

## **City of Benton**

**February 10, 2025**

### **Commissions Committee Meeting Minutes**

Committee Members:

Ann Spencer-Cole, Chair – Present	Evelyn Reed, Vice Chair - Present
Frank Baptist - Present	Steve Brown - Present
Bill Donnor - Present	Jeff Morrow – Present
Judd Hart - Present	Trevor Villines - Present
Steve Lee – Absent	Jeff Hamm – Present

Staff Liaison: Toby Hirscheider – Present  
Mayor: Tom Farmer – Absent

Council Member Spencer-Cole – OK we're calling our commission's committee meeting to order.

Roll was taken

Council Member Spencer-Cole—Thank you. I would like to make a motion for the approval of the January 2025 minutes. Second, all in favor. Any opposition? Motion carries for our approval of our January 2025 minutes. Next on our agenda is information from our PUC Council Member Hart.

Council Member Hart – yes first on the agenda is an ordinance regarding a waiver of competitive bidding for a new base station at the Silica Heights Water Tower and the reason for that is and it's a source for that it's the only provider for it and it so we need to be able to do that in order to they're the only ones that can do that and it'll go back into what we already have and be useful from that perspective so that's why that is and that's why we're waiving competitive bidding because there really is none any questions on that?

Council Member Spencer-Cole - Any questions from the council?

Council Member Hart - All right next down the agendas again another ordinance regarding electrical rates for customers and I don't know if you all remember them presenting the rates and talking to us about that and going to. What is it they call it a power cost adjustment and it means that if they buy it for a certain cost then they're going to bill the people or the company or the organization that's where the rates are at what those costs are and they went back and even looked at some of them and there were some months in the previous year where the residents would have received money back again you're not talking a lot because of the multiplier and how it works

and it's set up but it's so that they can come out neutral on each of those on that so you go through each of the different handouts it goes all the way down to from large general to residential and so you can see the different rates on that based on a power cost adjustment until they have those options in there it displayed and it was approved after the last PUC meeting.

Council Member Spencer-Cole - Any questions from the council?

Council Member Villines – Judd, didn't he say that the large industrial large power service was the one that's going to have the biggest change is that right or I'm making that up?

Council Member Hart - I don't remember him saying what's the largest one or which one was the largest change I don't remember that.

Council Member Brown - Which category, light industry or it was up in my mind I think it was heavy.

Council Member Hart - I don't like yeah like you said the hospital right but I don't remember them saying that was the largest affected I thought that one wasn't the largest affected but it may have been the industrial large power which is the step below that so I don't remember him saying the three largest ones were actually getting the largest impact on that of course they're going to have that because they have the largest usage right now.

Council Member Brown - They're also getting a rate adjustment if memory serves correctly.

Council Member Hart – That was my understanding on that as well. But we can get clarification for that for the next meeting and have that if you want.

Council Member Spencer-Cole - Anything else Sir?

Council member Hart – No, I have nothing else.

Council member Spencer Cole - OK thank you, Sir. For the record, Alderman Hamm has joined us. Next on our agenda is information from the A&P committee.

Council Member Brown - Our meeting is on Wednesday of this week so not a lot of news to report tonight however I will tell you that they're recommended it was brought forth through AMP in December to study the creation of a position that would be partially paid for by A&P partially paid for by the chamber and partially paid for by the Event Center to share a resource that would be instrumental in helping to from the A&P perspective we've gathered data and supply it related to the construction of the website and the ongoing viability of the website so that is going to be brought

forward for consideration at the meeting this this this week so just information purposes.

Council Member Spencer-Cole - Thank you, Sir. This is from the P&Z committee it's an ordinance providing conditional use for a duplex located at multiple 12 parcels along S Main St. and for other purposes. This is a conditional use that is for 12 parcels along South Main Street. Do we have any questions from the council? OK, next on our agenda is an ordinance rezoning 219 Kenwood Rd. in the city of Benton, Saline County, Arkansas, from R2 single-family district attached housing to C1 neighborhood commercial and for other purposes. Have any questions from the council? Next on our agenda is an ordinance rezoning 1205 and 1207 Highway 35 in the city of Benton, Saline County, Arkansas, from an agricultural to an R5 multifamily district, and for other purposes. Any questions?

Council Member Villines - Yes, I have some. One thing I noticed on the ordinance that said Hwy. 34 not 35.

Council member Spencer-Cole - Did I say 34?

Council Member Villines – That is what's on the ordinance.

Council Member Spencer-Cole – That is supposed to be 35. Thank you, OK, any other questions? Next on the agenda is an ordinance accepting the annexation of certain territory to the city of Benton AR approving the schedule of services to be extended to ascend area assigning to award and for other purposes.

Council Member Baptist - Where is that area?

Toby Hirscheider – Hwy 5 North, some of the Lander's property.

Council Member Baptist – OK

Council Member Spencer-Cole - Any other questions from the council?

Council member Morrow – Did this pass from the P&Z?

Council Member Spencer-Cole – It did, it did pass.

Council Member Brown – Did it pass without opposition?

Council Member Spencer-Cole – Yes it did. Any other questions from the council? OK, I'll adjourn this meeting.