



Bentonville Municipal Airport
Airport Advisory Board Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, December 4, 2025 – 3:00 pm
Bentonville City Hall – 305 SW “A” Street
Bentonville, AR 72712
(& VIA ZOOM WEBINAR)

I. Call to Order, Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance – *Brian Baldwin, Chairman*

Daniel Hughes, filling in for Chairman Brian Baldwin, called the meeting to order and led the room in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Approval of Minutes:

- October 2, 2025

There were not enough voting members to approve October’s minutes. *Beau Walker made a motion to table until the January 8, 2026, meeting. Cara Osborne gave a second. Motion passed.*

- November 6, 2025

Cara Osborne made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Beau Walker gave a second. The motion passed.

III. Geese Control Report – *Chris Isbell and Maverick*

- Status Report

Chris Isbell, Maverick’s new handler, appeared before the committee. Maverick did not appear. He was busy this morning and was a little wet and dirty. Chris and Maverick have been working slowly on deploying against any wildlife that they see. The last couple of weeks, they have built a good bond together. He has seen about 200 geese, either on the ground or migrating in flight. Today was rather light. Chris said he has been busy learning about the job and has been made aware that there are sometimes other animals that are on the premises from time to time, like coyotes and deer. He has spoken with the ASO about how he can handle those types of things. If he can do something to help keep the airport safe, he will attempt to do that. Chris informed the board that after next week, he will be traveling to North Carolina with Maverick for training. Mark Slaughter said he will notify the Flight School of his absence.

IV. New Business:

A. Engineering and Construction Updates – *Chris Maestri – Garver USA*

- Current Airport Projects

VBT E. Taxiway Extension (Phase 2) (FAA Grant)

This project is effectively finished. Garver is waiting on some new sign panels that rename the taxiway naming convention to shift all the numbers down. NOTAMS are in place to help with the confusion. They should have the panels in the next couple of weeks and they should be installed before the Christmas holiday. Then the NOTAMS will be canceled. After that they will make final payment to that contractor and close out the construction grant with the FAA.

VBT Hangar Access Road (ADA Grant)

SyCon's portion of work is complete. The city portion will finish in the spring. If the heavy construction done for the hangars that are going in, the city street crew will come in and finish the Access Road project. At present, Garver is working on final estimate and closeout with SyCon and then we will close out the grant as soon as the city Street Department scope is done. Dan Weese, Transportation Director asked when they expect the buildings to be built and ready for the street crews to pave? Paul Cantrell said they are set to pave starting with base about the 17th of this month and will be fully in asphalt by the end of the month.

VBT East Parking Apron (FAA/BIL Grant)

Garver has submitted a scope of services for design of the East Apron area. They are working with Mark Slaughter regarding the AWOS relocation. Mark is working with a manufacturer of the AWOS systems to see where we could relocate the AWOS to. Then we could open the west side fully. The area that Mesotech, the manufacturer, has targeted is the area where we want to put the parking apron. We are trying to see if we can put both the AWS and RTR in that location, and if not, what are our other options? We really need parking, especially on the east side, to help relocate some of those planes on the apron that is blocking our taxiway route for Taxiway Bravo. Chris said they are working through this. They want to make sure we know exactly where the AWOS can go before we fully design an apron that would not be in a good spot for the AWOS, as well.

VBT Taxiway A Pavement Rehabilitation (ADA Grant)

Chris reported that as of last Tuesday the city council approved the low bid for Custom Pavement Maintenance Systems to do a seal coat, crack seal, and remark of Taxiway Alpha and the associated connectors. They are compiling construction contacts and will send those out to Custom Pavement to get executed, get bonds from them, certificates of insurance, etc. As soon as we have those documents, Garver will send them to the city to get reviewed and executed, and then Custom will be ready to go. This is a very weather dependent project. They need 45 degrees and rising to put the seal coat material down, so it will likely happen in the spring. But, once the weather starts to warm up, Garver will have the contract in place and ready to go. Chris reported that Mark Slaughter is working on some additional scope associated with that. When we got the grant initially, the bids we received from Custom Pavement Systems were quite a bit lower than the grant money that we have available from the state, so there is a small section on Taxiway Delta that is used for run-ups today and some old Pavement that is broken up and creating a hazard. We are going to mill and overlay that section as part of this grant. We can't add it to Custom's contract, so we are getting separate quotes outside of Custom Pavement, and then we will move forward with the low quote to add that to the grant that we have today. The area that has been added today is the area we are planning to install permeable pavers that Mark Slaughter has been working on. We have been trying to come up with a solution there that doesn't add detention issues and still improves that area, and the permeable pavers came up as a good solution. We have a quote over a year old that we can give a ballpark range of the dollars we will need, but we will have to create an actual bid package and design before it goes out. Mark Slaughter reported that Brian Baldwin and he went to Little Rock in November and talked to Jerry Chism at the ADA, and he was very supportive. It is a 90/10 grant of \$200,000.00. Mark said that it is ready to go, but we need to send Jerry Chism a letter saying that we want to repurpose it because it was originally given to us for a parking area. This is still a parking area, so we are still good to go. He just needs a paper trail. He said he will get that when we get a little bit closer.

B. Updates from the Field – Adam Jones – Manager - Legends Air Center

- Status Report

Adam Jones did not appear this month.

C. City of Bentonville Updates – Mark Slaughter, Airport Manager

- Neighborhood One

Mark showed a Power Point presentation and showed the various hangars that are going up in Neighborhood I, and where they are at in construction. He mentioned that Paul Cantrell's hangar was the furthest along in construction and that he had been great at keeping the six (6) hangars on track. Paul is with us today at the meeting. Mr. Cantrell reported that all the utilities went in this week. We needed to get this done before we could start grading for the asphalt. All is completed except for the gas lines on the south side and they will be done next week. He mentioned that they are in a race to asphalt for the people who are trying to operate aircraft north of them. It is a dust bowl.

- General Grant Discussion

Mark showed the 2026 Proposed Budget for the Airport. This document is prepared every year and is usually finalized sometime in October for a budget workshop with City Council in early November. He mentioned that this process will happen again for 2027 and that he wants the Board more involved with this. He mentioned that the A/C unit went out on the old FBO building that the Ignite program is using. That took quite a bit of money to get those air conditioners replaced. Mark thinks that if we start thinking about these things now and keep it in our minds, we can have a discussion at about every other board meeting or so, but he wants the board's input on this. The next grant we will probably apply for probably won't happen until summer, and it will more than likely have something to do with the southwest taxiway extension. This will be a little more complicated than the southeast side because we don't own all the land, and we are going to have to do something dynamic to make that happen. We have already told the ADA our plan so they know it's coming. Mark thinks they will be very supportive.

- Southeast Hangar Expansion

Mark Slaughter didn't have any more news about this expansion. He said that he may have more news on this by the January meeting.

V. Other Business:

A. Projects and Priorities – Brian Baldwin, Chairman

- General Discussion

Daniel Hughes did not know of anything that Mr. Baldwin wanted to discuss.

VI. Closing:

A. Next AAB Meeting Schedule

- Proposed Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, January 8, 2026 - 3:00 pm
Location: City Hall – Council Chambers – 305 SW “A” Street, Bentonville, AR

**The meeting would regularly be January 1, 2025, but suggesting we meet January 8, 2026.
The date was agreed upon by the members present.**

B. Motion to Adjourn:

Beau Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cara Osborne gave a second. Motion approved.

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