parks, seconded by Tamara Boatner motion passed with all in agreement to allow the insurance funds allocated to Town Hall to be used for the VFD if needed to complete purchase/retrofit of new building.

The mayor then spoke on the possibility of land donation by Mike Osborne. The land being considered is the acreage behind Sadler Granite Works, Yazoo Embroidery and the car lot on Hwy. 49 South. The mayor and aldermen expressed

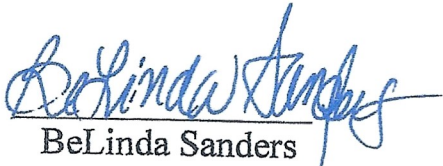
their excitement on this possibility and discussed many possible uses of the property.

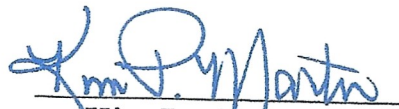
The mayor then reviewed the new street lights; and stated she will get staff from Entergy to come and review other possible placements. Three other possible areas were noted: between Woods Subdivision and Bentonina Bugs, the water curve and by 535 E Railroad.

Other discussions included possible dates for the new sign ribbon cutting. Tentative dates are April 27 or May 4. It was noted Duck Holmes donated a big metal guitar to be concreted next to the town sign. Particularly to be invited are Yazoo Visitors Bureau, Duck Holmes, The Town, Blue Front and the Blues members listed on the sign. Robert Demus stated noted it would be good to invite Ms. Holmes here as well.

Paul Johnson then reported on behalf of the VFD noting the calls for the month within town limits and outside of town.

The mayor asked if any other business needed to come before the board. Motion to adjourn was made by Colby Parks, seconded by Tamara Boatner, motion passed with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM on April 7, 2026.


BeLinda Sanders
Clerk


Kim Puckett Martin
Mayor