

Bentonville City Council

Meeting Minutes

August 26, 2025



The City Council of Bentonville, Arkansas, met in regular session Tuesday, August 26th, 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, Bill Burckart, & Aubrey Patterson. 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.

I. **New Business**

(opening the public hearing in City Hall Chambers before moving onto the library for remainder of the agenda. This action is to ensure everyone has access to the public hearing, as it was published to meet within the City Hall-Council Chambers)

2. Public Hearing: to Authorize the Issuance of 2025 Bonds

Public hearing authorizing the issuance of a revenue bond in the amount of \$55,000,000.00 for the purpose of financing capital improvements to the downtown wastewater facility and the sale of the bond to the Arkansas Development Finance Authority as part of the State Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund Program. An ordinance will be forthcoming at a future meeting.

Mayor Orman opened the public hearing at City Hall Council Chambers. Seeing and hearing no public comment regarding the bond, Mayor Orman adjourned the meeting from City Hall to the Library for the remainder of the meeting agenda items

Bentonville City Council: Meeting Minutes-August 26, 2025 (cont.)

Before getting to the agenda items, Mayor Orman took a moment to make a statement indicating a few guidelines pertaining to respect and order during the meeting, as there was a large crowd in attendance

The City Council of Bentonville, Arkansas, continued to meet in regular session Tuesday, August 26th, at 6:20pm at the Bentonville Public Library Walmart Room, 405 S. Main Street Bentonville AR, 7212.

Present were Council Members Octavio Sanchez, Cindy Acree, Holly Hook, Chris Sooter, Gayatri Agnew, Beckie Seba, Bill Burckart & Aubrey Patterson. 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 28th, regular council meeting as presented, second by Council Member Agnew. There was no discussion.

Motion carried (8-0)

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 (8-0)

Motion for Consent Agenda:

-Council Member Burckart motioned to move New Business Items 2,3,4,5,9,10,11,12 & Utility Board Item 1 to a consent agenda Seconded by Council Member Sanchez. Motion carried (8-0).

II. Consent Agenda: New Business Items 2,3,4,5,9,10,11,12 & Utility Board Item 1

New Business

2. Appointment: Airport Advisory Board Appointment of Beau Walker

City Council approval of Mayor Orman's recommendation to appoint Beau Walker to his first 3-year term on the Airport Advisory Board. Mr. Walker's term will expire September 30, 2028.

3. Resolution 8-26-25 A: Resolution to Approve Northwest Hospital to Provide Annual Physicals for Firefighters and Some Police Officers

Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into an agreement with Northwest Arkansas Hospitals, LLC to provide annual physicals for FF's and some PD Officers not to exceed \$138,000.00. This is the 3rd year of a 3-year contract for these

services. The update to the contract is how some of the test are grouped and ordered, and changing out one of the test for another. This is a budgeted item. No budget adjustment is needed.

4. Resolution 8-26-25 B: Resolution and Budget Adjustment Recognizing a Donation from the Bentonville Rotary Club

The fire department would like to recognize \$2,200.00 donated by the Bentonville Rotary Club toward the purchase of 3 rescue manikins for training in the amount of \$5,720.21. The difference in the amount of the donation and the cost of the manikins will be covered in Fire's 2025 travel & training budget. A budget adjustment is needed.

5. Resolution 8-26-25 C: Resolution to award RFP-25-31 for Collection Agency Services to Cedars Business Services

Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into an agreement with Cedars Business Services for Collection Services as a result of their submission to the City's Request for Proposal (RFP)-25-31 to perform collection services for the Utility Billing department as well as other non-utility departments. No budget adjustment is needed.

9. Resolution 8-26-25 D: Resolution Setting a Public Hearing for a Utility Easement Vacation (VAC25-0023)

Approve Resolution to set a Public Hearing for September 9, 2025 for a Utility Easement Vacation located at Lot 6, Block 9 of Lincoln & Rice Addition (VAC25-0023).

10. Resolution 8-26-25 E: Resolution and Budget Adjustment for Wishing Spring Trail Grant from the Walton Family Foundation

Resolution authorizing acceptance of a grant from the Walton Family Foundation, in an amount not to exceed \$3,538,831.00, to fund the construction of rerouting Wishing Spring Trail. A budget adjustment is needed.

11. Resolution 8-26-25 F: Resolution to Enter Into an Agreement with McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into an agreement with McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc. in the amount of \$74,525.00 for Geo-technical Services for the Wishing Spring Trail project. No budget adjustment is needed.

12. Resolution 8-26-25 G: Resolution Awarding IFB-25-47 to Ground Zero Construction for the Wishing Spring Trail Project

Resolution to award IFB-25-47 in the amount of \$3,139,753.20 to Ground Zero Construction for the Wishing Spring Trail project. No budget adjustment is needed.

Utility Board

1. **Resolution 8-26-25 H: Resolution Amending IFB-24-70 - IDIQ Water Service Line Replacement Agreement**

Staff requests a Resolution amending the 2025 budget and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to amend the IDIQ contract for Calcon, Inc, increasing the amount by \$500,000.00. Utility Board approved 5-0. A 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 (8-0).

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

1. **Proclamation: "Months of Summer Meals"**

Proclamation declaring the Summer of 2025 as the "Months of Summer Meals" in the City of Bentonville, Arkansas.

Mayor Orman read the proclamation out loud, audience applauded while representatives took a photo with the Mayor.

2. **Public Hearing: to Authorize the Issuance of 2025 Bonds**

(re-opening the public hearing again 6:25 at the Bentonville Public Library. This action is to ensure everyone has access to public hearing, as it was published to meet within the City Hall-Council Chambers)

Public hearing authorizing the issuance of a revenue bond in the amount of \$55,000,000.00 for the purpose of financing capital improvements to the downtown wastewater facility and the sale of the bond to the Arkansas Development Finance Authority as part of the State Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund Program. An ordinance will be forthcoming at a future meeting.

Mayor Orman re-opened the public hearing at the Bentonville Public Library, no public or online comments were made, Mayor Orman closed the public hearing

Motion to vote on the item, by Council Member Sanchez, Seconded by Council Member Sooter.

Motion passes (8-0)

3. **Ordinance 2025-150: Public Hearing and Ordinance Vacating a Utility Easement (VAC25-0024)**

Public Hearing and approval of an Ordinance vacating a Utility Easement Vacation located at Lot 14 of Kensington Subdivision Phase 1 (VAC25-0024).

Mayor Orman opened the public hearing, seeing no comments Mayor closed the hearing.

City Attorney Nicholas Henry read the ordinance out loud by title only, motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Burckart.

Ordinance passes (8-0).

4. Ordinance 2025-151: Public Hearing and Ordinance Vacating a Street Right of Way (VAC25-0025)

Public Hearing and approval of an Ordinance vacating a Street Right of Way located at parcel 01-00747-000, 803 SE J Street of the Walmart Campus (VAC25-0025).

Mayor Orman opened the public hearing, seeing no comments Mayor closed the hearing.

City Attorney Nicholas Henry read the ordinance out loud by title only, motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Burckart.

Ordinance passes (8-0).

5. Public Art Advisory Committee Appointment of Sara Asplund

Sara Asplund to Position 3 on the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) to fill the unexpired term of Chad Nicholson who has resigned due to relocation outside of Bentonville. This term ends on 12/31/2025. At that time, Asplund will be eligible to request reappointment for a full three-year term. Memo and committee application attached.

Council Member asked about the appointment process, and for consistency purposes, as she would like to see these appointments turned into a more public process, she explained her reasoning for abstaining.

Motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Agnew. Appointment passes (7-0-1 Abstain: Agnew).

IV. Utility Board NON Consent Agenda Items

2. Ordinance 2025-156: Waive Competitive Bidding to Order 3-Phase Transformers

Ordinance to waive competitive bidding to purchase 3-Phase transformers from AECL, per the unit prices and estimated quantities attached, plus applicable taxes. Due to market volatility and lead times related to these products, it would be neither practical or feasible to solicit competitive bids. Utility Board approved 5-0. No budget adjustment is needed.

City Attorney Nicholas Henry read the ordinance out loud by title only, motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Burckart.

Ordinance passes (8-0).

3. Ordinance 2025-157: Waive Competitive Bidding to Order Single Phase Transformers

Ordinance to waive competitive bidding to purchase single phase transformers from AECL, per the unit prices and estimated quantities attached, plus applicable taxes. Due to market volatility and lead times related to these products, it would be neither practical or feasible to solicit competitive bids. Utility Board approved 5-0. No budget adjustment is needed.

City Attorney Nicholas Henry read the ordinance out loud by title only, motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Burckart.
Ordinance passes (8-0).

V. Planning

1. Ordinance 2025-159: Lot Split - Lots 67 and 68 of Skyview Acres 1202 Convair Street

The Planning Commission voted 7-0, recommending approval.

An Ordinance Accepting A Lot Split Of Lot 7 And The South 5.5 Feet Of Lot 8 Of Skyview Acres Creating New Lots 67 And 68 Of Skyview Acres 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 (8-0).

2. Ordinance 2025-160: Property Line Adjustment - Lots 8 and 9 of The Reserve Subdivision 3704 Southwest Regional Airport Boulevard

The Planning Commission voted 7-0, recommending approval.

An Ordinance Accepting A Property Line Adjustment Of Lots 6 And 7 Of The Reserve Subdivision Creating New Lots 8 And 9 Of The Reserve Subdivision 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 Burckart.
Ordinance passes (8-0).

3. Ordinance 2025-152: Planned Unit Development - Walmart Campus, Revision 20

The south side of SE 10th St, west of Excellence Dr.

The Planning Commission voted 7- 0, recommending approval.

An Ordinance Amending Ord 2025-133; 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 Burckart.
Ordinance passes (8-0).

4. Ordinance 2025-153: Southern Sights LLC 800 Northwest D Street

The Planning Commission voted 7-0, recommending approval. An Ordinance Changing Real Estate In The City Of Bentonville, Arkansas, From Its Present Zoning Classification Of R-1, Low Density Single Family Residential To DN-2, Downtown Medium-Density Residential; And For Other Purposes.

Steve Lockwood spoke during public comment about the safety concerns around the area, especially when school is in session.

Mark Haney was available for comments regarding the development.

Council Member Sanchez brought up concerns regarding the other mentions in the area regarding zoning, Tyler Overstreet indicated that the neighborhoods around have been heavily involved in the future land use map project. Sanchez also asked about a traffic study, and Overstreet mentioned this could warrant a traffic study.

Council Member Acree questioned the current zoning limitation. Overstreet stated up to 6,000 sq ft on each lot.

Mayor Orman asked about the water and sew capacity issue.

City Attorney Nicholas Henry read the ordinance out loud by title only, motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Burckart.
Ordinance passes (6-2 NO Hook & Acree).

5. Ordinance 2025-154: Southern Sights LLC 802 Northwest D Street

The Planning Commission voted 7-0, recommending approval.

An Ordinance Changing Real Estate In The City Of Bentonville, Arkansas, From Its Present Zoning Classification Of R-1, Low Density Single Family Residential To DN-2, Downtown Medium-Density Residential; 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 Burckart.
Ordinance passes (8-0).

6. Ordinance 2025-155: Amendment to the Large Scale Development Expiration Requirements

The Planning Commission voted 7-0, recommending approval.

An Ordinance Amending Bentonville Municipal Code Appendix B Land Development Code Sec. 700.07 Expiration Of Large-Scale Development Approval; 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 (8-0).

VI. Old Business

1. **Informational:** Tabled at the August 12, 2025, City Council Meeting: Public Art Complaint Resolution

- a. Request made by Jennifer Waymack Standerfer to present proposal from artist Paige Dirksen.

- i. Full presentation from Jennifer Waymack Standerfer can be found [here](#) (1:23-1:52)

- ii. Attorney Jennifer Waymack Standerfer presented artist Paige Dirksen's proposal and subsequent modifications to the *All Bike(r)s Welcome* mural.

In response to city concerns and public complaints, Dirksen expressed willingness to make modifications to the mural. Specifically, she agreed to- Change the phrase "All Bike(r)s Welcome" to "All Bikers Welcome" and change a specific icon, a wheel inside a flower.

- iii. Public Comment:

Full Public Comment section can be viewed [here](#): (1:53-4:22)

During the public comment period, speakers expressed a range of views on the *All Bike(r)s Welcome* mural. Supporters emphasized its value in promoting inclusion, diversity, and cycling culture, noting that more than 80 community members participated in its creation and that it had become a well-recognized feature along Bentonville's trail system. Some residents, however, raised concerns about the city's handling of the matter, citing a lack of transparency, unclear objections, and the absence of a formal review process through the Public Art Advisory Committee. Opponents of the mural reiterated that the final design differed from the originally approved, pointing to elements such as pastel stripes and nonprofit references that they believed were not appropriate for city-sponsored public art.

- b. City Council final determination on public art piece All Bike(r)s Welcome. No budget adjustment is needed.

- i. In a first motion Council Member Seba motioned to remove the mural immediately, Council Member Sanchez seconded

Vote to remove was split

(4) Yes; Acree, Seba, Hook, Sanchez

(4) No: Sooter, Agnew, Burckart, Patterson

Mayor Orman originally voting no, was counseled by City Attorney Nick Henry that Mayor could only vote yes or abstain in a tie

Mayor Orman abstained

Motion Failed

- ii. Second motion Council Member Agnew motion to accept the compromise proposed by the artist. Seconded by Council Member Burckart.
Vote to remove was split
(4) Yes; Sooter, Agnew, Burckart, Patterson
(4) No: Seba, Hook, Sanchez, Acree
Mayor Orman voted Yes
Motion Passed
- iii. Final motion during discussion was to close out the complaint process on the mural. Motion by Council Member Seba, seconded by Council Member Acree (8-0) Motion passes unanimously.

2. Ordinance 2025-158: Ordinance Suspending Article 2-IX Section 2-553(m) of the Bentonville Municipal Code

City Council requests suspension of section 2-553(m) until such time as Article 2-IX can be approved as amended by City Council and public art policies and procedures are adopted. No budget adjustment is needed.

City Attorney Nicholas Henry read the ordinance out loud by title only, motion to approve by Council Member Burckart, seconded by Council Member Acree.
Ordinance passes (8-0).

City Attorney Nicholas Henry read the emergency clause out loud calling for immediate enactment, motion to approve by Council Member Burckart, seconded by Council Member Agnew.
Ordinance passes (8-0).

3. Informational: Public Art Code and Policy Update

Item presenting a draft of updates to Article 2-IX and a draft Public Art Policy. VII. Other Business/Announcements/Comments Adjournment Public Comments Concerning Matters of City Related Business

Shelli Kerr, proposed updates to the city's public art code and policies to make the program clearer, more consistent, and more transparent. The changes define what qualifies as public art, specify which works fall under city oversight, and standardize the review process so all proposals go through the Public Art Advisory Committee before City Council consideration. They also set clear approval criteria, while creating formal procedures for addressing modifications or complaints, including review and mediation steps.


Roles and responsibilities for artists, staff, committees, and council are clarified, and requirements for publicly posting proposals, agendas, and decisions are added to ensure residents can follow and participate in the process, ultimately aiming to protect artistic integrity and public investment while aligning with community goals.

IV. Other Business/Announcements/Comments

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

Thank you to Hadi, the library team, and IT teams for setting up meeting at the Public Library.

The next Bentonville City Council meeting will be on Tuesday September 9, 2025.



Malorie Marris, City Clerk



Stephanie Orman, Mayor

