

MINUTES OF THE BENTON CITY COUNCIL
Regular Session
June 23, 2025
Benton City Hall

Benton City Council was called to order at 5:40 p.m.

The Mayor thanked Perry Black for his vision and the things that the Second Chance Ranch does for foster kids in our county. Pastor Black stated that they are building one more foster home behind Tinseltown. The invocation was given by Pastor Perry Black.

Council Member Baptist led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll was called.

The following people were in attendance:

**Council Member Frank Baptist
Council Member Ann Spencer-Cole
Council Member Bill Donnor
Council Member Judd Hart
Council Member Jeff Hamm
Baxter Drennon, City Attorney**

**Council Member Steve Brown
Council Member Evelyn Reed
Council Member Jeff Morrow
Council Member Trevor Villines
Cindy Stracener, City Clerk
Tom Farmer, Mayor**

When the roll was called (9) council members were present. Council Member Lee was absent. A quorum was declared.

Council Member Morrow made a motion to approve May 19, 2025, city council meeting minutes. Second, by Council Member Hart. The Mayor called for a voice vote. All council members voted in the affirmative. The May 19, 2025, council minutes were approved with 9 affirmative votes and 1 absent. Council Member Villines made a motion to approve the June 10, 2025 public hearing minutes. Seconded by Council Member Donnor. The Mayor called for a voice vote. All council members voted in the affirmative. The June 10, 2025, public hearing minutes were approved with 9 affirmative votes and 1 absent.

There was not a report from the Advertising and Promotion Commission, Parks Committee or the Commission Committee.

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 30 of 2025 – An Ordinance Determining That The City of Benton Shall Become a Participating Public Employee of the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System; and For Other Purposes. Second, by Council Member Spencer-Cole. The ordinance was read. The Mayor stated that we have had a lot of discussion and education on this topic for the last year and a half to two years, three years, whatever it has been since starting this process. The Mayor asked for all employees in favor of moving to APERS to stand. A number of employees stood. He asked those employees against this to stand. No one stood. The Mayor asked for any questions or comments. Don White stated that he has gotten all his information from the Courier. He stated if it is not broke then don't fix it. He has not heard one compliant from a city employee,

that they are not satisfied with the retirement plan that they are under right now. Here is the problem, I am under social security and that is a fixed income, it is not a variable income like APERS is. APERS is a variable income. The bad thing about it is there is no guaranteed retirement plan. Investment risk is borne by the employee not the employer. You all say the greatest investment is your employees but now you are taking away their guaranteed income from the employees and making it a variable income. It does not make any sense. Secondly, where are you going to get the money. This is generational debt. This is not a good piece of legislation. The Mayor stated that he appreciated his opinion. The Mayor asked for any other 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 absent, and Council Member Hamm yes. Ordinance 30 of 2025 was adopted with 9 affirmative and 1 absent vote.

Council Member Villines was recognized for a report from the Animal Control Committee. Council Member Villines made a motion to adopt Resolution 44 of 2025 – A Resolution Authorizing The Mayor of the City of Benton to Apply for a Grant on Behalf of the Benton Animal Services, and For Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Morrow. The resolution was read by title. The Mayor stated that this was an 80/20 grant. In the amount of approximately \$480,000. We do have the money for the 20 % from private donations. 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 absent and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 44 of 2025 was adopted with 9 affirmative and 1 absent vote.

Council Member Villines left the meeting at this point. He had another obligation.

Council Member Reed was recognized for a report from the Community Service Committee. Council Member Reed made a motion to read and adopt Resolution 45 of 2025 – A Resolution to Condemn the Structure Located at 1600 Gum Street and For Code Enforcement to Raze Said Property in Accordance with Arkansas State Law and City Ordinance; and For Other Purposes. Second, by Council Member Spencer-Cole. The resolution was read by title. The Mayor asked if anyone was here to represent this property. No one came forward. 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 absent, Council Member Lee absent, and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 45 of 2025 was adopted with 8 affirmative votes and 2 absent.

Council Member Reed made a motion to read and adopt Resolution 46 of 2025 – A Resolution to Condemn the Structure Located at 2319 Kelso Circle and For Code Enforcement to Raze Said Property in Accordance with Arkansas 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 to represent this property. No one came forward. 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 absent, Council Member Lee absent, and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 46 of 2025 was adopted with 8 affirmative votes and 2 absent.

Council Member Reed made a motion to read and adopt Resolution 47 of 2025 – A Resolution to Condemn the Structure Located at 2502 Gattin Road and For Code Enforcement to Raze Said Property in Accordance with Arkansas 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 to represent this property. No one came forward. 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 absent, Council Member Lee absent, and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 47 of 2025 was adopted with 8 affirmative votes and 2 absent.

Council Member Reed made a motion to read and adopt Resolution 48 of 2025 – A Resolution to Request the Saline County Tax Collector Place a Certified Lien Against Real Property Located at 120 North Conrad Street 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 Spencer-Cole. The resolution was read by title. The Mayor asked if anyone was here to represent this property. No one came forward. 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 absent, Council Member Lee absent, and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 48 of 2025 was adopted with 8 affirmative votes and 2 absent.

Council Member Brown was recognized for a report from the Finance Committee. Council Member Brown made a motion to read and adopt Ordinance 31 of 2025 – An Ordinance Levying a Tax on All Real and Personal Property in the City of Benton, Arkansas For the City General and For the Fireman's Pension and Relief Fund; and For Other Purposes. Second, by Council Member Morrow. The ordinance was read. The Mayor stated that this is the same as it has been for years, we have not changed it but we have to vote on it each year and get it to the County Clerk's office by August. 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 absent, Council Member Lee absent, and Council Member Hamm yes. Ordinance 31 of 2025 was adopted with 8 affirmative votes and 2 absent.

Council Member Brown made a motion to adopt Resolution 49 of 2025 – A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and City of Benton to Utilize Federal-Aid Transportation Alternatives Program Funds; and For Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Baptist. The resolution was read by title. The Mayor stated that this was for about \$400,000, it is an 80/20 split and it is for Phase 1, from the archery to the 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 absent, Council Member Lee absent, and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 49 of 2025 was adopted with 8 affirmative votes and 2 absent.

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 Ordinance 32 of 2025 – An Ordinance Rezoning Parcel 805-20528-001 in the City of Benton, Saline County, Arkansas, From HI Heavy Industrial to R5 Multi Family District; and For Other Purposes. Second, by Council Member Reed. The ordinance was read. The Mayor states that R5 allows a maximum of four units per parcel. 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 absent, Council Member Lee absent, and Council Member Hamm yes. Ordinance 32 of 2025 was adopted with 8 affirmative votes and 2 absent votes.

Council Member Hart was recognized for a report from the Public Utility Commission. Council Member Hart made a motion to read and adopt Ordinance 33 of 2025 – An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 40 of 2023; Clarifying the Assessment of Storm Water Fees; and For Other Purposes. Second, by Council Member Spencer-Cole. The ordinance was read. The Mayor asked for any 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 absent, Council Member Lee absent, and Council Member Hamm yes. Ordinance 33 of 2025 was adopted with 8 affirmative votes and 2 absent.

Council Member Hart made a motion to adopt Ordinance 34 of 2025 – An Ordinance Waiving Competitive Bidding and Authorizing Benton Utilities to Purchase Replacement Control Values with Installation for the Water Treatment Plant With Installation; and For Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Morrow. The ordinance was read. The Mayor asked for any 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 absent, Council Member Lee absent, and Council Member Hamm yes. Ordinance 34 of 2025 was adopted with 8 affirmative votes and 2 absent.

Council Member Hamm was recognized for a report from the Streets Committee. Council Member Hamm made a motion to adopt by title only Ordinance 35 of 2025 – An Ordinance Vacating and Closing a Portion of Hester Drive in the City of Benton; and For Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Donnor. Roll was called on the motion to read by title only 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 absent, Council Member Lee absent, and Council Member Hamm yes. To read by title only was approved with 8 affirmative and 2 absent votes. The ordinance was read by title. The Mayor asked if anyone was here to speak for or against this ordinance, no one came forward. He stated that a public hearing was held on June 10th concerning this ordinance. He 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 absent, Council Member Lee absent, and Council Member Hamm yes. Ordinance 35 of 2025 was adopted with 8 affirmative votes and 2 absent.

Council Member Hamm made a motion to read and adopt Resolution 50 of 2025 – A Resolution Expressing the Willingness to Utilize Federal-Aid Transportation Program Funds From the Surface Transportation Block Grant and Carbon Reduction Program; And For Other Purposes. Second, by Council Member Morrow. The resolution was read by title. The Mayor stated that this is an 80/20 grant and for engineering only for the widening of Northshore. 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 absent, Council Member Lee absent, and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 50 of 2025 was adopted with 8 affirmative votes and 2 absent.

There was not any old business or public comments. The Mayor commended Stephanie Jones, Parks Director and her staff because we had a situation at the splash pad. A pipe broke; some people have claimed to have been burnt because of the chemical that was put on. Immediately Stephanie called and shut it down until we can get it fixed; the Mayor read the statement. See attached. The Mayor commended them because they did an outstanding job in handling a bad situation. We had a dog bite in the early morning hours last Friday and we have changed the protocol on how we get a hold of someone right away; our response time was not very good. A fish fry is being held this Thursday to benefit the Senior Adult Center. They are actually in the black for the first time, for about \$18,000. On July 3rd will be the annual celebration for the 4th of July fireworks. No taxpayer dollars were spent on the fireworks; it is all raised by private individual funds.

The committee meetings will be on July 14th and 15th. The next council meeting will be on July 28th.

The meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Tom Farmer, Mayor

Cindy Stracener, City Clerk

CITY OF BENTON, ARKANSAS
Planning & Zoning Special Meeting
Tuesday May 6th, 2024
6:00 P.M.

Chairman Stilwell called the meeting to order. Roll call resulted in 0 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 April 1st, 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 West second. Motion carried.

Board of Adjustments

809 Pearl Street [Variance for Lot Size Minimum]

Chairman Stilwell asked Ms. Matthews to introduce the variance request. Ms. Matthews reads the memorandum that states that Joe Tollett [property owner] is requesting approval of a variance for 809 Pearl Street. The purpose of this variance request is to allow for smaller lot sizes than are allowed in the proposed R2 zone [7,000 square foot minimum per R2 regulations]. If approved, these lots will be around 4,400 square feet in size. Chairman Stilwell calls for any questions or comments regarding this request. Joe Tollett speaks in favor of this request. Commissioner West makes a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Burks second. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Planning Commission

809 Pearl Street [Rezone from C2 to R2]

Chairman Stilwell asked Ms. Matthews to introduce the rezone request. Ms. Matthews reads the memorandum that states that Joe Tollett [property owner] is requesting approval of a rezone at 809 Pearl Street. The property is currently zoned C2 [general commercial] and the applicant is requesting the property be rezoned to R2 [single family district detached housing]. Chairman Stilwell calls for any questions or comments regarding this request. Joe Tollett speaks in favor of this request. Commissioner West makes a motion to approve this rezone. Commissioner Gibson second. **Motion carried 8-0. Since this is a rezone request, final approval will be voted on by the City Council later this month.**

Rolla Road [Site Plan for Multi Family Development]

CITY OF BENTON, ARKANSAS
Planning & Zoning Special Meeting
Tuesday May 6th, 2024
6:00 P.M.

Chairman Stilwell asked Ms. Matthews to introduce the site plan. Ms. Matthews reads the memorandum that states that Richardson Engineering, on behalf of Anderson Homes, is requesting approval of a site plan for a multi-family development on Rolla Road [parcel #805-04646-000]. This property is currently zoned R7 [multi family residential district]. Chairman Stilwell calls for any questions or comments regarding this request. Tristin Phillips with Richardson Engineering speaks in favor of this request and gives clarification that there will be 36 total units. Commissioner Burks makes a motion to approve this site plan. Commissioner Chilton second. **Motion carried 8-0.**

206 Third Street [Rezone from R2 to R5]

Chairman Stilwell asked Ms. Matthews to introduce the rezone request. Ms. Matthews reads the memorandum that states that Hope Consulting, on behalf of Jabo Properties, is requesting approval of a rezone at 206 Third Street. The property is currently zoned R2 [single family district detached housing] and the applicant is requesting the property be rezoned to R5 [multi family district]. Chairman Stilwell calls for any questions or comments regarding this request. Jonathan Hope speaks in favor of this request. Commissioner Gibson speaks about concerns regarding the surrounding R2 zones. Commissioner Wood makes a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Chumley second. **Motion carried 6-2 with Commissioner Gibson and Commissioner Chilton voting “no”. Since this is a rezone request, final approval will be voted on by the City Council later this month.**

Browning & Winchester [Rezone from C3 to R2]

Chairman Stilwell asked Ms. Matthews to introduce the rezone request. Ms. Matthews reads the memorandum that states that Hope Consulting, on behalf of GC Homes, is requesting approval of a rezone at the corner of Browning & Winchester. The property is currently zoned C3 [service commercial] and the applicant is requesting the property be rezoned to R2 [single family district detached housing]. Chairman Stilwell calls for any questions or comments regarding this request. Jonathan Hope speaks in favor of this request. Commissioner Wood makes a motion to approve. Commissioner West second. **Motion carried 8-0. Since this is a rezone request, final approval will be voted on by the City Council later this month.**

Browning & Winchester [Preliminary Plat for Attached Housing]

Chairman Stilwell asked Ms. Matthews to introduce the preliminary plat at the corner of Browning & Winchester. Ms. Matthews reads the memorandum that states that Hope Consulting, on behalf of GC Homes, is requesting approval of a preliminary plat for attached housing [15 lots]. Chairman Stilwell calls for any questions or comments regarding this request. Jonathan Hope speaks in favor of this request. Commissioner West makes a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Chilton second. **Motion carried 8-0.**

521 Third Street [Preliminary Plat for Attached Housing]

Chairman Stilwell asked Ms. Matthews to introduce the preliminary plat for 521 Third Street. Ms. Matthews reads the memorandum that states that Hope Consulting, on behalf of Jabo Properties, is requesting approval of a preliminary plat for attached housing [5 lots]. Chairman Stilwell calls for any questions or comments regarding this request. Jonathan Hope speaks in favor of this request. Commissioner Chilton makes a motion to approve this request. Commissioner West second. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Business Park [Preliminary Plat]

CITY OF BENTON, ARKANSAS
Planning & Zoning Special Meeting
Tuesday May 6th, 2024
6:00 P.M.

Chairman Stilwell asked Ms. Matthews to introduce the preliminary plat for Business Park. Ms. Matthews reads the memorandum that states that Hope Consulting, on behalf of Dan Billingsley, is requesting approval of a commercial preliminary plat located at 21286 I-30. Chairman Stilwell calls for any questions or comments regarding this request. Jonathan Hope speaks in favor of this request and clarifies that this will be done in phases and will be out of the floodplain. Commissioner Warford makes a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Gibson second. **Motion carried 8-0.**

David's Burgers [Site Plan]

Chairman Stilwell asked Ms. Matthews to introduce the site plan for David's Burgers. Ms. Matthews reads the memorandum that states that David's Burgers is requesting approval of their restaurant to be located on the rear of Walmart parking lot. This property is currently zoned C3 [service commercial] and a restaurant with a drive-through is a permitted use. Chairman Stilwell calls for any questions or comments regarding this request. Mark Rickett and Bill Rector speak in favor of this request. Discussion is made around the room regarding the dumpster location and the developer states that it can be moved, if needed. Commissioner Burks makes a motion to approve this request. Commissioner West second. **Motion carried 8-0.**

Dobbs Creek [Preliminary Plat – Tabled from 04.01.2025]

Chairman Stilwell asked Ms. Matthews to introduce the preliminary plat for Dobb's Creek. Ms. Matthews reads the memorandum that states that Davidson Engineering is requesting approval of a preliminary plat for their proposed subdivision located outside of Benton City Limits. The property owners do plan to annex this property into Benton City Limits once approval of the preliminary plat is given in order to be able to access City services [water and sewer]. Chairman Stilwell calls for any questions or comments regarding this request. Bear Davidson speaks in favor of this request and provides clarification that this updated plat now has fewer lots with bigger sizes, a potential turning lane, more access to the Cemetery, and further back property lines. Multiple property owners in the surrounding areas speak against this item. **This item fails due to lack of a motion.**

CITY OF BENTON UTILITY COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2025, 6:00 P.M.,
ELECTRIC UTILITY BUILDING
1827 DALE AVENUE

The City of Benton Utility Commissioners met in regular session Monday, June 2, 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
David McCollum, Commission Member
Jana Hogue, Commission Member

A quorum was declared with three members present.

Commission Chairman Ponder asked if everyone had read the regular meeting minutes of June 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 June 2nd minutes were approved.

Departmental Reports

A. Safety/Personnel Update

Mrs. Terrie Sossamon, Human Resources Manager gave the monthly update on employee numbers, both budgeted and actual, workers' comp claims, safety classes and new employees.

B. April Financials

Mr. Jimmy Garrett, CFO, went through the April financials. In April, expenses were over revenues by \$412,993. 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 April in all three departments. Commission Member McCollum made a motion to approve the April financials as presented. Commission Member Hogue seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Ponder called for a voice vote. All commission members present voted in the affirmative. April financials were approved.

Old Business

New Business

A. 2024 Audit

Mr. Garrett went through the audit completed by Yoakum, Lovell & Company., PLC. He explained that everything was good and that it was done very quickly compared to last year due to the new system. He said last year they had to work out of both systems and it took a while to get everything together. Commission Chairman Ponder asked if there was a motion to accept the audit. Commission Member Hogue made a motion to accept the audit as presented. Commission Member McCollum seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Ponder called for a voice vote. All members present voted in the affirmative.

B. Buc-ees Line Relocation Bid

Electrical Engineer, Anna Pesaresi, presented the bid for the relocation of the electrical lines for the new Buc-ees location. She said they only had one bid and it was from Service Electric Company for \$925,286.59. Miss Pesaresi explained that this amount would be fully reimbursed by Buc-ees. She also had a letter from Fisher & Arnold recommending Service Electric Company. Commission Chairman Ponder asked if there was a motion to accept the bid from Service Electric Company, Commission Member Hogue made the motion to accept the bid from Service Electric Company and that it would be fully reimbursed by Buc-ees. Commission Member McCollum seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Ponder called for a voice vote. All commission members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

C. Waiving Bidding for Control Valves at the Water Treatment Plant

Mr. Jon DeJarnett explained the need for the three control valves at the plant and showed the commission pictures of the current valves. He said they were put in in 1964 and had reached the end of their life. He said the reason there was only one bid was because there were the same kind of valves that were there currently and it would be easiest to pull the old ones out and replacement them with the same kind. The bid was for \$122,994.39 and it was from Prestige Worldwide Technologies out of Mount Pleasant, Texas. Commission Chairman Ponder asked if there was a motion to accept this bid and to forward an ordinance to waive bidding to City Council. Commission Member McCollum made the motion and Commission Member Hogue seconded. Commission Chairman Ponder called for a voice vote. All commission members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

D. Discussion on Arkansas Municipal Power Association D.C. Talking Points

Mr. Todd Pedersen, GM, explained that he had recently been to Washington D.C. at a meeting with legislators. He told each commissioner that they had a handout in front of them that was from the meeting. It had several items listed such as tax-exempt municipal bonds, natural gas generation and infrastructure, fair and realistic climate change policy, local control of pole attachments and reasonably transmission development policy. He told the commission about the meeting and that it was a good meeting.

Announcements

Next Meeting Date: July 7, 2025

Executive Session

A. None

Commission Member McCollum made a motion to adjourn with a second by Commission Member Hogue. Commission Chairman Ponder called for a voice vote. All commission members present voted in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Jerry Ponder, Commission Chairman

Madeline Wilson, Recording Secretary

Benton Advertising & Promotion Commission

Agenda

June 11, 2025

3:30 pm at Benton City Hall in Council Chambers

(410 River Street)

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call	Present	Absent
Frank Baptist	_____	_____
Steve Brown	_____	_____
Alison Burch	_____	_____
Bill Eldridge	_____	_____
Elgin Hamner IV	_____	_____
Luke Moody	_____	_____
Greg Shinn	_____	_____

III. Minutes from May Meeting

IV. Financial Reports

A. Profit and Loss Reports – Jordan Woolbright

B. Bank Balances and Collections Report – Mandy Spicer

V. Administrative

Delinquency Report – Mandy Spicer

VI. Funding

A. Old Fashioned Day – 2nd Reading and Vote

B. AFC Benton – Follow Up

VII. Report from Benton Event Center – Nikki Chumley

VIII. Report on the Development of Exit 114 Property – Bill Eldridge

IX. Old Business

A&P Marketing Committee – Bill Eldridge

X. New Business

A. BEC Lighting System – Nikki Chumley

B. Next Meeting Date – July 9

XI. Other Business

XII. Adjournment

BENTON ADVERTISING & PROMOTION COMMISSION

Minutes

May 14, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bill Eldridge called the meeting of the Benton Advertising & Promotion Commission to order on May 14, 2025, at 3:33 pm at Benton City Hall in Council Chambers.

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioners in attendance were Bill Eldridge, Alison Burch, Elgin Hamner and Luke Moody. Steve Brown, Frank Baptist and Greg Shinn were absent

III. MINUTES

Luke Moody made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2025 meeting. Elgin Hamner seconded. Motion carried.

IV. 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 April 30, 2025:

Bank OZK – Focus Group Project	\$685,538.67
Bank OZK – A&P	\$156,611.91
Bank OZK – Event Center	\$500,439.36
Bank OZK – Savings	<u>\$392,169.15</u>
Total Checking/Savings	\$1,734,759.09

There is a liability of \$635.74 owed to the Arkansas Department of Finance for sales tax.

A&P profit and loss statement: for the month of April 2025 total income of \$20,500.13 and total operating expenses of \$9,791.98 resulting in net income of \$10,708.15. For the year to date as of April 2025 total income of \$71,678.63 and total operating expenses of \$42,640.36 resulting in net income of \$29,038.27.

Event Center profit and loss statement: for the month of April 2025 total income of \$70,935.09, total operating expenses of \$35,816.21 and capital expenditures of \$2,494.78 resulting in net income of \$32,624.10. For the year to date as of April 2025 total income of \$252,623.92, total operating expenses of \$159,207.79 and capital expenditures of \$50,026.57 resulting in net income of \$43,389.56.

Focus Group profit and loss statement: for the month of April 2025 total income of \$22,134.50 and total operating expenses of \$0 resulting in net income of \$22,134.50. For the year to date as of April 2025, total income of \$78,034.86, total operating expenses of \$11.10 and total special project expense of \$50,000.00 resulting in net income of \$28,023.76.

B. Bank Balances and Collections Report

Mandy Spicer presented the bank accounts with the following balances as of April 30, 2025:

	Statement Balance	Prev. Month's Balance
A&P Collections General	\$10,962.44	\$8,981.27
A&P Large Project Checking	\$1,950,783.52	\$1,848,619.43
A&P Small Project Checking	\$1,402,415.50	\$1,358,048.93
A&P General Operating Checking	\$158,855.12	\$148,125.82
Benton Focus Group Checking	\$685,538.67	\$663,404.17
Benton Event Center Gen Operating Checking.	\$517,418.13	\$480,209.06
Benton Event Center Savings	<u>\$392,169.15</u>	\$380,947.07
	\$5,118,142.53	

V. ADMINISTRATIVE

Collections received in the month of April 2025 were \$202,375.79, which is 1.5% more than in April 2024. The collections received in April are for the month of March. This is the first time a month's collections have exceeded \$200,000.

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

April 2025 Collections:	\$202,375.79
April 2024 Collections:	\$199,422.47
April 2023 Collections:	\$174,446.63
April 2022 Collections:	\$158,659.20
April 2021 Collections:	\$150,715.18
April 2020 Collections:	\$105,889.39
April 2019 Collections:	\$120,020.47

There is one restaurant delinquent since November 2024 and Mandy requested approval to start the hearing process. The commissioners agreed and told her to move forward with starting the process.

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

VI. FUNDING REQUEST

Old Fashioned Day Committee – 1st Reading – The request is for \$6,000. Bill Eldridge recognized Tonya Morgan. Tonya thanked the commissioners for the opportunity and provided the following information: Old Fashioned Day is scheduled for October 11 and will add an After Dark event with live music and a street dance, downtown businesses will participate in Old Fashioned Day, marketing will be extensive, there will be more vendors participating and the daytime events will last until 2:00 pm. The commission will vote at its June meeting.

VII. REPORT FROM BENTON EVENT CENTER

Nikki Chumley reported about 19 events that have been hosted in the building since the last meeting, including the Memphis Flea Market, two proms, a banquet, a job fair, a business expo and conferences. Attendance also hit the millionth person milestone. Attendance is at 1,005,655 as of May 13.

VIII. REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF EXIT 114 PROPERTY

Bill Eldridge recognized Dan Beranek with McClelland Consulting Engineers who reported that the permit has been requested from USACE for the Thomas Park Project. He recommends developing an early site package for the rough grading earthwork on the Thomas Park RV and Soccer Projects and requesting bids. McClelland would prepare the necessary drawings and specs and advertise for projects bids and the bids would have a 120 holding period due to the unknown permit issuance date from USACE. He anticipates having a firm update at the July A&P meeting. Luke Moody made a motion to start the process for bids for the rough grading earthwork on the Thomas Park RV and Soccer Projects. Elgin Hamner seconded. Motion carried.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A&P Marketing Committee – In Steve Brown's absence, Bill Eldridge gave the report. A new marketing person has been hired and will start May 19th. Rachel Rivers will be employed by the Benton Chamber and her time will be allocated between the A&P, the Benton Event Center and the Chamber.

Drew Finkbeiner with Sells Agency reported they continue to make progress on videos and the photo gallery for the new website. He looks forward to working with Rachel and representatives will continue to attend the different events to gather content.

X. NEW BUSINESS

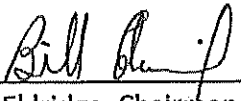
The next meeting of the A&P Commission will be June 11, 2025.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XII. 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 May 31, 2025

	<u>May 31, 25</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Bank OZK - Focus Group Project	705,914.03
Bank OZK - A&P	158,363.04
Bank OZK - Event Center	516,369.16
Bank OZK - Savings	400,927.86
Total Checking/Savings	<u>1,781,574.09</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>1,781,574.09</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>1,781,574.09</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Sales Tax Payable	345.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>345.00</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>345.00</u>
Total Liabilities	345.00
Equity	
Retained Earnings	1,633,671.76
Net Income	147,557.33
Total Equity	<u>1,781,229.09</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>1,781,574.09</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
May 2025

	<u>May 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Interest	463.62	350.00	113.62	132.46%
Sales Tax Revenue	18,232.33	18,842.00	(609.67)	96.76%
Total Income	<u>18,695.95</u>	<u>19,192.00</u>	<u>(496.05)</u>	<u>97.42%</u>
Gross Profit	<u>18,695.95</u>	<u>19,192.00</u>	<u>(496.05)</u>	<u>97.42%</u>
Expense				
Accounting Services	600.00	600.00	0.00	100.0%
Advertising Expense	0.00	64.30	(64.30)	0.0%
Comp. for Commissioners	750.00	750.00	0.00	100.0%
Funding	6,655.90	4,166.00	2,489.90	159.77%
Labor Expenses	260.28	0.00	260.28	100.0%
Legal Counsel	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	100.0%
Repairs & Maintenance	820.31	0.00	820.31	100.0%
Service Agreement	6,658.33	6,658.33	0.00	100.0%
Total Expense	<u>16,944.82</u>	<u>13,438.63</u>	<u>3,506.19</u>	<u>126.09%</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>1,751.13</u>	<u>5,753.37</u>	<u>(4,002.24)</u>	<u>30.44%</u>
Net Income	<u>1,751.13</u>	<u>5,753.37</u>	<u>(4,002.24)</u>	<u>30.44%</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 May 2025

	<u>Jan - May 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Interest	2,136.13	1,750.00	386.13	122.07%
Sales Tax Revenue	88,238.45	90,713.00	(2,474.55)	97.27%
Total Income	<u>90,374.58</u>	<u>92,463.00</u>	<u>(2,088.42)</u>	<u>97.74%</u>
Gross Profit	<u>90,374.58</u>	<u>92,463.00</u>	<u>(2,088.42)</u>	<u>97.74%</u>
Expense				
Accounting Services	3,175.00	3,115.00	60.00	101.93%
Advertising Expense	82.50	265.00	(182.50)	31.13%
Comp. for Commissioners	3,450.00	3,750.00	(300.00)	92.0%
Funding	11,449.11	20,832.00	(9,382.89)	54.96%
Labor Expenses	260.28	0.00	260.28	100.0%
Legal Counsel	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00	100.0%
Office Expense	11.10	0.00	11.10	100.0%
Postage	224.92	225.00	(0.08)	99.96%
Repairs & Maintenance	1,640.62	1,650.00	(9.38)	99.43%
Service Agreement	33,291.65	33,291.65	0.00	100.0%
Total Expense	<u>59,585.18</u>	<u>69,128.65</u>	<u>(9,543.47)</u>	<u>86.2%</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>30,789.40</u>	<u>23,334.35</u>	<u>7,455.05</u>	<u>131.95%</u>
Net Income	<u>30,789.40</u>	<u>23,334.35</u>	<u>7,455.05</u>	<u>131.95%</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
May 2025

	<u>May 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Interest	2,802.52	2,300.00	502.52	121.85%
Sales-Revenue	43,204.75	38,647.00	4,557.75	111.79%
Sales Tax Revenue	18,232.33	18,842.00	(609.67)	96.76%
Total Income	<u>64,239.60</u>	<u>59,789.00</u>	<u>4,450.60</u>	<u>107.44%</u>
Gross Profit	<u>64,239.60</u>	<u>59,789.00</u>	<u>4,450.60</u>	<u>107.44%</u>
Expense				
Alcohol Expense	86.58	406.90	(320.32)	21.28%
Bank Service Fees	313.60	424.86	(111.26)	73.81%
Building Alarm System	295.22	1,143.03	(847.81)	25.83%
Cable TV	197.00	186.36	10.65	105.72%
Cleaning Service	1,334.32	1,345.00	(10.68)	99.21%
Contract Labor	4,614.80	5,000.00	(385.20)	92.3%
Dues & Memberships	175.00	0.00	175.00	100.0%
Health Insurance	1,364.53	1,364.53	0.00	100.0%
Internet/IT	1,824.95	2,193.00	(368.05)	83.22%
Labor Expenses	14,124.59	14,090.83	33.76	100.24%
Laundry Expense	2,200.95	0.00	2,200.95	100.0%
Office Expense	536.62	252.39	284.23	212.62%
Pest Control Expense	404.69	345.00	59.69	117.3%
Repairs & Maintenance	5,536.26	8,859.17	(3,322.91)	62.49%
Supplies	415.22	1,839.67	(1,424.45)	22.57%
Telephone Expense	84.50	117.00	(32.50)	72.22%
Trash Pickup	202.74	460.60	(257.86)	44.02%
Utilities	5,478.83	4,862.35	616.48	112.68%
Website	69.95	69.95	0.00	100.0%
Total Expense	<u>39,260.35</u>	<u>42,960.63</u>	<u>(3,700.28)</u>	<u>91.39%</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>24,979.25</u>	<u>16,828.37</u>	<u>8,150.88</u>	<u>148.44%</u>
Other Income/Expense				
Other Expense				
Capital Expenditures				
LED Lights Change Out	0.00	6,500.00	(6,500.00)	0.0%
Total Capital Expenditures	<u>0.00</u>	<u>6,500.00</u>	<u>(6,500.00)</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total Other Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>6,500.00</u>	<u>(6,500.00)</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Net Other Income	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(6,500.00)</u>	<u>6,500.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Net Income	<u>24,979.25</u>	<u>10,328.37</u>	<u>14,650.88</u>	<u>241.85%</u>
 Transfer to BEC Savings	 (10,000.00)			
Transfer from BEC Savings	2,494.78			

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 May 2025

	<u>Jan - May 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Interest	13,332.10	11,500.00	1,832.10	116.93%
Sales-Revenue				
Alcohol Sales-Beer/Wine	1,642.98	3,900.00	(2,257.02)	42.13%
Alcohol Sales-Mixed Drinks	1,245.36	2,700.00	(1,454.64)	46.12%
Sales-Revenue - Other	212,404.63	208,981.00	5,443.63	102.63%
Total Sales-Revenue	215,292.97	213,581.00	1,731.97	100.81%
Sales Tax Revenue	88,238.45	90,713.00	(2,474.55)	97.27%
Total Income	316,863.52	315,774.00	1,089.52	100.35%
Gross Profit	316,863.52	315,774.00	1,089.52	100.35%
Expense				
Alcohol Expense	4,989.55	4,829.10	160.45	103.32%
Bank Service Fees	2,887.93	2,849.83	38.10	101.34%
Building Alarm System	1,019.31	1,733.47	(714.16)	58.8%
Cable TV	963.70	931.75	31.95	103.43%
Cleaning Service	6,206.45	6,725.00	(518.55)	92.28%
Contract Labor	20,553.30	21,226.00	(671.70)	96.84%
Dues & Memberships	550.00	1,175.00	(625.00)	46.81%
Health Insurance	6,617.97	6,617.97	0.00	100.0%
Internet/IT	3,403.75	10,965.00	(7,561.25)	31.04%
Labor Expenses	76,787.01	77,625.56	(838.55)	98.92%
Laundry Expense	10,238.25	9,836.35	401.90	104.09%
Linen & Supplies	1,233.60	1,138.96	94.64	108.31%
Office Expense	3,867.81	2,315.91	1,571.70	167.87%
Pest Control Expense	710.93	625.00	85.93	113.75%
Repairs & Maintenance	19,211.80	41,315.25	(22,103.45)	46.5%
Supplies	6,316.58	7,675.95	(2,359.39)	69.28%
Telephone Expense	515.78	585.00	(69.22)	88.17%
Trash Pickup	2,356.46	2,497.64	(141.18)	94.35%
Utilities	30,668.43	28,809.75	1,858.68	106.45%
Website	349.75	349.75	0.00	100.0%
Total Expense	198,468.14	229,827.24	(31,359.10)	86.36%
Net Ordinary Income	118,395.38	85,946.76	32,448.62	137.76%
Other Income/Expense				
Other Expense				
Capital Expenditures				
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	119.98%
Chair Replacement	0.00	10,337.00	(10,337.00)	0.0%
Total Capital Expenditures	50,026.57	47,244.05	2,782.52	105.89%
Total Other Expense	50,026.57	47,244.05	2,782.52	105.89%
Net Other Income	(50,026.57)	(47,244.05)	(2,782.52)	105.89%
Net Income	68,368.81	38,702.71	29,666.10	176.65%
Transfer to BEC Savings	(40,000.00)			
Transfer from BEC Savings	(50,026.57)			

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
May 2025

	<u>May 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Interest	2,143.03	1,500.00	643.03	142.87%
Sales Tax Revenue	18,232.33	18,842.00	(609.67)	96.76%
Total Income	<u>20,375.36</u>	<u>20,342.00</u>	<u>33.36</u>	<u>100.16%</u>
Gross Profit	<u>20,375.36</u>	<u>20,342.00</u>	<u>33.36</u>	<u>100.16%</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>20,375.36</u>	<u>20,342.00</u>	<u>33.36</u>	<u>100.16%</u>
Net Income	<u>20,375.36</u>	<u>20,342.00</u>	<u>33.36</u>	<u>100.16%</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 May 2025

	<u>Jan - May 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Interest	10,171.77	7,500.00	2,671.77	135.62%
Sales Tax Revenue	88,238.45	90,713.00	(2,474.55)	97.27%
Total Income	<u>98,410.22</u>	<u>98,213.00</u>	<u>197.22</u>	<u>100.2%</u>
Gross Profit	<u>98,410.22</u>	<u>98,213.00</u>	<u>197.22</u>	<u>100.2%</u>
Expense				
Office Expense	11.10	0.00	11.10	100.0%
Total Expense	<u>11.10</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>11.10</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>98,399.12</u>	<u>98,213.00</u>	<u>186.12</u>	<u>100.19%</u>
Other Income/Expense				
Other Expense				
Special Projects	50,000.00	100,000.00	(50,000.00)	50.0%
Total Other Expense	<u>50,000.00</u>	<u>100,000.00</u>	<u>(50,000.00)</u>	<u>50.0%</u>
Net Other Income	<u>(50,000.00)</u>	<u>(100,000.00)</u>	<u>50,000.00</u>	<u>50.0%</u>
Net Income	<u><u>48,399.12</u></u>	<u><u>(1,787.00)</u></u>	<u><u>50,186.12</u></u>	<u><u>(2,708.4%)</u></u>

NO ASSURANCE IS PROVIDED ON THESE STATEMENTS.

Benton Advertising & Promotion Commission Bank Account Balances
May 31, 2025

Account Name		Acct #	Statement Balance	Previous Month's Balance
Cash Accounts:				
A&P Collections General		***1584	9,430.59	10,962.44
Bond Account		***1592	CLOSED	#REF!
				0.00
A&P Large Project Checking	50%	***0318	2,020,922.18	1,950,783.52
A&P Small Project Checking	20%	***0348	1,441,775.94	1,402,415.50
A&P General Op Checking	10%	***3297	161,239.67	158,855.12
Benton Focus Group Checking	10%	***2274	705,914.03	685,538.67
				0.00
Benton Event Center General Op Checking	10%	***2640	535,949.15	517,418.13
Benton Event Center Savings		***9832	400,927.86	392,169.15
TOTAL OPERATING CASH & INVESTMENTS				<u>5,276,159.42</u>

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

[illegible]

Benton Event Center-Event Report

May 14, 2025 to June 10, 2025

October 1, 2013 to May 13, 2025

1,005,855

	Date(s)	# of Attendees
E-Stem Sports Banquet	5/14/2025	300
Scrappers Gone Wild	5/15-18/2025	340
Tax Lien Code Meeting	5/15/2025	100
Rental Concepts	5/19/2025	65
Credit Union Chapter Meeting	5/19/2025	40
Woodland Hills Graduation	5/20/2025	900
AR State Police Awards Ceremony	5/21/2025	325
Amplify Team Luncheon	5/22/2025	150
Memphis Flea Market	5/30-6/1/2025	500
First Security Trip Preview	6/2/2025	75
AR Association of Couty Judges Conference	6/3-6/6/2025	930
Early Childhood Expo	6/7/2025	30
AASEA Summer Conference	6/8-6/10/2025	450

of Events: 13

TOTAL: 4,205

TOTAL: 1,010,060