

**Town of Bentonia  
Monthly Meeting  
October 7, 2025**

*The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Kim Martin. Members present: Steve Pigg, Robert Demus, Tamara Boatner, Greg Shaffer and Town Attorney Robert Parrish.  
Absent: Colby Parks*

*Minutes and bill for September 2025 were approved motion made by Steve Pigg and seconded by Tamara Boatner, motion passed with all in favor.*

*Sammy Price addressed the mayor and board concerning an issue he had with the police department for not bringing a copy of his beer license to town hall. Price stated that he was put in handcuff and in the police vehicle. Alderman Robert Demus called Mayor Kim Martin and she went to the location and asked officer Hammer to release him until she could find out if a copy was needed at town hall.*

*The mayor stated that Chief Doug Kirkland is in charge of police business and that if you are disrespectful or disorderly you could be arrested.*

*Carolyn Hicks was on the agenda to speak but did not show up for the meeting.*

*Bids were opened for the demolition of 207 and 209 W. Railroad Ave, Bentonia, MS. Steve Pigg questioned if the bids had been opened prior to the meeting. The mayor stated that they had not been opened prior to the meeting.*

<i>Pristine lawn care and tree service</i>	<i>\$14,500</i>
<i>Benji Ragland</i>	<i>\$25,000</i>
<i>Carson Works</i>	<i>\$12,000</i>
<i>Carson Works bid was not for demolition it was for clean up of lots</i>	
<i>Parker Builders</i>	<i>\$28,500</i>
	<i>\$500.00 for clean up</i>

*Steve Pigg made motion to accept the lowest bid, seconded by Tamara Boatner, motion passed majority in favor. Greg Shaffer recused himself from the vote.*

*Monica Willis addressed the mayor and board of alderman concerning how the town recoups the cleaning fees. Steve Pigg explained that the bill goes against the owner's property taxes. Ms. Willis also expressed her concern over a citizen that told her they were not paying a water/sewer bill and that they never would. Robert Demus stated he would rather her not discuss other people's business, if there is an issue that person needs to come before the board.*

*Monica Willis questioned board members about bids not being sealed when an alderman was awarded a bid on an air conditioning unit. Attorney Robert Parrish stated that it was illegal and the state auditor is reviewing the matter.*

*The mayor presented the board with an estimate to have the street light bulbs replaced with LED lights. Cost of replacement bulbs \$2282.70. She stated that it would brighten the town up at night. Steve Pigg asked if this had been budgeted for. It would fall under care of public property. Steve Pigg stated that we already have a short fall on the budget and questioned if we had funds for that. Motion was made to go forward with replacing the bulbs by Greg Shaffer and seconded by Robert Demus, motion passed with majority in favor, with Steve Pigg voting No.*

*The mayor meet with Lekisha Levenway from Mississippi State Extension Program and they donated a community book house to be placed across from town hall. We will get books donated by community members. The cost was \$830.00 and it was donated by Mississippi State Extension program.*

*Mayor gave a brief update on the town sign she hopes to get donated that will be placed near the intersection of East Railroad and Cannon Avenue. It will have the alderman and mayors' names along with Yazoo Convention and Business Bureau. It will be viewed by the amtrack when it passes through Bentonia and also will be a phot opt. for the blues festival.*

*Discussion was held concerning fuel receipts not being turned in.*

*Building permit fees were discussed and will be tabled until the town can find an inspector.*

*Charles Davis addressed the mayor and board of alderman concerning on going issues with his water and sewer. The mayor stated that the previous administration had a resolution and Mr. Davis would not allow them to correct the issue. The pump would need to be placed on Mr. Davis's property. A resolution to the problem was addressed and the Mr. Davis refused.*

*Monica Willis stated that water/sewer rates were increased less than 2 years ago and that she is tired of supplementing rich people who use more water. The mayor stated Monica has no facts or basis for the claim. She is prejudice against people who have more money than her,*

*Steve Pigg stated that in order to qualify for low interest loans to update the water and sewer rates there is a minimum charge and the town is currently below the minimum on what is being charged for water and sewer.*

*Charles Davis asked when the water tower was last cleaned and stated we need to fix what we have before rates are increased. The mayor stated we have a water operator who handles that Ivan Holders is our water and sewer operator and he handles that.*

*Motion to close regular meeting and go in to executive session was made by Robert Demus and seconded by Steve Pigg, motion passed with all in favor.*

*Motion to close executive session and resume regular session was made by Steve Pigg, seconded by Robert Demus, motion passed with all in favor.*

*Action taken from executive session: On the recommendation of the town attorney, it was decided that a town employee would be terminated.*

*Mayor and Alderman's pay will increase.*

*Mayor salary will increase to \$550 per month*

*Alderman salary will increase to \$200 per month. Motion made by Robert Demus, seconded by Steve Pigg, motion passed with all in favor.*

*Paul Johnson asked when the property would be cleaned up near where they plan to build the fire station. Mayor stated a cleanup letter would go out to address that. He also gave a brief update of calls responded to by the volunteer fire department the prior month.*

*Motion to adjourn was made by Robert Demus and seconded by Steve Pigg, motion passed with all in favor.*

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*Kim Tyer, Clerk*

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*Kim P. Martin, Mayor*

*Steve Pigg* \_\_\_\_\_

*Robert Demus* \_\_\_\_\_

*Tamara Boatner* \_\_\_\_\_

*Greg Shaffer* \_\_\_\_\_