

Bentonville City Council

Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2025



The City Council of Bentonville, Arkansas, met in regular session Tuesday, August 12th, at 6:00 p.m., at City Hall, 305 S.W. A Street, Bentonville, Arkansas.

Present were Council Members Octavio Sanchez, Cindy Acree, Holly Hook, Chris Sooter, Gayatri Agnew, Beckie Seba, and Bill Burckart. Aubrey Patterson was absent. Also present were Mayor Stephanie Orman, City Attorney Nicholas Henry, City Clerk Malorie Marrs, the press, city staff, and the audience. Several members of the city staff and the public attended remotely via Zoom.

Mayor Orman called the meeting to order, and led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by a moment of silence in support of our armed forces.

Motion was made by Council Member Sanchez to approve the minutes of July 8th, regular council meeting as presented, second by Council Member Agnew. There was no discussion.

Motion carried (7-0)

A motion was made by Council Member Sooter to suspend the rules regarding the reading of all ordinances on three separate days, and further that all ordinances and resolutions be read by title only, second by Council Member Sanchez. There was no discussion. Motion carried (7-0)

Motion for Consent Agenda:

-Council Member Sooter motioned to move items 2 & 13 under New Business, and items 1 & 4 under Utility Board to a consent agenda

Seconded by Council Member Acree. Motion carried (7-0).

I. Consent Agenda Items

New Business

4. Resolution 8-12-25 A: Awarding RFP-25-39 to Legends Air Center for Westside Hangar Development

Resolution awarding RFP-25-39 to Legends Air Center for Westside hangar development at the Bentonville Municipal Airport. No budget adjustment is needed.

5. Resolution 8-12-25 B: Awarding RFP-25-40 to Anchor Roofing for Eastside Hangar Development

A Resolution awarding RFP-25-40 to Anchor Roofing for Eastside Hangar Development at the Bentonville Municipal Airport. No budget adjustment is needed.

6. Resolution 8-12-25 C: to Enter into an Agreement with Start 2 Finish, LLC

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into an agreement with Start 2

Finish, LLC for timing services to be performed for the Run Bentonville Race Series as well as the Run Bentonville Half Marathon in 2026. No budget adjustment is needed.

7. Resolution 8-12-25 D: Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to Accept a Donation from Walmart Inc.

Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to accept a donation from Walmart Inc., in the amount of \$250,000.00, for the Bentonville E-Bike Rebate Program. A budget adjustment is needed to recognize funds.

8. Resolution 8-12-25 E: Setting a Public Hearing for a Utility Easement Vacation (VAC25-0024)

Resolution to set a Public Hearing for August 26, 2025 for a Utility Easement Vacation located at Lot 14 of Kensington Subdivision Phase 1 (VAC25-0024).

9. Resolution 8-12-25 F: Setting a Public Hearing to Vacate a Street Right of Way (VAC25-0025)

Resolution to set a Public Hearing for August 26, 2025 to vacate a Street Right of Way located at parcel 01-00747-000, 803 SE J Street of the Walmart Campus (VAC25-0025).

10. Resolution 8-12-25 G: Approving Change Order #1 to ARDOT 090613 - Hwy 12/279 Intersection Improvements

ARDOT 090613 - Hwy 12/279 Intersection Improvements A Resolution approving change order #1 to Garver's Professional Service Agreement. A budget adjustment is needed.

Utility Board

1. Resolution 8-12-25 H: Authorizing a Water Utilities Overarching Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

A resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into a professional services agreement with Freese & Nichols, Inc, in the amount of \$487,496.00, to generate, coordinate, and update an Overarching Comprehensive Water Utilities Capital Improvement Plan. Utility Board approved 5-0. No budget adjustment is needed.

2. Resolution 8-12-25 I: for Emergency Connection with Benton Washington Regional Public Water

Resolution to enter into agreement with Benton Washington Regional Public Water Authority for two 24" emergency connections as payment for a Permanent Waterline (2.52ac) & Temporary Construction (4.81ac) easement through Slaughter Pen Park for the construction of a 54" Transmission line. Utility Board approved 5-0. No budget adjustment is needed.

City Attorney Nicholas Henry read the consent items out loud by title only, motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Burckart.
Consent Agenda passes (7-0).

II. New Business NON-Consent Public Comment to be Heard with Agenda Item

1. "Months of Summer Meals" Proclamation *Item moved to August 26th, 2025 meeting*

2. Informational: Ozark Regional Transit Informational

Update from Ozark Regional Transit to Council.

Joel with ORT gave a quarterly update on the usage of the public transportation systems. Overall ridership is up; they are looking to do an artist installation on the buses and at the stop around the Community Center.

Spoke about the new “City Mapper” app. Anyone can use it, and is available in all cities. Soon it will be partnering with “Parking Mapper”.

Council Member Agnew initiated a discussion on the city’s on-demand transit service, emphasizing the need for a formal review of its performance and future direction; Dan Weese concurred, noting that continued evaluation would be beneficial. The dual-city approach to transit was acknowledged as a successful and well-received strategy. Council Members also addressed infrastructure concerns, specifically bus shelters and accessibility. Council Member Agnew highlighted the need for accessibility improvements in areas experiencing increased ridership. Council Member Sanchez inquired about the status of the bus stop on Water Tower Road, and Ozark Regional Transit (ORT) confirmed that it is currently in place. Council Member Burckart added that a summary of information is needed to help understand the usage between on-demand services and fixed-route options, with perhaps drawing up a plan for more fixed options if needed.

Mayor Orman, mentioned the use-and if applicable- the need to use grant funds for any of the projects.

3. Informational: Public Art Complaint Resolution City Council final determination on City Council final determination on public art piece All Biker(s) Welcome. No budget adjustment is needed.

Due to the established complaint process, this item was brought to council for public discussion.

Entire conversation can be view [HERE](#) (MIN 29:00 – 2:55:00)

Seventeen residents spoke during the meeting, offering a range of perspectives on what the mural represents and how it should be interpreted.

Once all community members had chance to make statements, council motioned to close the public comment portion.

Council Members discussed various situations surrounding the mural, the complaint process, mediation compromises, and what various artistic interpretations have come forward throughout the installment.

Council Members sought respect, and acceptance for all.

Council Member Agnew motioned to dismiss the complaint, and affirm the mural passed on the June 24th, 2025 agenda, motion seconded by Council Member Sooter.

(NO, Sanchez, Acree, Seba, Hook) (YES Sooter, Agnew, Burckart)

Motion failed.

Council deliberated it's options, asking what can be done to bring this matter to a closure making the most sense for all and the artist to reach a compromise.

Mayor Orman reminded, summarized & restated items in this process; City Legal recommended to bring the mural back to its original look as voted on, Council voted to just remove the social media handle, due to code the city cannot weigh in on the decision only council. The City is committed to amending the process.

In a second motion Council Member Seba proposed to remove the mural completely, seconded by Council Member Sanchez (NO Acree, Sooter, Agnew, Burckart) (YES Seba, Hook, Sanchez)
Motion failed

Shelli Kerr (not present at the meeting) discussed the mediation process with the artist and the city, to work to come to a compromise. City Attorney Nick Henry read the notes from the mediation report stating the parties came to an impasse, but all parties remained respectful and cordial throughout the meeting.

In a third motion Council Member Sanchez moved to pause discussion until next meeting, seconded by Council Member Agnew (NO Acree, Hook, Burckart) (YES Seba, Sooter, Agnew, Sanchez)
Motion Passes

III. Planning

1. **Ordinance 2025-145: Property Line Adjustment - Lots 5 & 6 of Peach Orchard Addition - 305 Peach Orchard Road (PLA25-0017)**

The Planning Commission voted 6-0, recommending approval.

An Ordinance Accepting A Property Line Adjustment Of Lots 3 And 4 Of Peach Orchard Addition Creating New Lots 5 And 6 Of Peach Orchard Addition To The City Of Bentonville, Arkansas; And For Other Purposes.

City Attorney Nicholas Henry read the ordinance out loud by title only, motion to approve by Council Member Burckart, seconded by Council Member Sanchez. Ordinance passes (7-0).

2. **Ordinance 2025-146: Lot Split - Lots 39, 40, & 41 of Clark's Addition - 214 & 216 Southwest Glover Street (LS25-0027)**

The Planning Commission voted 6-0, recommending approval.

An Ordinance Accepting A Lot Split Of Lots 10 And 36 Of Clark's Addition Creating

New Lots 39, 40, And 41 Of Clark's Addition To The City Of Bentonville, Arkansas; And For Other Purposes.

City Attorney Nicholas Henry read the ordinance out loud by title only, motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Agnew. Ordinance passes (7-0).

3. Ordinance 2025-147: Property Line Adjustment - Lots 14, 15 & 16 of Fairfield Addition - 801 SE G ST (PLA25-0015)

The Planning Commission voted 6-0, recommending approval.

An Ordinance Accepting A Property Line Adjustment Of Lots 14, 15, And 16, Block 4 Of Fairfield Addition Creating New Lot 29, Block 4 Of Fairfield Addition To The City Of Bentonville, Arkansas; And For Other Purposes.

City Attorney Nicholas Henry read the ordinance out loud by title only, motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Agnew. Ordinance passes (7-0).

4. Ordinance 2025-148: Property Line Adjustment - Lot 27, Block 23 of Deming's 2nd Addition - 809 Northeast A Street (PLA25-0019)

The Planning Commission voted 6-0, recommending approval.

An Ordinance Accepting A Property Line Adjustment Of Lot 10 And The South 25 Feet Of Lot 9, Block 23 Of Demming's 2nd Addition Creating New Lot 27, Block 23 Of Demming's 2nd Addition To The City Of Bentonville, Arkansas; And For Other Purposes.

City Attorney Nicholas Henry read the ordinance out loud by title only, motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Agnew. Ordinance passes (7-0).

5. Ordinance 2025-149: Lot Split - Lots 15 and 16, Block 2 of Sunset Addition - 909 Northwest 9th Street (LS25-0014)

The Planning Commission voted 7-0, recommending approval. (June 3, 2025 PC)

An Ordinance Accepting A Lot Split Of Lots 14, Block 2 Of Sunset Addition Creating New Lots 15 And 16, Block 2 Of Sunset Addition To The City Of Bentonville, Arkansas; And For Other Purposes.

City Attorney Nicholas Henry read the ordinance out loud by title only, motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Agnew. Ordinance passes (7-0).

IV. Other Business/Announcements/Comments

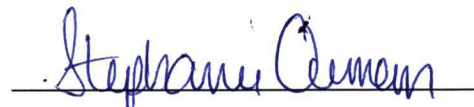
- a. Discussion to move the November 11th Council Meeting due to the holiday

Motion to adjourn meeting Council Member Burckart, Seconded Council Member Agnew, motion passes.

The next Bentonville City Council meeting will be on Tuesday August 26, 2025.



Malorie Marrs, City Clerk



Stephanie Orman, Mayor

