

MINUTES OF THE BENTON CITY COUNCIL
Regular Session
January 27, 2025
Benton Municipal Complex

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

The Mayor stated that City Attorney Drennon would be conducting the meeting tonight for him due to him having issues with his voice.

The invocation was given by Bro. Norman Hurst.

Council Member Hart led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll was called.

The following persons were in attendance:

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

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

Council Member Morrow made a motion to approve the December 16, 2024, city council meeting minutes. Seconded by Council Member Hamm. City Attorney Drennon called for a voice vote. All council members voted in the affirmative. The December 16, 2024, minutes were approved with 10 affirmative votes. Council Member Brown made a motion to approve the December 19, 2024 Special Called Meeting. Seconded by Council Member Morrow. City Attorney Drennon called for a voice vote. All council members voted in the affirmative. The December 19, 2024, minutes were approved with 10 affirmative votes.

The next item on the agenda was Resolution 1 of 2025 - A Resolution Establishing the Time of the Council Meetings, Setting Its Meeting Agenda, and Establishing Rules and Conducting Council and Committee Meetings; and For Other Purposes which was sponsored by the Mayor. Council Member Lee made a motion to adopt Resolution 1 of 2025. Second, by Council Member Hamm. The resolution was read by title. 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 1 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.

The Mayor sponsored Ordinance 1 of 2025 – An Ordinance Amending and Correcting Ordinance No. 58 of 2022 Regarding Wastewater Rates for Senior Citizens; Declaring an Emergency; and For Other Purposes which was next on the agenda. Council Member

Morrow made a motion to read and adopt Ordinance 1 of 2025. Seconded by Council Member Lee. The ordinance was read. City Attorney Drennon asked for any comments or questions. Council Member Hamm stated that he wanted to make sure the public knows that it was reduced from what was approved. Mr. Drennon stated that the rate that was inadvertently included for 2025 was \$27.65, and this new rate will be \$25.70, which is a reduction of \$1.95. All bills sent out have been correct, no one has been charged the incorrect amount. 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 1 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes. Council Member Donnor made a motion to approve the emergency clause. Seconded by Council Member Lee. City Attorney Drennon asked for other additional comments or questions, 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. The emergency clause for Ordinance 1 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.

The next item on the agenda was committee reports.

There was not a report from the Advertising and Promotion Commission, the Commission Committee, Animal Service Committee, Street Committee, or the Personnel/Health & Safety Committee.

Council Member Reed was recognized for a report from the Community Service Committee. Council Member Reed made a motion to read and adopt Ordinance 2 of 2025 – An Ordinance Amending Section 6 of Ordinance No. 35 of 2022, Adding the Intersection of Military Road and Carpenter Street to the List of Roadways/Intersections Where Right-of-Way Canvassers and Solicitors are Restricted Within the City of Benton, Arkansas; and For Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Baptist. The ordinance was read. City Attorney Drennon asked for any questions or comments, none. He stated that this added the intersection of Military Road and Carpenter Street. 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 2 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.

Council Member Reed made a motion to read and adopt by title only Resolution 2 of 2025 – A Resolution to Request the Saline County Tax Collector Place a Certified Lien Against Real Property Located at 1407 Gray 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 Morrow. The resolution was read by title. City Attorney Drennon asked if anyone was here for this property. No one came forward. 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 yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 2 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 read and adopt Ordinance 3 of 2025 – An Ordinance Revising the City of Benton Purchasing Policies and Procedures as Adopted in Ordinance No. 68 of 2016 and Revised in Ordinance No. 31 of 2021; and For Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Lee. The ordinance was read. City Attorney Drennon asked for any questions or comments. Council Member Hart stated this was the one where it changed the limit and that was all being changed, changed to \$30,000. Mr. Drennon stated that was correct. 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 3 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.

Council Member Brown made a motion to adopt Resolution 3 of 2025 – A Resolution Declaring Certain Property as Surplus; Authorizing the Sale of the Surplus Property to Teeeco Safety; and For Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Baptist. The resolution was read by title. City Attorney Drennon stated that this declares 8 Glock firearms used by the police department as surplus so that they could be traded in to purchase new firearms. 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 yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 3 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.

Council Member Brown made a motion to adopt Resolution 4 of 2025 – A Resolution Declaring Certain Property as Surplus; Authorizing the Sale of the Surplus Property to Wildman Arms; and For Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Lee. The resolution was read by title. City Attorney Drennon stated the police department is trading in 12 shotguns for credit to purchase 12 AR-15's. 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 yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 4 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.

Council Member Brown made a motion to adopt Resolution 5 of 2025 – A Resolution Authorizing the Partial Redemption of the City of Benton, Arkansas Capital Improvement Revenue Bonds, Series 2015 on March 1, 2025; and For Other Purposes. Second, by Council Member Spencer-Cole. The resolution was read in its entirety. City Attorney Drennon stated that these bonds were issued in 2015, for street improvements and the River Center. Initially it was \$6,455,000 financed over 30 years. This is the first year that we can make additional payments on it. On average, we pay about \$300,000 per year. The payment this year was set to be \$280,137.50, next year it would be just under \$300,000 and then it keeps going up from there. By paying this \$1,000,000, we cut off 2 1/2 years of payments on the back end. We were set to pay it off in 2045 but with this payment it will be 2043 and the last year will be just under \$150,000. We are saving quite a bit of money and cutting a couple of years off. The franchise money that we received last year was \$821,340, so we have the funds to do it. \$275,000 of that franchise fee was budgeted for the general fund, if we need to use it but we haven't touched it

in the last five years and that is why we are able to make this additional payment. 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 yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 5 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.

Council Member Brown made a motion to adopt Resolution 6 of 2025 - A Resolution Amending the 2025 Parks Budget to Increase the Appropriation of Grant Revenues in the Amount of \$400,000 for the Greenway Phase One Tap Grant and \$774,662.38 for the Cherry Dumuth Campsite Project from the Outdoor Recreation Grant; and For Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Morrow. This is to recognize the grants that we have received for the Parks Department. The resolution was read by title. 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 yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 6 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.

Council Member Brown made a motion to adopt Resolution 7 of 2025 - A Resolution Amending the 2024 Budget for the City as Adopted in Resolution 110 of 2023; Revising the Budget to Reflect the Actual Expenditures of the City; and For Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Baptist. The resolution was read by title. City Attorney Drennon stated that this is one of the resolutions that the auditors like, to move the budget to what was actually spent, up or down for last year. It is a true up. 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 yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Resolution 7 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.

Council Member Hart was recognized for a report from the Parks Committee. Council Member Hart made a motion to read and adopt Ordinance 4 of 2025 – An Ordinance Setting Programming Rates for the Parks and Recreation Department for the 2025 Season. Seconded by Council Member Reed. The ordinance was read. City Attorney Drennon 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 4 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 Ordinance 5 of 2025 – An Ordinance Rezoning 712 and 716 North 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. Seconded by Council Member Reed. The ordinance was read. City Attorney Drennon asked if anyone was here to speak on behalf of these properties, no one came forward. 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 yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Ordinance 5 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.

Council Member Spencer-Cole made a motion to read and adopt Ordinance 6 of 2025 – An Ordinance Rezoning Parcels #805-10100-000, #805-10096-000 and #805-10089-000 In the City of Benton, Saline County, Arkansas, From R2 Single Family District Detached Housing to C3 Service Commercial; And For Other Purposes. Second, by Council Member Brown. The ordinance was read. City Attorney Drennon asked if anyone was here for this property, no one came forward. 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 yes, Council Member Lee yes, and Council Member Hamm yes. Ordinance 6 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative 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 7 of 2025 – An Ordinance Waiving Competitive Bidding and Authorizing and Ratifying the Purchase of a 2024 Caterpillar Skid Steer for Benton Utilities Electric Department; and For Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Morrow. The ordinance was read. City Attorney Drennon 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 7 of 2025 was adopted with 10 affirmative votes.

There was not any old business nor public comments.

The Department Heads gave the State of City Address. See attached.

The Committee meetings will be week of February 10th, and the Council Meeting will be February 24th. A groundbreaking for Buc-ee's will be February 19th at 1 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Tom Farmer, Mayor

Cindy Stracener, City Clerk



CITY OF BENTON
2024
STATE OF THE CITY

ANIMAL SERVICES 2024



Adoptions: 478
Calls for Service: 2,439
Community Events: 23
Intakes: 844
Microchipped: 497
Reclaims: 182

93% SAVE RATE!



ANIMAL SERVICES 2024

Goals for 2025

Maintain No-Kill Status

All ASO's Nationally Certified

Move Into New Shelter

Expand Foster Program

Increase Community
Involvement

2025 COLD WEATHER
FOSTER PROGRAM
OUT OF THE 28 DOGS
IN FOSTER CARE,
17 WERE ADOPTED

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 2024

REZONES
19 REZONES AND/OR CONDITIONAL USES

ANNEXATIONS
 > 3 ANNEXATIONS COMPLETED
 > 2 ANNEXATIONS INITIATED/IN PROGRESS
 > 5 PRE-ANNEXATION AGREEMENTS

5 CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICERS
 1 FOR EACH WARD = BETTER COVERAGE, BETTER KNOWLEDGE OF RECURRING ISSUES, ENABLES
 "TERRITORY MANAGEMENT"

CODE ENFORCEMENT DATA

- ✓ 26 DEMO PERMITS ISSUED
- ✓ 23 CONDEMNATIONS
- ✓ 18 PROPERTY CLEANUPS
- ✓ 146 VIOLATION NOTICES ISSUED
- ✓ 16 UNREGISTERED CAMPS REMOVED
- ✓ 120-175 ENCOUNTERS WITH UNREGISTERED
- ✓ 430-600 ILLEGAL SIGNS REMOVED

2024 DRC & PLANNING COMMISSION ITEMS

- ✓ 40 REPLATS
- ✓ 22 VARIANCES
- ✓ 39 NEW COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS
- ✓ 24 COMMERCIAL REMODELS
- ✓ 25 NEW SUBDIVISIONS (1,388 LOTS)
- ✓ 267 UTILITY CONSTRUCTION APPLICATIONS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 2024

BUILDING PERMITS	2023	2024
* COMMERCIAL (NEW)	51	46
* COMMERCIAL (REMODEL)	8	9
* RESIDENTIAL (NEW)	206	287
* RESIDENTIAL (REMODEL)	78	75
* TOTAL BUILDING/ CONSTRUCTION PERMITS	1926	2126
* TOTAL VALUATION OF PERMITTED PROJECTS	\$76 MIL	\$58 MIL
* TOTAL PERMIT FEES	\$503,742	\$471,700
2024 INSPECTIONS (ALL)	4,352	

CITY CLERK

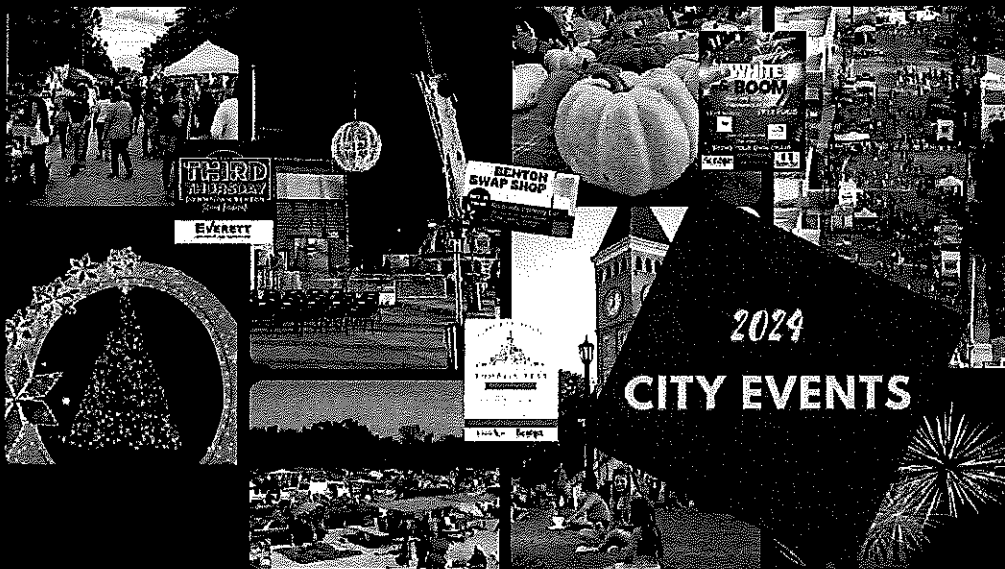
LICENSES/PERMITS ISSUED IN 2024

❖ Privilege Licenses	1,705
❖ New Privilege Licenses	200
❖ Special Event Permits	55
❖ Solicitor Permits	28
❖ Fireworks Permits	9
❖ New Alcohol Permits	4
❖ Alcohol Permits	62

TYPES OF NEW BUSINESSES IN 2024

- ☐ ELECTRICAL – WIRED PRO ELECTRIC
- ☐ HOME BUILDER – PINNACLE BUILDERS
- ☐ RESTAURANT – SAVANNARTH'S FRESH DONUTS
- ☐ COSMETOLOGY SCHOOL – RUMORS WEST HAIR & BODY ACADEMY
- ☐ MANUFACTURING – HILBILT/LUFKIN DISTRIBUTION, LLC
- ☐ RETAIL – LOVE CONSIGNMENT

MARKETING & SPECIAL EVENTS 2024



MARKETING & SPECIAL EVENTS 2024



BY THE NUMBERS

**Third
Thursday**

**22,500
people
attended
the most
since 2019**

**Small Town
Christmas**

**1600 attend 21
days of events**

ACDI Ball Drop

**2700 in
attendance**

Red, White, & Boom
9,500 people
3000 Hot Dogs

Pumpkin Fest

**500 people attended
and raised over \$2500
for Cooper Anthony
Mercy**

Swap Shop

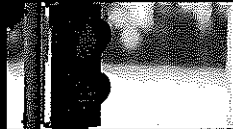
**Our most
requested event**

STREETS & DRAINAGE DEPARMENT 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW



OVERLAY PROJECTS

COB COMPLETED 1.8 MILLION DOLLARS IN OVERLAY PROJECTS AND ARDOT COMPLETED SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS IN OVERLAY PROJECTS IN THE CITY LIMITS



TRAFFIC LIGHTS

ADDED NEW CAMERAS AT HWY 5/HWY 35 AND ALCOA/HWY 5 AND SALEM/HWY 5



SIDEWALKS

40 ADA SIDEWALK PROJECTS COMPLETED COMPARED TO 30 IN 2023



GRANTS

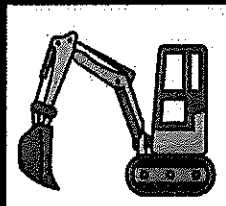
Southwest Trail Engineering is 90% complete

Congo/Shenandoah roundabout Engineering is 90% complete



SIGNS INSTALLED

OVER 300 NEW AND REPLACEMENT OF DAMAGED SIGNS INSTALLED



ASPHALT MAINTENANCE

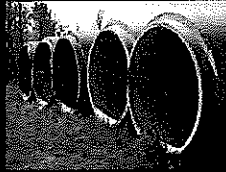
OVER 300 CUTS FIXED

STREETS & DRAINAGE DEPARMENT 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

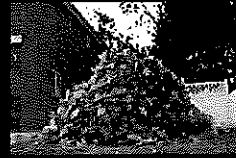


DRAINAGE PROJECTS

OVER 100 PROJECTS
COMPLETED WITH CULVERTS,
INLETS AND PIPES REPLACED
COMPARED TO 85 PROJECTS
IN 2023



MAJOR DRAINAGE PROJECTS
CROSS STREET PHASE 1 AND
HIDDEN MEADOWS COMPLETED



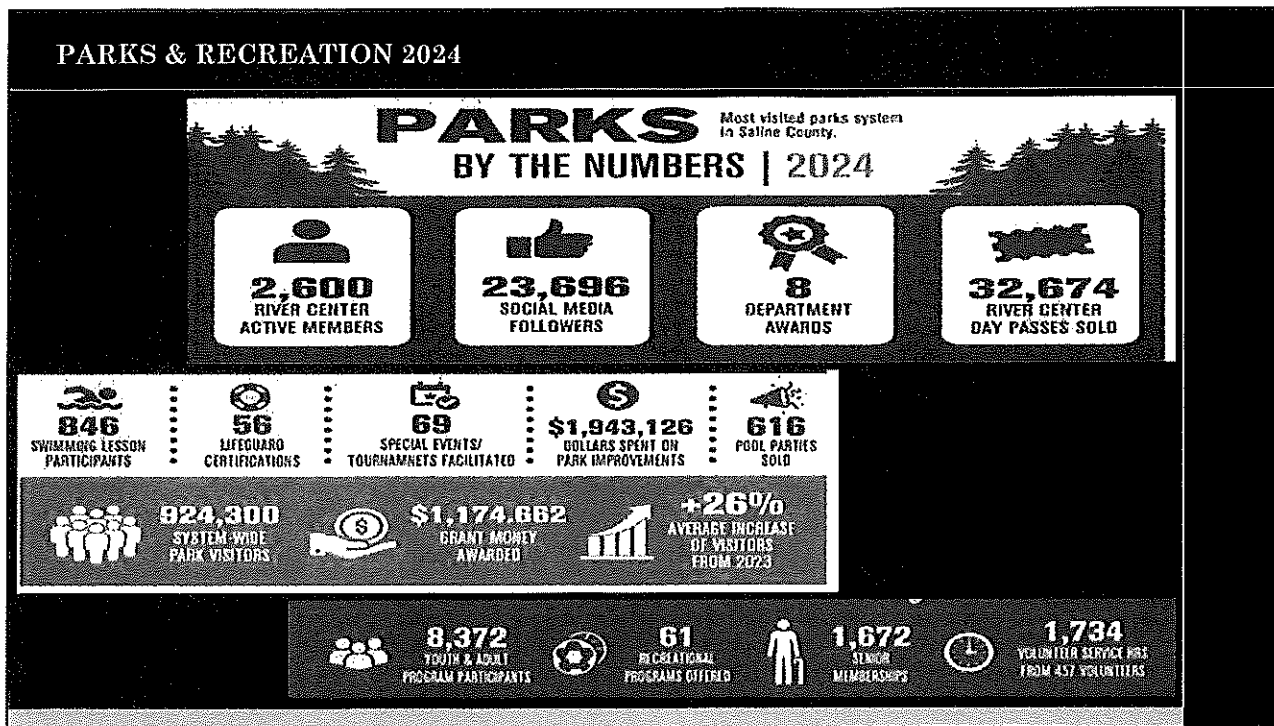
YARD WASTE PICKUPS
AVERAGED 100 REQUESTS
PER WEEK RESULTING IN
OVER 6000 RESIDENTIAL
PICKUPS COMPARED TO 75
REQUEST IN 2023



DITCH CLEARING
65 DAYS SPENT
CLEARING CREEKS
AND OVERGROWN
BLOCKAGES
COMPARED TO 60
DAYS IN 2023



CONSTRUCTION INSPECTIONS
OVER 1200+ INSPECTIONS
COMPLETED AT CONSTRUCTION
SITES WITHIN THE CITY
COMPARED TO 1100 IN 2023



PARKS & RECREATION 2024

RIVER CENTER

Annual Park #s	2023	2024
River Center Active Memberships	2,529	2,600
River Center Day Passes Sold	30,429	32,674
Swim Lesson Participants	880	846
Lifeguard Certifications	41	56
Senior Memberships	1,303	1,672
Pool Parties Sold	650	616

MAKING AN IMPACT

Annual Park #s	2023	2024
Youth/Adult Program Participants	7,571	8,372
Recreation Programs Offered	62	61

PARK VISITORS

Park	# of Visitors 2023	# of Visitors 2024
Tyndall Park	162,200	196,800
Riverside Park	420,800	590,800
Ralph Bunche Park	5,500	2,800
Farmers Market	19,500	16,600
Owens Mooney Park	3,600	3,700
Lyle Park	15,400	14,600
Hooked on Fishing	12,100	10,000
CW Lewis	49,800	51,600
ML Bike Park	-----	12,500
Dog Park	-----	24,900

Average increase of visitors from 2023 +26%

PARKS & RECREATION 2024



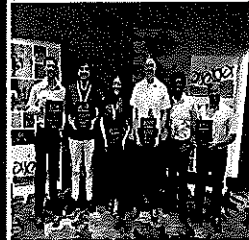
GRANT FUNDING AWARDED

AWARDED IN 2024

- Outdoor Recreation Grant, Cherry Demetrius Campsite: \$774,852.58
- TAP Saline River Greenway PH-1: \$400,000

IN PROGRESS

- TAP Ralph Bunche Park Trail Connector: \$745,000
- TAP Saline River Greenway PH-2: \$200,000



DEPARTMENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Arkansas Turf Grass Association

- Turf Site of the Year, Owens Mooney Park

Single Tracks

- Site Park named in the Top 9 Best Hike Sites Parks in the USA that opened in 2024

American Council of Engineering

- Engineering Excellence, Benton Anthony Raige

Arkansas Recreation & Parks Association

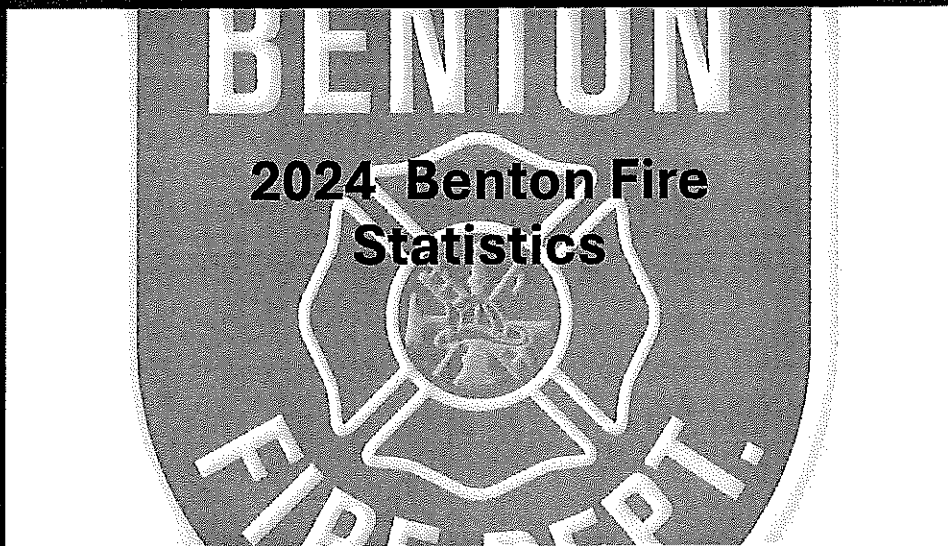
- Ralph Bunche Amphitheater - Outdoor Facility of the Year \$200,000-\$500,000
- Benton Mike Park - Outdoor Facility of the Year Over \$500,000
- New Outstanding Professional - Brandon Spatock
- Youth Kayaking - Natural Resources Program of the Year
- Horse League - Therapeutic Recreation Program of the Year



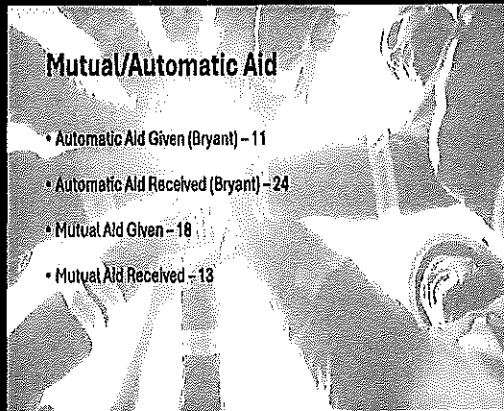
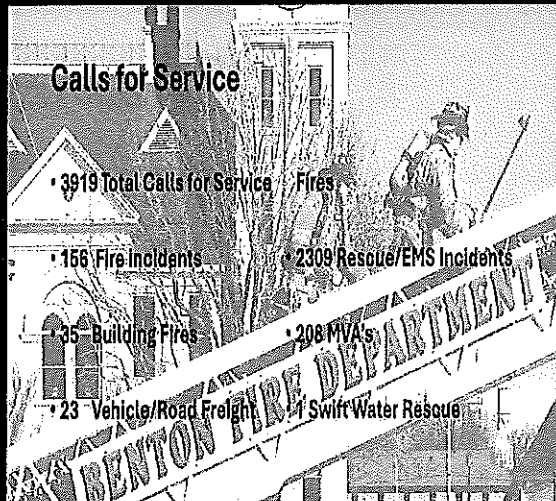
The City of Benton Parks & Recreation department has been awarded the 2024 Arkansas Turf Association Turf Site of the Year for Owens Mooney Park.



FIRE DEPARTMENT



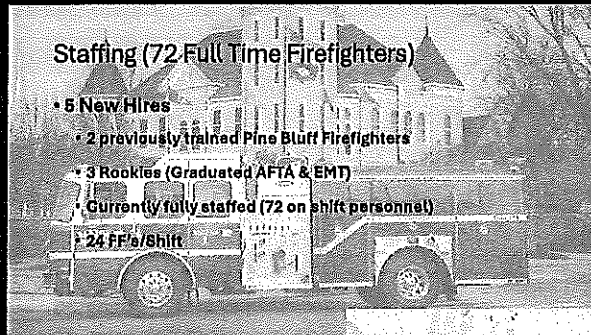
FIRE DEPARTMENT



FIRE DEPARTMENT

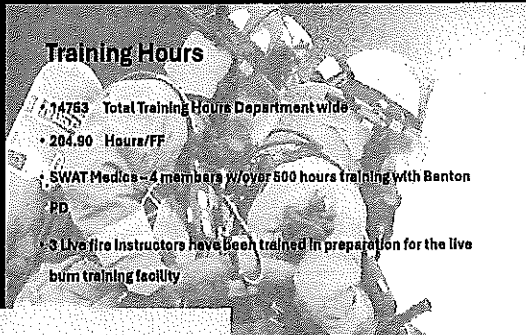
Staffing (72 Full Time Firefighters)

- 5 New Hires
- 2 previously trained Pine Bluff Firefighters
- 3 Rookies (Graduated AFTA & EMT)
- Currently fully staffed (72 on shift personnel)
- 24 FF's/Shift



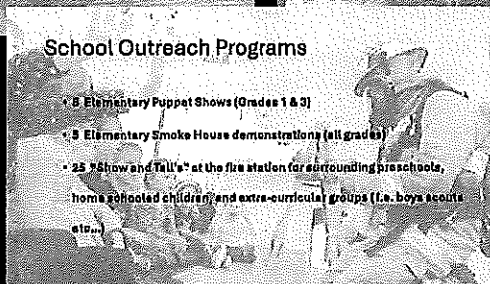
Training Hours

- 14753 Total Training Hours Department wide
- 204.90 Hours/FF
- SWAT Medics - 4 members w/over 500 hours training with Barton PD
- 5 Live fire instructors have been trained in preparation for the live burn training facility



School Outreach Programs

- 5 Elementary Puppet Shows (Grades 1 & 3)
- 5 Elementary Smoke House demonstrations (all grades)
- 25 "Show and Tell's" at the fire station for surrounding preschools, home schooled children, and extra-curricular groups (i.e. boys scouts, etc.)



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Outside Training

- 377s to Wichita for fire burning classes
- Multiple on-site presentations to Metro counties with other local agencies and KFD Kansas City at First Baptist Church
- 2 Weeks of Active Shooter Training was conducted at Rosalia High School (over the summer) in coordination with multiple agencies including Benton Police
- Fire Marshal attended 3 day State Fire Marshal Academy on January fire code changes
- Hosted AFA Inspector I and RFP Central Station for Benton and surrounding area 77s to attend (12 Benton Inspector, 4-1 & R)
- Training Officers provided CPR classes to several churches and taught fire safety classes at the Benton Counseling Clinic
- New Urban Search and Rescue program initiated countywide
- Project Adams Scenario conducted at Benton Schools
- Participated in Wet-Hat Safety Days
- Attended Firehouse Safety program at Benton Press Center

Yearly Inspections

- Inspection of ~1400 fire hydrants inside the City of Benton 2x per year
- Annual business inspection of approximately 900 commercial properties

POLICE DEPARTMENT 2024

BNPD 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Attended 45 Events
- Taught 86 Classes in the BSD
- Attended 29,076 Hours of Training
- Responded to 25,838 Calls for Service
- Conducted 14,025 Traffic Stops
- Served 2,078 Arrest Warrants

POLICE DEPARTMENT 2024

BNPD APPLICANTS

- 2021 62 Applicants
- 2022 89 Applicants
- 2023 186 Applicants
- 2024 233 Applicants
- 2 Applicants shy of our record high, in the last 14 Years.

POLICE DEPARTMENT 2024

BENTON CRIME RATE LOWEST IN YEARS

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| ■ Robbery | Lowest in 13 Years |
| ■ Burglaries | Lowest in 14 Years |
| ■ Auto Thefts | Lowest in 14 Years |
| ■ Arson | Lowest in 14 Years |
| ■ Property Crimes | Lowest in 14 Years |

POLICE DEPARTMENT 2024

BENTON CRIME RATE LOWEST IN YEARS

Overall Crimes in the City of Benton
Lowest in 14 Years

OUR 6TH YEAR IN A ROW
TO HAVE HAD AN OVERALL
REDUCTION IN CRIME EACH YEAR!!

FINANCE DEPARTMENT 2024

- Total 2.5% sales & use tax received by the City of Benton = \$27,546,360.67
- General Fund revenues \$24,319,906.56
 - Benton Utilities in-lieu of franchise \$ 2,314,058.67
 - Property taxes (general fund) \$ 1,963,186.97
 - Alcohol taxes \$ 250,491.90
 - Franchise taxes \$ 821,340.77
 - Privilege Licenses \$ 100,769.13
 - Permits for construction \$ 426,085.96

2024 CITY OF BENTON FINANCIAL REPORT

Revenue Growth

FINANCE DEPARTMENT 2024

■ Streets & Drainage revenues	\$8,357,450.91
■ Stormwater fee	\$ 929,504.51
■ Parks & Recreation revenues	\$8,916,496.07
■ Public Safety revenues	\$5,724,143.15
■ Advertising & Promotion taxes	\$2,132,398.34

WILSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Revenue Growth

FINANCE DEPARTMENT 2024

• Animal Control Future Facility	\$1,586,804.98	General Fund
• Future Salaries Reserve	\$ 817,103.07	General Fund
• Financial Stability	\$1,610,469.74	Special Revenue Fund
• Fire Truck Reserve	\$1,014,549.97	Public Safety
• Future Fire Station	\$ 500,000.00	Public Safety
• Future Fire Training Facility	\$ 750,000.00	Public Safety
• Future Police Facility	\$ 250,000.00	Public Safety
• Future Police Facility	\$1,500,000.00	ARPA
• Police Future Equipment	\$1,000,000.00	Public Safety
• Congo/Shenandoah Roundabout	\$1,000,000.00	Street Improvement
• Southwest Trail Connector	\$1,000,000.00	Street Improvement
• Relocation of Exit 117	\$1,000,000.00	Street Improvement
• Northshore Widening	\$ 500,000.00	Street Improvement
• Congo Widening	\$1,000,000.00	Street Improvement
• South Shoreline Drainage	\$ 500,000.00	Street Improvement

Future Designated Funds

FINANCE DEPARTMENT 2024

Accomplishments

- Started construction on renovation of 410 River Street complex for location of New City Hall; estimated completion in 1st quarter 2025.
- New vehicles purchased in Community Development, Streets, and Parks departments.
- Parks with the help from Farmers Bank and Trust purchased a large stage for events.
- ARPA funds used to complete 1st and 2nd Benton Utilities infrastructure project using ARPA funds for (1) Sludge Basin and (2) Clearwell Improvements.
- Contract awarded for renovation of existing City Hall for Police Headquarters. Estimated completion in 2025.
- Contract awarded for the build of a new Animal Services Shelter. Estimated completion in 2025.
- Contract awarded for 3rd Benton Utilities infrastructure project using ARPA funds for the rehabilitation of Downtown Water along South Street.

HUMAN RESOURCES 2024

Salary, Wage, & Benefits

- Ended the year with 246 Full-time employees out of 255 2% annual raises given to each employee 6/2/2024
- Complete overhaul of Employee Handbook January 2024, clarifications proposed January 2025.
- Health insurance premiums did not increase: the City continues to pay 100% of employee only premium and 75% of employee & family premium.
- 2024 Open Enrollment offered employees 2 health insurance plans: traditional plan & high deductible plan.
 - 219 employees kept the traditional plan
 - 27 employees chose high deductible plan

