

TOWN OF BENTONIA
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
August 5, 2025

Comprehensive & Zoning Meeting

Called to order at 6:00 Pm by Mayor Kim Martin.

Present: Steve Pigg, Robert Demus, Tamara Boatner, Greg Shaffer

Absent: Colby Parks

- Madaline Ezell (Mississippi Planning & Development) attended to answer zoning regulation questions.
- Community members raised concerns about rebuilding restrictions if property is more than 51% damaged and not in a residential zone. Per Ms. Ezell they would not be able to rebuild and it would be zoned the way the it is marked on the map. Community members also requested information on the how the property would be affected upon the property owner's death, would heirs be allowed to continue a homestead. Ms. Ezell stated that once the grand fathered in member passes away it would be zone according to the map and heirs would not be allowed to remain using it as residential.
- Mayor Martin encouraged residents to mark their homes on the zoning map to reflect residential zoning and expressed her desire to maintain Bentonia's small-town feel.
- Hwy 49 Corridor to be zoned commercial.
- Zoning decision tabled until the map is revised by Ms. Ezell.

Regular Board Meeting

Called to order by Mayor Kim Martin

Attendance: Tamara Boatner, Greg Shaffer, Steve Pigg, Robert Demus and members of the community

Absent: Colby Parks

- Minutes and bills approved (Motion: Steve Pigg / Second: Greg Shaffer / All in favor).

Public Comments & Discussions:

- A member of the community reminded the board that executive session must follow state laws (limited to personnel, litigation, purchasing of property, or security matters). She stated the June session did not comply.
- Greg Shaffer questioned the delay in moving fuel tanks to the bank building. A service line requiring a certified electrician is needed.
- Paul Johnson (Fire Dept.) gave July service report.
 - Concerns raised over fire department personnel issues.
 - Member of the community expressed concern and urged action be taken to resolve personnel issue with in the Town of Bentonia Volunteer Fire Department.

- A meeting will be held between the fire department, Mayor, and Steve Pigg to mediate the issues.

Requests:

- Cannon Williams requested approval to connect her father's trailer (East Railroad Ave) to town sewer.

Town Appointments:

- Judge & Attorney were not reappointed in the prior meeting.
 - Motion passed to retain Peyton Randolph III (Judge) and Robert Parrish (Attorney) (Motion: Steve Pigg / Second: Greg Shaffer / All in favor).

Old Business:

- Ashley Dill was informed by the mayor that the town cannot cover her insurance deductible for a tree that had fallen.
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Executive Session:

- Motion to close regular session and enter executive session: Greg Shaffer / Second: Steve Pigg/ All in favor
- Motion to exit executive session and open regular meeting: Steve Pigg / Second: Greg Shaffer/ All in favor
- Action Taken From Executive Session:
 - Willie Cole hired as part-time Police Officer (Motion: Tamara Boatner / Second: Steve Pigg / All in favor).

Other Items:

- Permits & Inspections tabled until full board is present.
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Adjournment:

- Motion: Steve Pigg / Second: Greg Shaffer/All in favor

Kim Tyer
Clerk

Kim Martin
Mayor

