

Combined Committee of the Whole & City Council Meeting Minutes January 13, 2026



The City Council of Bentonville, Arkansas, met in regular session on Tuesday January 13, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., at City Hall, 305 S.W. A Street, Bentonville, Arkansas.

Present for Committee of the Whole; were Council Members Octavio Sanchez, Holly Hook, Bill Burckart, Beckie Seba, Chris Sooter, Aubrey Patterson, Cindy Acree, and Gayatri Richardson.

Also, present were Mayor Stephanie Orman, City Attorney Nick 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 a scout from Troop 36 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 December 22, 2025, council meeting as presented, second by Council Member Acree. There was no discussion.

Motion carried (8-0)

I. Committee of the Whole Discussion

Mayor Orman turned over Committee of the Whole for Council Member Sooter.

1. 2026 City Council Calendar
2. Annual City Council Organizational Discussion
3. Tiger & Northwest G Street Drainage Options
4. Consent Agenda Discussion

Present were Council Members Octavio Sanchez, Holly Hook, Bill Burckart, Beckie Seba, Cindy Acree, Gayatri Richardson, Aubrey Patterson & Chris Sooter. Also, present were Mayor Stephanie Orman, City Attorney Nick 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.

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)

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

1. Informational - Boards and Commissions Process

Mayor Orman discussed how the city is going to be consistent across the boards.

2. Public Art Advisory Committee Appointment of Catherine Bays

Catherine Bays, based upon staff recommendation to the Mayor, to Position 4 on the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC). Her first 3-year term begins January 1, 2026 and expires December 31, 2028. Memo and committee application attached.

Motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Seba.
Ordinance passes (8-0).

3. Ordinance 2026-01: Public Hearing and Ordinance Vacating Alley/Street Right of Way (VAC25-0028)

Public Hearing and approval of an Ordinance vacating an Alley Right of Way and establishing an utility easement located between lots 10 &11 and lots 9 & 12 of Block 1 of Smartt's Addition (VAC25-0028).

Mayor Orman opened the public hearing, no comment, mayor closed the hearing.

City Attorney Nick Henry read the Ordinance by title only. Motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Seba.

Motion passes (8-0).

4. Ordinance 2026-02: Public Hearing and Ordinance Vacating a Utility Easement (VAC25-0030)

Public Hearing and approval of an Ordinance vacating a Utility Easement Vacation located at Lot 2 of 102 West Subdivision (VAC25-0030).

Mayor Orman opened the public hearing, no comment, mayor closed the hearing.

City Attorney Nick Henry read the Ordinance by title only. Motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Sooter.

Motion passes (8-0).

5. Resolution 12-13-2026 A: An Agreement with Deleon Business Solutions for EMS Ambulance Billing Services

Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into an agreement with DeLeon Business Solutions, LLC DBA Trinity Billing. The agreement provides the billing company 7% of total monthly balance collected on behalf of the BFD. This amount is inclusive of all services and fees related. The term of the agreement shall be for a one (1) year term

renewable annually upon mutually written agreement via amendment for a maximum term not to exceed three (3) years. No budget adjustment needed.

City Attorney Nick Henry read the Resolution by title only. Motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Sooter.
Motion passes (8-0).

III. **Utility Board - January 6, 2026 Meeting Canceled**

IV. **Planning**

1. **Ordinance 2026-03: Property Line Adjustment - Lot 7 of Highlands West Addition - NW corner of Barron and Lee Harris Rd (Parcel 01-18912-001) (PLA25-0034)**

The Planning Commission voted 7-0, recommending approval.

An Ordinance Accepting A Property Line Adjustment Of Lots 5 & 6 Of Highlands West Addition Creating New Lot 7 Of Highlands West Addition To The City Of Bentonville, Arkansas; And For Other Purposes.

City Attorney Nick Henry read the Ordinance by title only. Motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Sooter.
Motion passes (8-0).

2. **Ordinance 2026-04: Property Line Adjustment - Lot 15, Block 3 of Fairfield Addition - 802 and 804 SE G Street (PLA25- 0027)**

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City Attorney Nick Henry read the Ordinance by title only. Motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Acree.
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City Attorney Nick Henry read the Ordinance by title only. Motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Burckart.
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Council Member Sanchez if this was the rezoning recommend to go to DN-1. Tyler Overstreet stated that the applicant requested during the public hearing. And planning commission approved and recommended. Sanchez applauded this effort happening so quick.

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Motion passes (8-0).

6. **Ordinance 2026-08: Rezoning - Stultz, R-1, Low Density Single Family Residential to DN-1, Downtown Low Density Residential - 612 Northeast 2nd Street (RZ25-0050)**
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V. Other Business/Announcements/Comments

Adjournment (Hook motioned to adjourn, seconded by Acree)

1. Public Comments on Non Agenda items

-Kara Matthews, and other neighbors discussed the sidewalk going through their neighborhood, eliminating mature trees, there's better areas for sidewalk development dollars

-Brett Meek, spoke in favor of the sidewalk.

2. Mike Armstrong running for family court judge on March 3rd.

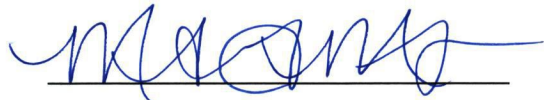
3. Committee Reports

i. **Sanchez Library:** 2 new board members

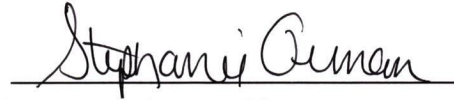
ii. **Acree Traffic and Signage:** Crosswalk/ 3 Way stop concerns by Coler, meeting again about this issue in a month

iii. **Sooter Parks and Rec:** Toured the new Adult Recreation Center, open houses will be in late February.

The next Bentonville City Council meeting will be January 27, 2026.



Malorie MARRS, City Clerk



Stephanie ORMAN, Mayor

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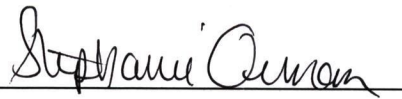
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