

Combined Committee of the Whole & City Council Meeting Minutes May 12, 2026



The City Council of Bentonville, Arkansas, met in regular session on Tuesday May 12, 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, Aubrey Patterson, and Cindy Acree. Council Member Chris Sooter was absent.

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 led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by a moment of silence in support of our armed forces.

Council Member Sanchez motioned to approve the April 28th meeting minutes, seconded by Council Member Patterson, motion passes (6-0)

I. **Committee of the Whole Discussion**

Mayor Orman presided over Committee of the Whole in Council Member Sooter's absence

1. **Informational:** Quarterly Financial Update

2. **Consent Agenda Discussion**

New Business: 6, 7, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22

Utility Board: 2

Mayor Orman closed Committee of the Whole Discussion, and opened regular City Council meeting.

Present were Council Members Octavio Sanchez, Holly Hook, Bill Burckart, Beckie Seba, Aubrey Patterson, and Cindy Acree. Council Member Sooter was absent.

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 Acree, 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 (6-0)

I. New Business

1. **Proclamation Recognizing May as "ALS Awareness Month"** Proclamation recognizing the month of May as "ALS Awareness Month." ALS Awareness Month helps people understand the harsh reality of living with ALS, honors those affected, and supports efforts to find a cure.
2. **Proclamation Recognizing "Emergency Medical Services Week"**
Proclamation proclaiming May 17-23, 2026, as "Emergency Medical Services Week," with the theme "Improving Outcomes Together."
3. **Proclamation Recognizing May 10-16, 2026 as "National Police Week"**
Proclamation recognizing the Bentonville Police Department during "National Police Week"- May 10-16, 2026

Mayor Orman read the proclamations out loud. Members from each organization came forward to say a few words of thanks, and get a photo

4. **Ordinance 2026-94: Ordinance Approving a Waiver of Bid to Purchase Additional Public Safety Radio Equipment**

Ordinance waiving competitive bidding to purchase additional public safety radio equipment from KA-Comm, Inc, in the amount of \$102,601.57 (includes all applicable taxes). A budget adjustment is needed to allocate impact fee funding for purchase of all necessary equipment for a 7th dispatch console. This includes the total amount needed for KA-Comm and following agenda items. A budget adjustment is needed.

City Attorney Nick Henry read the ordinance out loud by title only.

Motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Burckart
Ordinance passes (6-0).

5. **Ordinance 2026-95: Approving a Waiver of Bid to Enter Into an Agreement with AT&T for 9-1-1 Equipment**

Ordinance waiving the requirement to competitive bidding and enter into a contract with AT&T for E9-1-1 call handling equipment and upgrades. Due to Benton County owning the contract for this equipment with AT&T, it is not feasible for the City to competitively bid this purchase. This request is for a seventh (7th) position of E9-1-1 equipment and upgrades. This purchase is funded by impact fees to maintain level of services based on growth. No

budget adjustment is needed

City Attorney Nick Henry read the ordinance out loud by title only.

Motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Burckart

Ordinance passes (6-0).

II. Consent Agenda

New Business items: 6, 7, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22

6. Resolution 5-12-16 A: Approving the Purchase of Emergency Communications Center Video System

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into an agreement with GTS Technology Solutions, Inc. to purchase emergency communications center video systems in the amount of \$96,862.11 through participation in the TIPS contract #230105. No budget adjustment is needed.

7. Resolution 5-12-16 B: Approving the Purchase of Emergency Communications Center Consoles

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into an agreement with Russ Bassett Corp. to purchase emergency communications center consoles in the amount of \$71,033.16 through participation in the HGAC Buy Contract #: EC07-23 (911 Equipment & Emergency Notification Software and Services). No budget adjustment is needed.

9. Resolution 5-12-16 C: Entering into an Agreement with SHI for Renewal of Solarwinds Service Desk Software

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into a three-year agreement with Software House International for the purchase of SolarWinds Service Desk to support the City's IT service desk management. No budget adjustment is needed

16. Resolution 5-12-16 D: Approving the Loan of 12 Artworks for Display at the Adult Recreation Center

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into an agreement accepting the loan of twelve (12) artworks from OZ Art for display at the Adult Recreation Center at no cost to the city. No budget adjustment is needed.

17. Resolution 5-12-16 E: Approving Garver Amendment #2 - SE Walton & J Street Intersection

Staff recommends approval of an amendment to Garver's contract for the SE Walton & J Street Intersection Improvements. This agreement will revise the contract scope to account for additional design work during the construction phase of the project. This will be funded by

bond funds and no budget adjustment is needed.

18. Resolution 5-12-16 F: Awarding Bid IFB-26-15 for Rainbow Curve Improvements to APAC-Central, Inc.

Staff recommends awarding the bid to APAC - Central, Inc. for IFB-26-15 Rainbow Curve Improvements in the amount of \$7,527,371.55.

19. Resolution 5-12-16 G: Authorizing a Change Order with Flintco LLC for Dave Peel Park

Council approval of a Change Order with Flintco, LLC extending the contract duration of Dave Peel Park project by 273 days. No budget adjustment is needed.

20. Resolution 5-12-16 H: Authorizing a Change Order for Dave Peel Plaza with Design Workshop, Inc.

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into a Change Order with Design Workshop, Inc. in the amount of \$9,800.00, for additional design services required to bury overhead electrical lines at the Dave Peel Park Plaza. No budget adjustment needed.

22. Resolution 5-12-16 J: Authorizing an Agreement with Crafton Tull for Memorial Park Pickleball Complex

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into an agreement with Crafton Tull, in the amount of \$300,000.00, for design services for a future Pickleball Complex at Memorial Park. No budget adjustment is needed.

Utility Board Consent item: 2

2. Resolution 5-12-16 K: Awarding Bid IFB-26-24 Shewmaker Interceptor Rehabilitation -Phase 1 Construction Bid

Staff requests council award bid IFB-26-24 to Ground Zero Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$3,743,519.10 for the Bentonville Shewmaker Sewer Improvements project located in North Bentonville between NE Tiger Boulevard and NE A Street. Ground Zero Construction, Inc was the lowest bidder and was selected following the city solicitation process for bids. This project is funded by the AWLF Loan. Utility Board approved 4-0. No budget adjustment is needed

City Attorney Nick Henry read the consent agenda items out loud by title only
Motion to approve my Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Hook

Consent Agenda passes (6-0)

III. New Business Non Consent Agenda Items

8. Ordinance 2026-96: Ordinance for a Waiver of Bid to Enter an Agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc. - Purchase 80 Tasers

An ordinance waiving competitive bidding and allow the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into an agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc. to approve the purchase of 80 Tasers. Axon Enterprise, Inc. offers a lease-to-own program with a 5 year contract, with the year 1 cost being \$48,246.51 and years 2 through 5 being \$92,562.53 each. The purchase of these 80 Tasers will outfit all uniformed officers with latest less-lethal technology. The first year cost will be covered in the approved 2026 budget with no budget adjustment needed.

City Attorney Nick Henry read the ordinance out loud by title only.

Motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Burckart
Ordinance passes (6-0).

10. Ordinance 2026-97: Public Hearing and Ordinance Vacating a Utility Easement (VAC26-0025)

Public Hearing and approval of an Ordinance vacating a Utility Easement Vacation located on the westside of Block 2, Lot 8 of Robbinaire Heights (VAC26-0025).

Mayor Orman opened the public hearing, there was no discussion.

City Attorney Nick Henry read the ordinance out loud by title only.

Motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Seba
Ordinance passes (6-0).

11. Ordinance 2026-98: Ordinance Updating Zoning and Development Code References

An Ordinance updating references in the Bentonville Municipal Code to Appendix A Zoning Code and Appendix B Land Development Code that were repealed and replaced with the Bentonville Community Code on April 14, 2026. No budget adjustment is needed.

City Attorney Nick Henry read the ordinance out loud by title only.

Motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Seba
Ordinance passes (6-0).

12. Ordinance 2026-99: Ordinance Updating Zoning District References in Bentonville Municipal Code

An Ordinance updating zoning district references in the Bentonville Municipal Code to

correspond to new zoning districts adopted with the Bentonville Community Code adopted on April 14, 2026. No budget adjustment is needed.

City Attorney Nick Henry read the ordinance out loud by title only.

Motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Seba
Ordinance passes (6-0).

13. Ordinance 2026-100: Ordinance Relocating Certain Code Sections in Municode

An Ordinance to relocate certain sections in Appendix A Zoning Code and Appendix B Land Development Code that were repealed and replaced with the Bentonville Community Code on April 14, 2026. No budget adjustment is needed.

City Attorney Nick Henry read the ordinance out loud by title only.

Motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Burckart
Ordinance passes (6-0).

14. Ordinance 2026-101: Ordinance Establishing Fees for the Bentonville Community Code

An Ordinance approving the proposed fee schedule associated with the Bentonville Community Code. No budget adjustment is needed.

City Attorney Nick Henry read the ordinance out loud by title only.

Motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Burckart
Ordinance passes (6-0).

15. Ordinance 2026-102: Ordinance Repealing Municipal Code Section 82-86 - Roller Skates, Roller Blades & Skateboards

An Ordinance repealing Bentonville Municipal Code Sec. 82-86 Roller Skates, Roller Blades and Skateboards prohibited. No budget adjustment is needed.

City Attorney Nick Henry read the ordinance out loud by title only.

Motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Burckart
Ordinance passes (6-0).

21. Resolution 5-12-26 I: A Resolution Authorizing to Transfer ARDOT Grant Funds

A Resolution authorizing the transfer of ARDOT grant funds, previously allocated to the Elm Tree Sidepath Trail, to the McCollum Sidepath Trail. No budget adjustment is needed.

Council Member Patterson called for an update about this item from Parks and Rec. Parks and Rec Director David Wright discussed that Walton Family Foundation money came in, and

allowed the ARDOT grant to be used towards another adopted plan. This was very exciting news, and Patterson wanted to make sure it was stated for clarity, and overall excitement purposes.

City Attorney Nick Henry read the resolution out loud by title only.

Motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Burckart
Ordinance passes (6-0).

23. Ordinance 2026-103: An Ordinance to Waive Competitive Bidding for Emergency Bridge Repair on W. McNelly Rd.

An Ordinance requesting City Council waive competitive bidding requirements in order to expedite the repair of the W. McNelly Road bridge that crosses McKissic Creek.

City Attorney Nick Henry read the ordinance out loud by title only.

Motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Burckart
Ordinance passes (6-0).

City Attorney Nick Henry read the Emergency Clause out loud, calling for immediate enactment.
Motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Burckart
Ordinance passes (6-0).

IV. Utility Board Non Consent Agenda Items

1. Ordinance 2026- 104: Ordinance to Waive Competitive Bidding and Purchase Two (2) Substation Transformers from Prolec-GE

Due to volatility in the transformer market, BEUD is waiving competitive bidding and entering into an agreement with Prolec-GE to purchase 2 substation transformers for the new substation that will serve the Bentonville Health Care Campus for \$6,044,984.73. 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 4-0. A budget adjustment is needed.

City Attorney Nick Henry read the ordinance out loud by title only.

Motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Burckart
Ordinance passes (6-0).

City Attorney Nick Henry read the Emergency Clause out loud, calling for immediate enactment.

Motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Seba
Ordinance passes (6-0).

IV. Planning

1. Ordinance 2026-105: Final Plat - Walmart Campus Subdivision, Phase 22 - 1812 SE 10th Street (FP25-0012)

The Planning Commission voted 6-0, recommending approval.

An Ordinance Accepting A Final Plat Of Lot 1 Of Walmart Campus Subdivision, Phase 22 To The City Of Bentonville, Arkansas; And For Other Purposes.

City Attorney Nick Henry read the ordinance out loud by title only.

Motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Burckart
Ordinance passes (6-0).

2. Ordinance 2026-106: Final Plat - Lot 1 of Walmart Campus Subdivision, Phase 23 - 1005 Excellence Drive (FP25-0013)

The Planning Commission voted 6-0, recommending approval.

An Ordinance Accepting A Final Plat Of Lot 1 Of Walmart Campus Subdivision, Phase 23 To The City Of Bentonville, Arkansas; And For Other Purposes.

City Attorney Nick Henry read the ordinance out loud by title only.

Motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Burckart
Ordinance passes (6-0).

3. Ordinance 2026-107: Property Line Adjustment - Lot 27, Block 6 of Clark's Second Addition - 403 SW 3rd Street (PLA26-0009)

The Planning Commission voted 6-0, recommending approval.

An Ordinance Accepting A Property Line Adjustment Of Lot 3 And The West 40 Feet Of Lot 2, Block 6 Of Clark's Second Addition Creating New Lot 27, Block 6 Of Clark's Second Addition To The City Of Bentonville, Arkansas; And For Other Purposes.

City Attorney Nick Henry read the ordinance out loud by title only.

Motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Seba
Ordinance passes (6-0).

4. Ordinance 2026-108: Lot Split - Lots 1 & 2 of Boroughs Subdivision - 615 N Walton Blvd (PP25-0008)

The Planning Commission voted 6-0, recommending approval.

An Ordinance Accepting A Lot Split Of Parcel 01-00876-000 Creating New Lots 1 And 2 Of The Boroughs Subdivision To The City Of Bentonville, Arkansas; And For Other Purposes.

City Attorney Nick Henry read the ordinance out loud by title only.

Motion to approve by Council Member Sanchez, seconded by Council Member Seba
Ordinance passes (6-0).

V. City Council Vacancy Discussion and Action

1. City Council Vacancy Discussion and Action City Council shall decide how to proceed with the current vacancy under the options defined by Arkansas Law, A.C.A. §14-43-411.

No budget adjustment is needed.

According to Mayor Orman, a special election would take place around August 11th, 2026, and would cost the city about \$17,000, about \$15,000 if there was a runoff.

Council engaged in extensive debate regarding how to fill the position, weighing two primary options: leaving the seat vacant until the November 2026 general election or appointing an interim representative. Council members stated that citizens should have the right to elect their representative directly, especially since the remaining term is two years. Other members expressed concerns about the potential for legislative issues, and the overarching challenges of operating with a vacancy for several months.

Fifteen residents applied for the position, and nine of these candidates addressed the council during the meeting to discuss their qualifications and motivations.

Ultimately, Council Member Patterson motioned to appoint Dan Grover to fill the vacancy until the November election cycle. Seconded by Council Member Acree.

5 Yes, and 1 No-Burckart

Approving Dan Grover to serve as the temporary representative for Ward 1 Position 2.

Council thanked everyone for their interest and acknowledged the vast amount of talent from all the applicants.

Council Adjourned at 8:35pm

The next Bentonville City Council meeting will be Tuesday May 26, 2026.



Malorie Marrs, City Clerk



Stephanie Orman, Mayor