

**BENTON CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**  
**November 17, 2025**

**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE AGENDA MEETING**

- I. CALL TO ORDER** Mayor Tom Farmer
- II. INVOCATION** Bro. Bob McDaniel
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Council Member Donnor
- IV. ROLL CALL** City Clerk
- V. STATEMENT OF FOIA COMPLIANCE & ROLL CALL** City Clerk
- VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** October 27, 2025  
Regular Meeting
- VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS & MOTIONS**
  - 1. A&P COMMISSION COMMITTEE** Council Member Brown/Baptist
  - 2. ANIMAL SERVICES COMMITTEE** Council Member Villines/Hamm
  - 3. COMMISSIONS COMMITTEE** Council Member Spencer-Cole/Reed
  - 4. COMMUNITY SERVICE** Council Member Reed/Spencer-Cole

**RESOLUTION NO. 96 OF 2025**

**A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE SALINE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR PLACE A CERTIFIED LIEN AGAINST REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 609 MILITARY ROAD AS A RESULT OF INCURRED EXPENSES BY THE CITY OF BENTON IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE LAW AND CITY ORDINANCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**RESOLUTION NO. 97 OF 2025**

**A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE SALINE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR PLACE A CERTIFIED LIEN AGAINST REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 730 ALCOA ROAD AS A RESULT OF INCURRED EXPENSES BY THE CITY OF BENTON IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE LAW AND CITY ORDINANCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**RESOLUTION NO. 98 OF 2025**

**A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE SALINE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR PLACE A CERTIFIED LIEN AGAINST REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1222 CHERRY LANE AS A RESULT OF INCURRED EXPENSES BY THE CITY OF BENTON IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE LAW AND CITY ORDINANCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

5. **FINANCE COMMITTEE** **Council Member Brown/Morrow**  
**RESOLUTION NO. 99 OF 2025**  
**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2026 BUDGET FOR THE GENERAL FUND, STREETS, ANIMAL SERVICES, PARKS, AND SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS; ESTABLISHING A PROCEDURE FOR REVISING THE SAME; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**
6. **PARKS COMMITTEE** **Council Member Hart/Lee**
7. **PERSONNEL/HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE** **Council Member Donnor/Baptist**  
**ORDINANCE NO. 57 OF 2025**  
**AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 33 OF 2002; CONCERNING THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE FOR THE CITY OF BENTON; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**
- ORDINANCE NO. 58 OF 2025**  
**AN ORDINANCE TO CONFIRM AND PROVIDE RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR THE MAYOR, CITY ATTORNEY, AND CITY CLERK PURSUANT TO ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED §§ 24-12-101, 24-12-120, AND 24-12-121; TO RATIFY AND AUTHORIZE ANY PRIOR PAYMENTS MADE PURSUANT TO SAID STATUTES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**
- RESOLUTION NO. 100 OF 2025**  
**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO UTILIZE FUNDS IN THE CITY OF BENTON DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION TO PURCHASE CURRENT NON-UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES' TIME IN APERS AND AMENDING THE 2025 GENERAL FUND BUDGET TO INCREASE THE APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$546,580.00 USING CASH HELD WITHIN THE FUTURE SALARIES ACCOUNT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**
8. **P&Z COMMISSION** **Council Member Spencer-Cole**  
**ORDINANCE NO. 59 OF 2025**  
**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL USE FOR A CHURCH TO BE LOCATED AT 1203 W SEVIER STREET; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**
- ORDINANCE NO. 60 OF 2025**  
**AN ORDINANCE REZONING 802 AND 806 COLUMBIA AVE IN THE CITY OF BENTON, SALINE COUNTY, ARKANSAS, FROM R2 SINGLE FAMILY DISTRICT DETACHED HOUSING TO R5 MULTI FAMILY DISTRICT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**ORDINANCE NO. 61 OF 2025  
AN ORDINANCE REZONING #805-22100-007 IN THE CITY OF BENTON,  
SALINE COUNTY, ARKANSAS, FROM R8 MULTI FAMILY RESIDENTIAL  
DISTRICT TO C3 SERVICE COMMERCIAL AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

- |              |                          |                                    |
|--------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>9.</b>    | <b>PUC COMMISSION</b>    | <b>Council Member Hart</b>         |
| <b>10.</b>   | <b>STREETS COMMITTEE</b> | <b>Council Member Hamm/Baptist</b> |
| <b>VIII.</b> | <b>Old Business</b>      |                                    |
| <b>IX.</b>   | <b>Public Comments</b>   |                                    |
| <b>X.</b>    | <b>Adjourn</b>           |                                    |

**MINUTES OF THE BENTON CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Session**  
**October 27, 2025**  
**Benton City Hall**

**Benton City Council was called to order at 5:43 p.m.**

**The invocation was given by Rev. Russell Hull.**

**Council Member Reed led the pledge of allegiance.**

**Roll was called.**

**The following people were in attendance:**

<b>Council Member Frank Baptist</b>	<b>Council Member Steve Brown</b>
<b>Council Member Ann Spencer-Cole</b>	<b>Council Member Evelyn Reed</b>
<b>Council Member Bill Donnor</b>	<b>Council Member Jeff Morrow</b>
<b>Council Member Trevor Villines</b>	<b>Council Member Judd Hart</b>
<b>Council Member Steve Lee</b>	<b>Council Member Jeff Hamm</b>
<b>Cindy Stracener, City Clerk</b>	<b>Baxter Drennon, City Attorney</b>
<b>Tom Farmer, Mayor</b>	

**When the roll was called ten (10) council members were present. A quorum was declared.**

**The city clerk read the Statement of FOIA Compliance – I affirm that I have not engaged in any prohibited discussion, deliberation, or polling regarding any item on this meeting’s agenda outside of a properly noticed and open meeting, in compliance with the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act, as amended by Act 505 of 2025. Roll was called which resulted in Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes, Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes.**

**Council Member Morrow made a motion to approve September 22, 2025, city council meeting minutes. Second, by Council Member Reed. The Mayor called for a voice vote. All council members voted in the affirmative. September 22, 2025, council minutes were approved with 10 affirmative votes.**

**The next item on the agenda was committee reports and motions. Resolution 95 of 2025 – A Resolution Expressing the Willingness of the City of Benton to Utilize Arkansas Division of Emergency Management Funds for Hazard Mitigation at Western Woods Subdivision; and For Other Purposes is being sponsored by the Mayor. Council Member Donnor made a motion to adopt Resolution 95 of 2025. Second, by Council Member Hart. The resolution was read by title. The Mayor stated that this is a 75/25 split grant. \$70,725 is our portion if we do get the grant. The Mayor asked for any questions or comments. Council Member Hart asked where it is located. John Richey, Street Department stated off Aaronfield. Roll was called which resulted in Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes, Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee**

yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 95 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.

Council Member Brown was recognized for a report from the Advertising and Promotion Commission. Council Member Brown made a motion to adopt Resolution 81 of 2025 – A Resolution Ratifying and Confirming the Appointment of Elgin Hamner as Commissioner to the Benton A&P Commission; and for Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Donnor. The resolution was read by title. The Mayor asked for any questions or comments, none. He stated that Mr. Hamner was the only one to apply and this opening was advertised. Roll was called which resulted in Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes, Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 81 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.

There was not a report from the Animal Services Committee, the Commission Committee, or the Public Utility Commission.

Council Member Reed was recognized for a report from the Community Service Committee. Council Member Reed made a motion to adopt Resolution 82 of 2025 – A Resolution To Request the Saline County Tax Collector Place a Certified Lien Against Real Property Located 2014 West Lakeview Drive as a Result of Incurred Expenses by the City of Benton in Accordance with State Law and City Ordinance; and For Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Baptist. The resolution was read by title. The Mayor asked if anyone was here for this property, no one came forward. He asked for any questions or comments, none. The cost was \$355.47. Roll was called which resulted in Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes, Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 82 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.

Council Member Reed made a motion to adopt Resolution 83 of 2025 – A Resolution To Request the Saline County Tax Collector Place a Certified Lien Against Real Property Located 3104 Lava Lane as a Result of Incurred Expenses by the City of Benton in Accordance with State Law and City Ordinance; and For Other Purposes. Second, by Council Member Brown. The resolution was read by title. The Mayor asked if anyone was here for this property, no one came forward. He asked for any questions or comments, none. He stated that the cleanup cost was \$293.59. Roll was called which resulted in Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes, Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 83 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.

Council Member Reed made a motion to adopt Resolution 84 of 2025 – A Resolution To Request the Saline County Tax Collector Place a Certified Lien Against Real Property Located 723 Denton Street as a Result of Incurred Expenses by the City of Benton in Accordance with State Law and City Ordinance; and For Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Lee. The resolution was read by title. The Mayor asked if anyone was here

for this property, no one came forward. He asked for any questions or comments, none. The cost of the cleanup was \$603.66. Roll was called which resulted in Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes, Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 84 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.

Council Member Reed made a motion to adopt Resolution 85 of 2025 – A Resolution To Request the Saline County Tax Collector Place a Certified Lien Against Real Property Located 1714 Huntley Road as a Result of Incurred Expenses by the City of Benton in Accordance with State Law and City Ordinance; and For Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Morrow. The resolution was read by title. The Mayor asked if anyone was here for this property, no one came forward. He asked for any questions or comments, none. The cost of the cleanup was \$767.97. Roll was called which resulted in Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes, Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 85 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.

Council Member Reed made a motion to adopt Resolution 86 of 2025 – A Resolution To Request the Saline County Tax Collector Place a Certified Lien Against Real Property Located 1406 Highway 35 as a Result of Incurred Expenses by the City of Benton in Accordance with State Law and City Ordinance; and For Other Purposes. Second, by Council Member Baptist. The resolution was read by title. The Mayor asked if anyone was here for this property, no one came forward. He asked for any questions or comments, none. He stated that the cost of the demolition was \$5,365.99. Roll was called which resulted in Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes, Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 86 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.

Council Member Brown was recognized for a report from the Finance Committee. Council Member Brown made a motion to adopt Resolution 87 of 2025 – A Resolution Authorizing The City To Enter Into a Non-Exclusive Pole Attachment Agreement with UPN; and For Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Baptist. The resolution was read by title. The Mayor stated that this was a 3-year contract for 123 poles at \$17 each. The Mayor asked for any questions or comments, none. Roll was called which resulted in Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes, Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 87 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.

Council Member Brown made a motion to adopt Resolution 88 of 2025 – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and the Chief Financial Officer to Apply for Grant Funding Through the Division of Arkansas Heritage for the Purposes of Securing Funding for Training of One Historic District Commissioner, Not To Exceed \$3,000; and For Other Purposes. Second, by Council Member Lee. The resolution was read by title. The Mayor stated that this was 100% if we get the grant. The Mayor asked for any questions or comments, none. Roll was called which resulted in Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member

**Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes, Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 88 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.**

**Council Member Brown made a motion to adopt Resolution 89 of 2025 – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and the Chief Financial Officer to Apply for Grant Funding Through the Division of Arkansas Heritage for the Purposes of Completing An Arkansas Resources Survey Within the Historic Downtown District of Benton; and For Other Purposes. Second, by Council Member Morrow. The resolution was read by title. The Mayor stated that we are applying for this grant to have a survey done to update the Historic District recommendations. The Mayor asked for any questions or comments, none. Roll was called which resulted in Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes, Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 89 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.**

**Council Member Brown made a motion to adopt Resolution 90 of 2025 – A Resolution Declaring Certain Property as Surplus; and Authorizing the Sale of the Surplus Property at Auction; and For Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Reed. The resolution was read by title. This resolution is for a 2007 Ford Crown Victoria with 107,825 miles which belongs to the fire department. The Mayor asked for any questions or comments, none. Roll was called which resulted in Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes, Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 90 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.**

**Council Member Brown made a motion to adopt Resolution 91 of 2025 – A Resolution Approving a Contract with MWI Animal Health for the Purchase of Dog and Cat Kennels to Outfit the New Animal Services Shelter and Amending the 2025 Animal Services Budget to Increase the Appropriation in the Amount of \$583,381.99; and For Other Purposes. Second, by Council Member Spencer-Cole. The resolution was read by title. The Mayor stated that this was for animal cages, and this was the lowest acceptable bid. This will double the number of animals that we can take in at the new animal shelter. The Mayor asked for any questions or comments. Council Member Hart asked if this was budgeted and do we have the funds. The Mayor stated yes and we are using cash on hand. Roll was called which resulted in Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes, Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 91 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.**

**Council Member Hart was recognized for the Parks Committee. Council Member Hart made a motion to read and adopt Ordinance 50 of 2025 – An Ordinance Setting Programming Rates for the Parks and Recreation Department for the 2026 Season; and For Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Morrow. The ordinance was read. The Mayor stated that seven programs would increase by \$5. The Mayor asked for any questions or comments, none. Roll was called Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes, Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee**

yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Ordinance 50 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.

Council Member Donnor was recognized for a report from the Personnel/Health & Safety Committee. Council Member Donnor made a motion to read and adopt Ordinance 51 of 2025 – An Ordinance Modifying the City of Benton Pay Structure for All General Fund, Street, Animal Services, and Parks Department Officials & Employees; and For Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Reed. The ordinance was read. No amounts on any of the pay was changed. The Mayor stated that the changes for 2025 to 2026 include ½ year budgeted for City Engineer, Finance/HR Benefits Specialist, and Certified Vet Tech. Also hiring additional part-time front desk, lifeguards and groundskeepers because of the requirement of APERS where the part-time employee can't work more than 80 hours per month in 3 consecutive months. The Mayor asked for any questions or comments, none. Roll was called Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes, Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Ordinance 51 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.

Council Member Spencer-Cole was recognized for a report from the Planning and Zoning Commission. Council Member Spencer-Cole made a motion to read and adopt by title only Ordinance 52 of 2025 – An Ordinance Rezoning 2011 Watts Road in the City of Benton, Saline County, Arkansas, From R1 Single Family District to R5 Multi Family District; and For Other Purposes. Second, by Council Member Brown. Roll was taken to read by title only which result in Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes, Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Motion to read by title only was approved with 10 affirmative votes. The ordinance was read by title only. The Mayor asked if anyone was here to represent this rezone for or against. No one came forward. The Mayor asked for any questions or comments. Council Member Hart asked what was being built. Mr. Bruce Thomas, Community Development Director, stated three fourplexes. Roll was called which resulted in Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes, Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Ordinance 52 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.

Council Member Spencer-Cole made a motion to read and adopt by title only Ordinance 53 of 2025 – An Ordinance Rezoning 15228 I-30 in the City of Benton, Saline County, Arkansas, From R5 Multi Family District & C3 Service Commercial to C3 Service Commercial Only; and For Other Purposes. Second, by Council Member Donnor. Roll was taken to read by title only which result in Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes, Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Motion to read by title only was approved with 10 affirmative votes. The ordinance was read by title only. The Mayor asked if anyone was here for or against this ordinance. Robin Bray, representative for Mr. Young stated that in 1998 this property in its entirety for Kay Diemer was rezoned but for whatever reason that never made it to the Metro Plan map. It never got done, I don't know if it was never sent to them or if it was an oversight on their part, but it did not happen. In 2017 the city did the city-wide rezoning and created a new map but this property was left as it had been on the original

map. In 2019 the Young's bought the property and expanded the old Ed & Kay's into what is now Blue Heaven. What they expanded on to is R5, so the building is out of compliance at this point. No one knew that the original ordinance which is still on the books was never honored. So here we are in 2025 correcting that issue and rezoning the same piece of property. Just a few months ago we abandoned the road, created a cul de sac and replatted that lot so that it is all one lot. So, what we are asking is for that one lot finally be rezoned once and for all to the C3 that it should have been in the first place. The Mayor asked for any questions or comment from the council, none. Roll call resulted in Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes, Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Ordinance 53 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.

Council Member Spencer-Cole made a motion to read and adopt by title only Ordinance 54 of 2025 – An Ordinance Rezoning 2319 Kelso Circle in the City of Benton, Saline County, Arkansas, From R2 Single Family District Detached Housing to C2 General Commercial; and For Other Purposes. Second by Council Member Reed. Roll was taken to read by title only which result in Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes, Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Motion to read by title only was approved with 10 affirmative votes. The ordinance was read by title only. The Mayor asked if anyone was here to speak for or against this Kelso rezone. No one came forward. The Mayor asked for any questions or comments. Council Member Hart asked what was being built. Mr. Bruce Thomas stated an automated utility trailer business. Council Member Hart asked if Mr. Thomas was comfortable with this rezone. Mr. Thomas stated yes, it is 50 feet from the railroad tracks. Roll was called which resulted in Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes, Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Ordinance 54 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.

Council Member Spencer-Cole made a motion to read and adopt by title only Ordinance 55 of 2025 – An Ordinance Rezoning 825 N. Main Street in the City of Benton, Saline County, Arkansas, From R2 Single Family District Detached Housing to C1 Neighborhood Commercial; and For Other Purposes. Second, by Council Member Baptist. Roll was taken to read by title only which result in Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes, Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Motion to read by title only was approved with 10 affirmative votes. The ordinance was read by title only. The Mayor asked if anyone was here from 825 Main Street to speak for or against this ordinance. Robert Scott property owner stated that it was his business which was a childcare facility. The Mayor asked for any questions or comments, none. Roll was called which resulted in Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes, Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Ordinance 55 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.

**Council Member Spencer-Cole made a motion to read and adopt by title only Ordinance 56 of 2025 – An Ordinance Rezoning the West 268.5 Feet of Parcel #805-19866-000 and Parcel #805-19868-000 in the City of Benton, Saline County, Arkansas, From AG Agricultural to C2 General Commercial; and For Other Purposes. Second, by Council Member Morrow. Roll was taken to read by title only which result in Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes, Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Motion to read by title only was approved with 10 affirmative votes. The ordinance was read by title only. The Mayor asked if anyone was here for or against this rezone. No one came forward. The Mayor asked for any questions or comments. Council Member Villines asked what they were doing. Mr. Thomas stated future development, the city has not heard. It is I-30 frontage, and they feel more comfortable being zoned commercial than agricultural. Roll was called which resulted in Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes, Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Ordinance 56 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.**

**Council Member Hamm was recognized for a report from the Streets Committee. Council Member Hamm made a motion to adopt Resolution 92 of 2025 – A Resolution Accepting the Lowest Acceptable Bid from Redstone Construction in the Amount of \$44,173.00 for Phase One of the Southwest Trail; and For Other Purposes. Second by Council Member Reed. The resolution was read by title. The Mayor stated that this is from where the bridge presently sits back to the railroad bridge. The Mayor asked for any questions or comments, none. Roll was called which resulted in Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes, Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 92 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.**

**Council Member Hamm made a motion to adopt Resolution 93 of 2025 – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor of the City of Benton, Arkansas, To Execute an Agreement for the Donation of Real Estate to Saline County for the Southwest Trail Project; and For Other Purposes. Second by Council Member Lee. The resolution was read by title. The Mayor stated that we got grant money so we have to follow their rules and the county needs right of way to build, then the county will give it back to us to maintain the Southwest Trail. The Mayor asked for any questions or comments, none. Roll was called which resulted in Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes, Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 93 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.**

**Council Member Hamm made a motion to adopt Resolution 94 of 2025 – A Resolution Accepting the Lowest Acceptable Bid from JCON, Inc. in the Amount of \$611,377.50 for the Cross-Street Drainage Improvement; and For Other Purposes. Second by Council Member Lee. The resolution was read by title. This is Phase 3 of the project. The Mayor asked for any questions or comments, none. Roll was called which resulted in Council Member Baptist yes, Council Member Brown yes, Council Member Spencer-Cole yes, Council Member Reed yes, Council Member Donnor yes, Council Member Morrow yes, Council Member Hart yes,**

**Council Member Villines yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 94 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.**

**The Mayor asked for any public comments, none.**

**The Mayor stated that November will be a short month because of the Thanksgiving Holiday. The council meeting will be on November 17<sup>th</sup>. City offices will be closed on November 11<sup>th</sup> for Veterans Day. All committee meetings will be on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Gliz and Garland is November 6-8, and November 30 will be the Christmas tree lighting. Sign up for weather alerts, a postcard was handed out telling you how.**

**The meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.**

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**Tom Farmer, Mayor**

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**Cindy Stracener, City Clerk**

CITY OF BENTON, ARKANSAS  
**Planning & Zoning Meeting**  
 Tuesday September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025  
 6:00 P.M.

Chairman Stilwell called the meeting to order. Roll call resulted in 1 member[s] being absent.

Members Present	Members Absent
	Carl West
Brett Chumley	
Lois Burks	
Darrell Wood	
John Clements	
Pamela Gibson	
James Stilwell	
Andy Warford	
	Mark Chilton
Bruce Thomas, Interim Community Development Director	
Chelsea Matthews, City Planner	

*Approval of the minutes of August 5<sup>th</sup> 2025, Planning Commission Meeting*

Chairman Stilwell asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes. Commissioner Gibson makes a motion to approve the minutes, as is. Commissioner Wood second. Motion carried.

**Board of Adjustments**

*7709 Shoreline Blvd [Variance for Side Setback Line]*

Chairman Stilwell asked Ms. Matthews to introduce the variance request. Ms. Matthews reads the memorandum that states that Built by Layton LLC [property owner] is requesting a variance for his property at 7709 Shoreline Blvd. The purpose of this variance is to allow for a retaining wall to be built within the left side setback [8' setback minimum per final plat]. Chairman Stilwell calls for any questions or comments regarding this request. Mr. Watson [property owner] is not present at this meeting. **Item fails due to lack of a motion.**

**Planning Commission**

*6718 & 6720 Alcoa Rd [Rezone from R2 to C2]*

Chairman Stilwell asked Ms. Matthews to introduce the rezone request. Ms. Matthews reads the memorandum that states that Nick Landers & Josh Bowden [property owners] is requesting approval of a rezone request for their property located at 6718 & 6720 Alcoa Rd. This property is currently zoned R2 [Single Family District Detached Housing] and they are requesting this property be rezoned to C2 [General Commercial]. Chairman Stilwell calls for any questions or comments regarding this request. Josh Bowden speaks in favor of this item. Commissioner Burks makes a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Gibson second. **Motion carried 6-0.**

*#805-10769-000 [Rezone from R2 to R6]*

CITY OF BENTON, ARKANSAS  
**Planning & Zoning Meeting**  
Tuesday September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025  
6:00 P.M.

Chairman Stilwell asked Ms. Matthews to introduce the rezone request. Ms. Matthews reads the memorandum that states that Hope Consulting LLC, on behalf of Havens Development [property owner] is requesting a rezone at parcel #805-10769-000 [address not assigned]. The current zone is R2 [Single Family District Detached Housing] and the applicant is requesting this property be rezoned to R6 [Multi Family District]. Chairman Stilwell calls for any questions or comments regarding this request. Jonathan Hope with Hope Consulting speaks in favor of this item. Multi citizens from the surrounding neighborhood come and speak against this item. The concerns of the group include traffic increases, crime increases, safety, and potential floodplain issues. **Due to the number of concerns, Mr. Hope withdraws this request.**

*The Crossings @ 114; Phase 2 [Preliminary Plat]*

Chairman Stilwell asked Ms. Matthews to introduce the preliminary plat. Ms. Matthews reads the memorandum that states that Rasburry Surveying, on behalf of the property owners, is requesting approval of a preliminary plat for The Crossings @ 114; Phase 2. Chairman Stilwell calls for any questions or comments regarding this request. Mr. Rasburry speaks in favor of this request. Commissioner Burks makes a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Clements second. **Motion carried 6-0.**

*Cottage Walk; Phase 1 [Final Plat]*

Chairman Stilwell asked Ms. Matthews to introduce the final plat for Cottage Walk; Phase 1. Ms. Matthews reads the memorandum that states that Hope Consulting LLC, on behalf of Little Rock LD LLC is requesting approval of a final plat for Cottage Walk; Phase 1. Ms. Matthews asks that this item be tabled due to WasteWater comments not being addressed. **Item tabled.**

*Spencers Crossing; Phase 2 [Final Plat]*

Chairman Stilwell asked Ms. Matthews to introduce the final plat for Spencers Crossing; Phase 2. Ms. Matthews reads the memorandum that states that Hope Consulting LLC, on behalf of Bragg & Kennedy Homes, is requesting approval of a final plat for Spencers Crossing; Phase 2. This property was annexed into Benton City Limits as an R3 [Single Family Residential District] zone [Ordinance 18 of 2023]. Chairman Stilwell calls for any questions or comments regarding this request. Mr. Hope speaks in favor of this request. Commissioner Wood makes a motion to approve this request. Commission Warford second. **Motion carried 6-0.**

CITY OF BENTON, ARKANSAS  
**Planning & Zoning Special Meeting**  
 Monday August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
 5:00 P.M.

Chairman Stilwell called the meeting to order. Roll call resulted in 4 member[s] being absent.

Members Present	Members Absent
	Carl West
Brett Chumley	
	Lois Burks
	Darrell Wood
John Clements	
Pamela Gibson	
	James Stilwell
Andy Warford	
Mark Chilton	
Bruce Thomas, Interim Community Development Director	
Chelsea Matthews, City Planner	

**Special Meeting**

*1309 Nature Way [Variance for West Side Setback Line]*

*\*Since Chairman Stilwell is not here, Commissioner Gibson sits in as the Chairman.*

Commissioner Gibson asked Ms. Matthews to introduce the variance request for 1309 Nature Way. Ms. Matthews reads the memorandum that states that Hope Consulting, LLC, on behalf of the property owners, is requesting approval of a variance at their property. The purpose of this variance is because a home was built 5' from the property line instead of the 8' required by the final plat. Commissioner Gibson calls for any questions or comments regarding this request. Corbin with Hope Consulting speaks in favor of this request.

Commissioner Chilton makes a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Warford second. **Motion carried**

**5-0.**

CITY OF BENTON UTILITY COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2025, 6:00 P.M.,  
ELECTRIC UTILITY BUILDING  
1827 DALE AVENUE

The City of Benton Utility Commissioners met in regular session Monday, September 6, 2025, at the Electric Utility Building, 1827 Dale Avenue.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Commission Chairman Ponder.

The invocation was given by Commission Chairman Ponder.

Commission Chairman Ponder led the Pledge of Allegiance.

When the roll was called, Commissioners present were:

Jerry Ponder, Chairman  
Dave McCollum, Commission Member  
Jana Hogue, Commission Member  
Gary Ferrell, Commission Member

A quorum was declared with four members present.

Commission Chairman Ponder asked if everyone had read the regular meeting minutes of September 2, 2025, and if so, is there a motion. Commission Member McCollum made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and be filed for future reference. The motion was seconded by Commission Member Hogue. Commission Chairman Ponder called for a voice vote. All commission members present voted in the affirmative. The September 2nd minutes were approved.

#### Departmental Reports

##### A. Safety/Personnel Update

Mrs. Terrie Sossamon, Human Resources Manager, was not present so Mr. Pedersen gave the monthly update on employee numbers, both budgeted and actual, workers' comp claims, safety classes and new employees.

##### B. August Financials

Mr. Jimmy Garrett, CFO, went through the August financials. In August, revenues were over expenses by \$383,456. He then went through the cash balances, franchise fees, revenues versus expenditures by department, bad debts, Capital Outlay Budget VS Actual 2025 and billing statistics for August in all three departments. Commission Member McCollum made a motion to approve the July financials as presented. Commission Member Ferrell seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Ponder called for a voice

vote. All commission members present voted in the affirmative. August financials were approved.

## Old Business

None

## New Business

### 1. Preliminary Budget Discussion

Mr. Pedersen explained that there wasn't really a discussion, he just wanted to pass out the preliminary budget so that everyone could look through it and then they could ask Mr. Garrett questions or have a work session if they choose. Commission Chairman Ponder said they would probably have a work session but they could set that up after everyone had a chance to look it over.

### 2. Equalization Basin Sludge Removal Bid

Mr. Greg Becker, Wastewater Plant Manager, explained that the basin needed dredging and presented pictures of the basin in its current state. He said that they had received two bids. One from Denali Water Solutions and one from J and B Tanker. The lowest bidder was Denali Water Solutions with a base bid in the amount of \$1,258,500.00. McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc., reviewed the bids and had no reservations about rewarding the bid to Denali Water Solutions. After discussion on the basin and the bid, Commission Member Ferrell made a motion to approve the low bid from Denali Water Solutions. Commission Member Hogue seconded the motion. Commission Member Ponder called for a voice vote. All commission member presented voted in the affirmative. The equalization basin sludge removal bid was approved.

### 3. Tree Trimming Bid

Mr. Darren Prysock, Electric Department Manager, presented the bids for the tree trimming. He explained they had received 5 bids, and this was in addition to the three-man crew that was already trimming. He said this was for 6 miles of extra tree trimming and said that the low bid was from GHW Forestry, Inc., DBA Natural State Tree Service in the amount of \$78,564. The highest bid was from West Tree Service in the amount of \$310,374. He said he called Natural State Tree Service and talked to them about everything and he was told that they felt like they under bid but they were not pulling their bid. Commission Member Hogue made a motion to accept the bid from GHW Forestry, Inc., DBA Natural State Tree Service in the amount of \$ 78,564. Commission Member McCollum seconded the motion. After much discussion on

pricing differences and references, Commission Chairman Ponder called for a voice vote. The motion passed with two yes votes and one no.

#### 4. Alcoa Substation Upgrade Bid Approval

Ms. Anna Pesaresi, Electric Engineer, was not present to present the bids so Mr. Pedersen explained the bids and a recommendation letter from Fisher and Arnold, Inc., He explained the work the bidder was going to complete and said the low bid was from Service Electric Company with a bid of \$182,730. Commission Member Ferrell made a motion to approve the low bid from Service Electric Company. Commission Member Hogue seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Ponder called for a voice vote. All commission members in attendance voted in the affirmative. The Alcoa Substation Upgrade Bid Approval was approved.

#### 5. Attorney General Complaint 482648

Mr. Garrett and Mr. Pedersen explained the complaint and said they had sent a response letter back to the Attorney General and as far as he knew the complaint was resolved.

6. Mr. Pedersen said he had one item he would like to add to the agenda. He said that it was the June 2024 annexing of the Thomas Pasture Property. He said they had spoken to Entergy and have not yet reached a settlement. He said that the city had been annexing the property a little at a time but they have spoken to the landowner and he has agreed to let them annex the entire property. Entergy feels like there is value there and something should be paid for Benton taking over their territory even though there is not currently electricity on the property. He has spoken to City Attorney, Baxter Drennan and Mr. Jason Carter, AMPA attorney and feel like it may have to be taken to court before it is over. He is asking the commission to give him the authority to proceed with negotiations with Entergy and working with attorneys to move forward with a court case if necessary. Commission Member McCollum made a motion to give Mr. Pedersen authority to move forward. Commission Member Ferrell seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Ponder called for a voice vote with all members present voting in the affirmative. Motion passed.

#### Announcements

Next Meeting Date: November 3, 2025

Commission Chairman Ponder said he would not be available on November 3. Commission Member McCollum said he would also be out of town. After discussion, the

date of the next meeting was changed to November 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Pedersen said when the prior chairman left Vice Chairman Ponder moved into the Chairmans position so with him being out of town they need to pick someone to chair the meeting. Commission Member Ferrell was chosen to chair the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### Executive Session

A. None

Commission Member Ferrell made a motion to adjourn with a second by Commission Member McCollum. Commission Chairman Ponder called for a voice vote. All commission members present voted in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

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Jerry Ponder, Commission Chairman

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Madeline Wilson, Recording Secretary

**Benton Advertising & Promotion Commission**  
**Agenda**  
**October 22, 2025**  
**3:30 pm at Benton City Hall in Council Chambers**  
**(410 River Street)**

**I. Call to Order**

<b>II. Roll Call</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>FOIA Compliant</b>
Frank Baptist	_____	_____	_____
Steve Brown	_____	_____	_____
Alison Burch	_____	_____	_____
Bill Eldridge	_____	_____	_____
Elgin Hamner IV	_____	_____	_____
Luke Moody	_____	_____	_____
Greg Shinn	_____	_____	_____

**III. Statement of FOIA Compliance**

I affirm that I have not engaged in any prohibited discussion, deliberation, or polling regarding any item on this meeting's agenda outside of a properly noticed and open meeting, in compliance with the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act, as amended by Act 505 of 2025.

**IV. Minutes from September Meeting**

**V. Financial Reports**

- A. Profit and Loss Reports – Jordan Woolbright
- B. Bank Balances and Collections Report – Mandy Spicer

**VI. Administrative**

Delinquency Report – Mandy Spicer

**VII. Funding**

None

**VIII. Benton Event Center Report – Nikki Chumley**

**IX. Marketing Report – Rachel Rivers**

**X. Development of Exit 114 Property – Bill Eldridge**

**XI. Old Business**

None

**XII. New Business**

- A. Commissioner Term Expiration – Bill Eldridge
- B. Next Meeting Date – November 12

**XIII. Other Business**

**XIV. Adjournment**

**BENTON ADVERTISING & PROMOTION COMMISSION**  
**Minutes**  
**September 10, 2025**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**  
Chairman Bill Eldridge called the meeting of the Benton Advertising & Promotion Commission to order on September 10, 2025, at 3:31 pm at Benton City Hall in Council Chambers.
- II. **ROLL CALL**  
Commissioners in attendance were Bill Eldridge, Frank Baptist, Steve Brown, Alison Burch, Luke Moody and Greg Shinn. Elgin Hamner was absent.
- III. **STATEMENT OF FOIA COMPLIANCE**  
Bill Eldridge read the Statement of FOIA Compliance and Amy McCormick requested the response of the commissioners. Each commissioner in attendance responded that he/she is in compliance with the statement.
- IV. **MINUTES**  
Luke Moody made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2025 meeting. Steve Brown seconded. Motion carried.
- V. **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

A. Profit & Loss Reports

Financial reports were presented by Jordan Woolbright. The A&P Commission bank accounts show the following balances as of August 31, 2025:

Bank OZK – Focus Group Project	\$724,077.62
Bank OZK – A&P	\$169,769.00
Bank OZK – Event Center	\$545,271.43
Bank OZK – Savings	<u>\$421,021.03</u>
Total Checking/Savings	\$1,860,139.08

There is a liability of \$636.69 owed to the Arkansas Department of Finance and the City of Benton for sales tax.

A&P profit and loss statements: for the month of August 2025 total income of \$19,476.67 and total operating expenses of \$21,456.19 resulting in net loss of (\$1,979.52). For the year to date as of August 2025 total income of \$150,885.37 and total operating expenses of \$108,690.01 resulting in net income of \$42,195.36.

Event Center profit and loss statements: for the month of August 2025 total income of \$57,687.80 and total operating expenses of \$47,189.98 resulting in net income of \$10,497.82. For the year to date as of August 2025 total income of \$509,375.31, total operating expenses of \$328,481.38 and capital expenditures of \$63,821.37 resulting in net income of \$117,072.56. Beginning February 2025, \$10,000 is transferred each month from the event center operating account to the event center savings account. Also, funds are transferred from the event center savings account to the event center operating account for capital expenditures.

Focus Group profit and loss statement: for the month of August 2025 total income of \$21,256.71 and total operating expenses of \$47,752.55 resulting in net loss of (\$26,495.84). For the year to date as of August 2025, total income of \$164,326.36, total operating expenses of \$11.10 and total special project expense of \$97,752.55 resulting in net income of \$66,562.71.

**B. Bank Balances and Collections Report**

Mandy Spicer presented the bank accounts with the following balances as of August 31, 2025:

	Statement Balance	Prev. Month's Balance
A&P Collections General	\$15,277.09	\$13,504.81
A&P Large Project Checking	\$2,284,887.25	\$2,201,669.38
A&P Small Project Checking	\$1,564,810.52	\$1,524,578.60
A&P General Operating Checking	\$170,514.93	\$172,268.05
Benton Focus Group Checking	\$771,830.17	\$750,573.46
Benton Event Center Gen Operating Checking	\$569,878.25	\$546,958.45
Benton Event Center Savings	<u>\$421,021.03</u>	\$409,753.72
	<u>\$5,798,219.24</u>	

**VI. ADMINISTRATIVE**

Mandy Spicer reported collections received in the month of August 2025 were \$192,025.31, which is an 8.1% increase from August 2024. The collections received in August are for the month of July.

Below are the amounts collected in August of this year along with August of the previous six years:

August 2025 Collections:	\$192,025.31
August 2024 Collections:	\$177,608.38
August 2023 Collections:	\$187,330.46
August 2022 Collections:	\$170,989.88
August 2021 Collections:	\$160,523.11
August 2020 Collections:	\$134,831.92

August 2019 Collections:

\$131,093.40

Mandy Spicer reported there are currently 22 delinquent businesses. Most of them are food trucks that are one month late but are expected to bring their accounts current soon.

Luke Moody made a motion to accept the financial reports as presented by Jordan Woolbright and Mandy Spicer. Alison Burch seconded. Motion carried.

**VII. FUNDING REQUEST**

None.

**VIII. BENTON EVENT CENTER REPORT**

Nikki Chumley reported about 8 events held in the building, including a 3-day conference, two fundraising banquets, a bingo and a land auction. The lighting project is 90% finished and she is receiving training for its operations.

**IX. MARKETING REPORT**

Rachel Rivers presented Facebook and Instagram analytics for the period of August 6 (launch date) to September 3. She hosted a booth at the Salt Bowl tailgate and gathered sign-ups for the upcoming monthly newsletter. She will also have booths at Third Thursday in September and Old Fashioned Day in October. A temporary landing page for the website has been created with a promotional video and a live countdown. The official website ([discoverbenton.com](http://discoverbenton.com)) will launch on September 29 or 30 and a press release will be sent out to media outlets.

**X. DEVELOPMENT OF EXIT 114 PROPERTY**

Dan Beranek with McClelland Consulting Engineers reported that meetings were held last week with three contractors (Garrett Excavating, RedStone Construction and Graves & Associates) who submitted bids for dirt work for the RV park to discuss their approaches to the project and time projections. The group holding the interviews recommends Garrett Excavating to move forward with on the project. Luke Moody made a motion to enter discussions and contract negotiations with Garrett Excavating regarding the scope and price for dirt work for the RV park and soccer complex. Frank Baptist seconded. Motion carried.

**XI. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**XII. NEW BUSINESS**

The next meeting of the A&P Commission will be October 8, 2025.

**XIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mayor Tom Farmer stated an interested buyer has reached out regarding the 35 acres owned by the City that was purchased four years ago and requested the property be appraised to ascertain the current value. Steve Brown made a motion to have the 35 acre property appraised. Alison Burch seconded. Motion carried.


The next installment for the purchase of the Thomas land will be paid in January.

Mayor Farmer reported the permit from the Corps of Engineers for the RV park and soccer field projects is still pending and will hopefully be issued within the next 30 days.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

Luke Moody made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alison Burch seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Eldridge, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy McCormick, Recording Secretary

**Benton A&P Commission**  
**Statement of Assets, Liabilities & Equity-Modified Cash Basis**  
 Substantially All Disclosures Required by the Modified Cash Basis of Accounting Omitted  
 As of September 30, 2025

	<u>Sep 30, 25</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
Bank OZK - Focus Group Project	745,501.94
Bank OZK - A&P	171,917.84
Bank OZK - Event Center	573,228.99
Bank OZK - Savings	432,415.48
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>1,923,064.25</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>1,923,064.25</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>1,923,064.25</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
Sales Tax Payable	614.74
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<u>614.74</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>614.74</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>614.74</u>
<b>Equity</b>	
Retained Earnings	1,633,671.76
Net Income	288,777.75
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>1,922,449.51</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><u>1,923,064.25</u></u>

NO ASSURANCE IS PROVIDED ON THESE STATEMENTS.

**Benton A&P Commission**  
**Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual - A&P - Modified Cash Basis**  
**Substantially All Disclosures Required by the Modified Cash Basis of Accounting Omitted**  
**September 2025**

	<u>Sep 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
Interest	529.47	350.00	179.47	151.28%
Sales Tax Revenue	19,010.04	18,052.00	958.04	105.31%
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>19,539.51</u>	<u>18,402.00</u>	<u>1,137.51</u>	<u>106.18%</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	19,539.51	18,402.00	1,137.51	106.18%
<b>Expense</b>				
Professional Services	800.00	0.00	800.00	100.0%
Accounting Services	600.00	600.00	0.00	100.0%
Advertising Expense	657.50	1,040.50	(383.00)	63.19%
Comp. for Commissioners	750.00	750.00	0.00	100.0%
Funding	3,567.54	4,166.00	(598.46)	85.64%
Labor Expenses	2,583.60	0.00	2,583.60	100.0%
Legal Counsel	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	100.0%
Meals & Entertainment	131.69	0.00	131.69	100.0%
Office Expense	442.01	0.00	442.01	100.0%
Service Agreement	6,658.33	6,658.33	0.00	100.0%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>17,390.67</u>	<u>14,414.83</u>	<u>2,975.84</u>	<u>120.64%</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>2,148.84</u>	<u>3,987.17</u>	<u>(1,838.33)</u>	<u>53.89%</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>2,148.84</u>	<u>3,987.17</u>	<u>(1,838.33)</u>	<u>53.89%</u>

NO ASSURANCE IS PROVIDED ON THESE STATEMENTS.

**Benton A&P Commission**  
**Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual - A&P - Modified Cash Basis**  
**Substantially All Disclosures Required by the Modified Cash Basis of Accounting Omitted**  
**January through September 2025**

	<u>Jan - Sep 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
Interest	4,166.37	3,160.00	1,016.37	132.27%
Sales Tax Revenue	166,258.51	165,200.80	1,057.71	100.64%
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>170,424.88</u>	<u>168,350.80</u>	<u>2,074.08</u>	<u>101.23%</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	170,424.88	168,350.80	2,074.08	101.23%
<b>Expense</b>				
Professional Services	800.00	0.00	800.00	100.0%
Accounting Services	5,575.00	5,515.00	60.00	101.09%
Advertising Expense	5,264.69	4,305.78	958.91	122.27%
Comp. for Commissioners	6,300.00	6,750.00	(450.00)	93.33%
Funding	21,545.42	37,499.00	(15,953.58)	57.46%
Labor Expenses	11,918.16	0.00	11,918.16	100.0%
Legal Counsel	10,800.00	10,800.00	0.00	100.0%
Meals & Entertainment	131.69	0.00	131.69	100.0%
Office Expense	453.11	0.00	453.11	100.0%
Postage	224.92	225.00	(0.08)	99.96%
Repairs & Maintenance	3,142.72	3,475.00	(332.28)	90.44%
Service Agreement	59,924.97	59,924.97	0.00	100.0%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>126,080.68</u>	<u>128,494.75</u>	<u>(2,414.07)</u>	<u>98.12%</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>44,344.20</u>	<u>39,856.05</u>	<u>4,488.15</u>	<u>111.26%</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>44,344.20</u>	<u>39,856.05</u>	<u>4,488.15</u>	<u>111.26%</u>

NO ASSURANCE IS PROVIDED ON THESE STATEMENTS.

**Benton A&P Commission**  
**Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual - Event Center - Modified Cash Basis**  
**Substantially All Disclosures Required by the Modified Cash Basis of Accounting Omitted**  
**September 2025**

	<u>Sep 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
Interest	3,151.54	2,300.00	851.54	137.02%
<b>Sales-Revenue</b>				
Alcohol Sales-Beer/Wine	246.86	400.00	(153.14)	61.72%
Alcohol Sales-Mixed Drinks	247.42	0.00	247.42	100.0%
Refunds/Returns	(91.00)	0.00	(91.00)	100.0%
Sales-Revenue - Other	60,802.58	47,128.00	13,674.58	129.02%
<b>Total Sales-Revenue</b>	<u>61,205.86</u>	<u>47,528.00</u>	<u>13,677.86</u>	<u>128.78%</u>
Sales Tax Revenue	19,010.04	18,052.00	958.04	105.31%
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>83,367.44</u>	<u>67,880.00</u>	<u>15,487.44</u>	<u>122.82%</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	83,367.44	67,880.00	15,487.44	122.82%
<b>Expense</b>				
Alcohol Expense	456.83	0.00	456.83	100.0%
Bank Service Fees	753.46	418.32	335.14	180.12%
Building Alarm System	607.31	950.00	(342.69)	63.93%
Cable TV	197.00	186.35	10.65	105.72%
Cleaning Service	1,293.44	1,345.00	(51.56)	96.17%
Contract Labor	2,285.65	4,200.00	(1,914.35)	54.42%
Health Insurance	1,364.53	1,364.53	0.00	100.0%
Internet/IT	1,929.95	2,193.00	(263.05)	88.01%
Labor Expenses	14,705.42	14,090.83	614.59	104.36%
Laundry Expense	1,949.10	3,942.00	(1,992.90)	49.44%
Office Expense	307.54	366.74	(59.20)	83.86%
Pest Control Expense	76.56	70.00	6.56	109.37%
Repairs & Maintenance	7,138.79	9,123.02	(1,984.23)	78.25%
Supplies	3,012.40	1,939.19	1,073.21	155.34%
Telephone Expense	28.00	117.00	(89.00)	23.93%
Trash Pickup	598.15	700.00	(101.85)	85.45%
Utilities	7,561.82	8,178.59	(616.77)	92.46%
Website	69.95	69.95	0.00	100.0%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>44,335.80</u>	<u>49,254.52</u>	<u>(4,918.62)</u>	<u>90.01%</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>39,031.54</u>	<u>18,625.48</u>	<u>20,406.06</u>	<u>209.56%</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>39,031.54</u>	<u>18,625.48</u>	<u>20,406.06</u>	<u>209.56%</u>
Transfer to BEC Savings	(10,000.00)			
Transfer from BEC Savings	0.00			

NO ASSURANCE IS PROVIDED ON THESE STATEMENTS.

**Benton A&P Commission**  
**Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual - Event Center - Modified Cash Basis**  
**Substantially All Disclosures Required by the Modified Cash Basis of Accounting Omitted**  
**January through September 2025**

	<u>Jan - Sep 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
Interest	25,364.74	20,700.00	4,664.74	122.54%
<b>Sales-Revenue</b>				
Alcohol Sales-Beer/Wine	5,373.26	6,800.00	(1,426.74)	79.02%
Alcohol Sales-Mixed Drinks	2,590.44	3,300.00	(709.56)	78.5%
Refunds/Returns	(657.00)	0.00	(657.00)	100.0%
Sales-Revenue - Other	394,367.80	375,000.00	19,367.80	105.17%
<b>Total Sales-Revenue</b>	<u>401,474.50</u>	<u>365,100.00</u>	<u>16,374.50</u>	<u>104.25%</u>
Sales Tax Revenue	166,258.61	165,200.80	1,057.71	100.64%
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>593,097.75</u>	<u>571,000.80</u>	<u>22,096.95</u>	<u>103.87%</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	593,097.75	571,000.80	22,096.95	103.87%
<b>Expense</b>				
Advertising Expense	2,227.40	2,000.00	227.40	111.37%
Alcohol Expense	6,386.36	5,308.55	1,077.81	120.35%
Alcohol Permit Expense	3,576.00	3,576.00	0.00	100.0%
Bank Service Fees	5,069.28	4,991.10	78.18	101.57%
Building Alarm System	2,069.45	3,126.30	(1,056.85)	66.2%
Cable TV	1,751.70	1,677.15	74.55	104.45%
Cleaning Service	11,565.39	12,105.00	(539.62)	95.54%
Contract Labor	35,684.13	37,325.00	(1,640.87)	95.6%
Dues & Memberships	550.00	1,279.95	(729.95)	42.97%
Health Insurance	11,871.41	11,871.41	0.00	100.0%
Internet/IT	10,675.55	19,737.00	(9,061.45)	54.09%
Labor Expenses	142,318.62	141,034.29	1,284.33	100.91%
Laundry Expense	17,246.25	18,924.85	(1,678.60)	91.13%
Linen & Supplies	1,233.60	1,138.96	94.64	108.31%
Office Expense	6,386.46	3,742.73	2,643.73	170.64%
Pest Control Expense	940.81	805.00	135.81	103.94%
Repairs & Maintenance	35,652.97	68,941.65	(32,988.68)	51.84%
Supplies	12,323.51	12,867.35	(543.84)	97.29%
Telephone Expense	987.70	1,053.00	(65.30)	93.8%
Trash Pickup	5,610.82	4,816.16	794.66	116.5%
Utilities	58,033.16	57,081.28	951.88	101.67%
Webcasts	669.50	668.80	0.70	100.14%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>372,828.86</u>	<u>413,689.33</u>	<u>(40,839.47)</u>	<u>90.13%</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	220,267.89	157,331.47	62,836.42	140.0%
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Other Expense</b>				
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>				
New Office Space Construction	3,553.80	0.00	3,553.80	100.0%
Network Improvements	10,532.52	0.00	10,532.52	100.0%
Security Cameras	23,959.14	23,959.14	0.00	100.0%
LED Lights Change Out	15,534.91	12,947.91	2,587.00	119.95%
Chair Replacement	0.00	10,337.00	(10,337.00)	0.0%
Painting Event Rooms & Lobby	10,241.00	9,318.00	923.00	109.93%
<b>Total Capital Expenditures</b>	<u>63,821.37</u>	<u>56,560.05</u>	<u>7,261.32</u>	<u>112.84%</u>
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<u>63,821.37</u>	<u>56,560.05</u>	<u>7,261.32</u>	<u>112.84%</u>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<u>(63,821.37)</u>	<u>(56,560.05)</u>	<u>(7,261.32)</u>	<u>112.84%</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>156,446.52</u>	<u>100,771.42</u>	<u>55,675.10</u>	<u>155.25%</u>
Transfer to BEC Savings	(80,000.00)			
Transfer from BEC Savings	63,821.37			

NO ASSURANCE IS PROVIDED ON THESE STATEMENTS.

**Benton A&P Commission**  
**Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual - Focus Group - Modified Cash Basis**  
**Substantially All Disclosures Required by the Modified Cash Basis of Accounting Omitted**  
**September 2025**

	<u>Sep 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
Interest	2,414.28	1,500.00	914.28	160.95%
Sales Tax Revenue	19,010.04	18,052.00	958.04	105.31%
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>21,424.32</u>	<u>19,552.00</u>	<u>1,872.32</u>	<u>109.58%</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<u>21,424.32</u>	<u>19,552.00</u>	<u>1,872.32</u>	<u>109.58%</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>21,424.32</u>	<u>19,552.00</u>	<u>1,872.32</u>	<u>109.58%</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>21,424.32</u>	<u>19,552.00</u>	<u>1,872.32</u>	<u>109.58%</u>

NO ASSURANCE IS PROVIDED ON THESE STATEMENTS.

**Benton A&P Commission**  
**Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual - Focus Group - Modified Cash Basis**  
**Substantially All Disclosures Required by the Modified Cash Basis of Accounting Omitted**  
**January through September 2025**

	<u>Jan - Sep 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
Interest	19,492.17	13,500.00	5,992.17	144.39%
Sales Tax Revenue	166,258.51	165,200.80	1,057.71	100.64%
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>185,750.68</u>	<u>178,700.80</u>	<u>7,049.88</u>	<u>103.95%</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<u>185,750.68</u>	<u>178,700.80</u>	<u>7,049.88</u>	<u>103.95%</u>
<b>Expense</b>				
Office Expense	11.10	0.00	11.10	100.0%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>11.10</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>11.10</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>185,739.58</u>	<u>178,700.80</u>	<u>7,038.78</u>	<u>103.94%</u>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Other Expense</b>				
Special Projects	97,752.55	100,000.00	(2,247.45)	97.75%
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<u>97,752.55</u>	<u>100,000.00</u>	<u>(2,247.45)</u>	<u>97.75%</u>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<u>(97,752.55)</u>	<u>(100,000.00)</u>	<u>2,247.45</u>	<u>97.75%</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>87,987.03</u>	<u>78,700.80</u>	<u>9,286.23</u>	<u>111.8%</u>

NO ASSURANCE IS PROVIDED ON THESE STATEMENTS.

Benton Advertising & Promotion Commission Bank Account Balances  
September 30, 2025

Account Name		Acct #	Statement Balance	Previous Month's Balance
<b>Cash Accounts:</b>				
A&P Collections General		***1584	9,904.82	15,277.09
Bond Account		***1592	CLOSED	CLOSED
				0.00
A&P Large Project Checking	50%	***0318	2,386,312.78	2,284,887.25
A&P Small Project Checking	20%	***0348	1,604,190.28	1,564,810.52
A&P General Op Checking	10%	***3297	174,725.83	170,514.93
Benton Focus Group Checking	10%	***2274	745,501.94	771,830.17
				0.00
Benton Event Center General Op Checking	10%	***2640	578,362.89	569,878.25
Benton Event Center Savings		***9832	432,415.48	421,021.03
<b>TOTAL OPERATING CASH &amp; INVESTMENTS</b>				<b><u><u>5,931,414.02</u></u></b>

**BENTON ADVERTISING & PROMOTION  
COLLECTIONS - FY2025 - NET**

RESTAURANTS:	Permit #	Recd in Jan	Recd in Feb	Recd in Mar	Recd in April	Recd in May	Recd in June	Recd in July	Recd in Aug	Recd in Sept	Recd in Oct	Recd in Nov	Recd in Dec	TOTAL
		DEC	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPT	OCT	NOV	
TOTAL RESTAURANTS		157,721.20	121,106.33	158,506.67	175,669.53	153,379.63	165,587.02	181,491.68	164,988.39	157,271.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,442,329.71
# of Businesses		82	71	87	86	82	85	87	86	84				
FOOD TRUCKS:														
TOTAL FOOD TRUCKS		1,312.66	291.87	574.45	1,713.70	1,105.79	807.29	895.30	754.00	1,159.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,682.55
# of Businesses		20	13	15	18	21	21	24	25	31				
MOTEL & HOTEL:														
TOTAL MOTEL & HOTEL		4,034.37	3,497.93	3,808.75	5,185.85	4,577.05	5,501.19	5,692.16	6,182.79	4,595.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	43,023.84
# of Businesses		11	10	11	11	12	11	10	11	10				
CONVENIENCE STORE:														
TOTAL C-STORE		2,765.24	2,277.77	2,863.75	3,244.94	3,118.60	2,976.37	3,297.95	3,490.44	2,653.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	27,509.07
# of Businesses		19	16	19	18	17	18	16	21	17				
OTHER:														
TOTAL OTHER		11,988.51	11,394.76	10,618.15	13,120.92	15,077.53	16,701.00	13,218.37	12,872.98	11,986.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	116,997.93
# of Businesses		9	12	12	13	14	19	18	18	23				
GROCERY:														
TOTAL GROCERY		4,041.98	901.11	4,765.71	3,440.85	3,293.00	3,760.92	3,920.66	3,736.71	3,794.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	26,864.35
# of Businesses		5	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>		<b>181,863.96</b>	<b>129,459.77</b>	<b>181,237.48</b>	<b>202,375.79</b>	<b>180,551.60</b>	<b>195,333.79</b>	<b>208,516.12</b>	<b>192,025.31</b>	<b>181,501.81</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,665,207.35</b>
2024 Collections		182,613.39	152,869.71	164,045.85	199,422.47	182,695.22	185,186.88	190,469.90	177,608.38	173,613.62	175,816.65	170,675.37	177,568.47	2,132,584.91
2023 Collections		155,553.56	167,462.05	153,767.56	174,446.63	167,841.95	186,089.97	164,103.87	187,330.46	173,416.93	161,766.76	178,235.97	163,482.66	2,033,497.77
2022 Collections		154,095.92	129,638.16	127,930.49	158,659.20	156,810.34	169,019.16	154,468.26	170,988.88	155,200.86	158,573.06	154,044.55	148,725.26	1,837,155.24
2021 Collections		136,911.96	109,322.08	114,271.51	150,715.18	147,830.27	152,994.96	148,740.03	160,523.11	143,658.46	131,394.46	141,463.51	135,536.13	1,573,361.06
2020 Collections		127,256.22	117,613.40	111,444.38	105,889.39	97,678.07	123,024.71	115,292.01	134,831.92	126,876.64	119,983.38	129,755.98	109,901.21	1,419,547.31
2019 Collections		117,759.17	107,528.57	110,355.37	129,020.47	120,684.42	135,416.48	123,451.44	131,083.40	119,508.52	112,258.92	119,762.25	116,259.46	1,443,077.07
% Increase from 2024 to 2025		-0.4%	-8.8%	10.5%	1.5%	-1.2%	5.5%	9.5%	8.1%	4.5%	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%	

# Benton Event Center-Event Report

September 11, 2025 to October 22, 2025

October 1, 2013 to September 10, 2025

1,024,889

	Date(s)	# of Attendees
Benton Chamber Business After Hours	9/11/2025	160
ABA Ladies Retreat	9/12-9/13/2025	1,880
AR Pest Management Association Conference	9/15-9/17/2025	275
AR Trauma Rehab Symposium	9/18-9/19/2025	512
Salute to Recovery	9/20/2025	150
Hospice/Pallative Care Fall Conference	9/21-9/23/2025	210
First Security Trip Preview	9/24/2025	80
ADE ACC Fall Conference	9/24-9/25/2025	340
AR MGMA Conference	9/24-9/25/2025	80
AGFC Private Landowners Luncheon	9/26/2025	360
Frist Horizon Meeting	9/27/2025	80
Dyer Baby Shower	9/27/2025	40
National Beta Club Leadership Summit	9/29-9/30/2025	920
IRC Conference	10/1/2025	305
AAGEA Conference	10/1-10/2/2025	125
Saline County Gun & Knife Show	10/3-10/5/2025	2800
AR Dept of Fiance Annual Training	10/6/2025	175
AR AIMS English Conference	10/6-10/7/2025	160
Pryia Patel Wedding Celebration (6)	10/8-10/12/2025	2480
River Valley Horticulture	10/13/2025	400
Second Chance Ranch Banquet	10/14/2025	925
Chamber Bingo	10/15-10/16/2025	992
Sports Card Show	10/18/2025	261

# of Events: 28

TOTAL: 13,550

TOTAL: 1,038,439



## Marketing Report

October 22, 2025

- Discover Benton website launched October 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - MySaline Video Advertisement – reached **6,700 people**
  - Discover Benton paid Facebook Ad - reached **5,520 people**
- Website Analytics from October 2 – 20
  - Users – 910
  - Sessions – 1,115
  - Averages to about **50 people per day** looking at the website
- The first e-newsletter sent out to 71 people.
- A&P hosted a booth at Old Fashioned Day on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>.

### Discover Benton Facebook Analytics

#### Views & Reach Summary

Time Period	Views	Reach	Views Change	Reach Change
Sept 1 – Sept 30	19,200	7,400	-	-
As of Oct 20	<u>16,800</u>	<u>7,500</u>	-	Totals to be included at end of the month

#### Followers Growth Summary

Date	Followers	Change
Aug 31	545	-
Sept 30	625	+80
Oct 20	893	<u>+268</u>

 Outlook

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**A&P**

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**From** Elgin Hamner <elgin.hamner8101@gmail.com>

**Date** Thu 10/2/2025 8:46 AM

**To** Amy McCormick <amy@bentonchamber.com>

It is my desire to serve another term on the A&P committee if allowed.

Thank you,  
Elgin Hamner