

CITY OF BENTON UTILITY COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023, 6:00 P.M.,  
ELECTRIC UTILITY BUILDING  
1827 DALE AVENUE

The City of Benton Utility Commissioners met in regular session Monday, December 4, 2023, at the Electric Utility Building, 1827 Dale Avenue.

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

The invocation was given by Commission Member Johnston.

Commission Member Stott led the Pledge of Allegiance.

When the roll was called, 3 Commissioners were present:

Gary Ferrell, Commission Chairman  
Brad Johnson, Commission Member  
Skylyr Stott, Commission Member

A quorum was declared with 3 members present.

Commission Member McCollum came in at 6:12 p.m.

Commission Chairman Ferrell asked if everyone had read the regular meeting minutes of November 20th and if so, is there a motion. Commission Member Johnston made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and be filed for future reference. The motion was seconded by Commission Member Stott. Commission Chairman Ferrell called for a voice vote. All commission members present voted in the affirmative. The minutes were approved with 3 affirmative votes.

## Departmental Reports

### A. Safety/Personnel Update

Mrs. Terrie Sossamon, HR, gave an update on employee numbers, workers' comp claims, safety classes and new employees.

### B. October Financials

Mr. Jimmy Garrett, CFO, went through the financials for October. Revenues were under expenditures by \$10,615. He then went through the cash balances, franchise fees, revenues versus expenditures by department and bad debts. He talked about the construction work in progress and the recent reimbursements received from the State for

the Highway 5 Project as well as the outstanding reimbursement amounts. Commission Member Johnston made a motion to approve the October financials as presented. Commission Member Stott seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Ferrell called for a voice vote. All commission members present voted in the affirmative. The October financials were approved with three affirmative votes.

Mr. Garrett then brought them up to date on the tax reimbursements we were receiving due to Arkansas Tax Associates going through our receipts.

## Old Business

## New Business

### A. Appointment of Officers for 2024

Commission Chairman Ferrell opened the floor for nominations. Commission Member Stott made a motion to appoint Commission Member McCollum. Commission Member McCollum said he was not ready to be Chairman. Commission Member Johnston said he would like to throw his hat in the ring. Commission Member McCollum said he would make a motion to have Commission Member Johnston as chairman. Commission Member Stott seconded his motion. Motions ceased. Commission Chairman Ferrell called for a voice vote. All commission members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed with 3 votes. Commission Member McCollum made a motion to appoint Commission Member Ponder as Vice Chairman. Commission Member Stott seconded the motion. Motion ceased. Commission Chairman Ferrell called for a voice vote. All commission members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed with 3 affirmative votes.

### B. Salem and Southwest Water Contracts

Mr. Pedersen explained that the Salem and Southwest wholesale water contracts expire at the end of this year. He said they were currently working on both contracts and asked for approval to extend the expiration date for 90 additional days or until the contract is replaced with an updated contract. Commission Chairman Ferrell called for a motion. Commission Member McCollum made a motion to allow the contracts to be extended as requested. Commission Member Johnston seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Ferrell called for a voice vote. All members in attendance voted in the affirmative. Motion passed with 3 affirmative votes.

- C. Mr. Pedersen updated the commission on the Saline Regional Water contract and said they have a meeting on December 28<sup>th</sup> so he should have more information at the January meeting.
- D. This meeting was to be the last meeting for Commission Member Ferrell. His term expires December 31, 2024, and he did not wish to be reappointed. After being asked to stay on until a new commissioner is appointed and stating he would until one is appointed or a maximum of 6 months Commission Member Stott made a motion to that effect. Commission Member McCollum seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Ferrell called for a voice vote. All members in attendance voted in the affirmative. Motion passed with three affirmative votes.

#### Announcements

Commission Chairman Ferrell stated the next regular meeting date would be Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. due to January 1<sup>st</sup> being a holiday.

Commission Member Johnston made a motion to adjourn with a second by Commission Member McCollum. Commission Chairman Ferrell called for a voice vote. All commission members present voted in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30p.m.

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Brad Johnston, Commission Chairman

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Madeline Wilson, Recording Secretary