

MINUTES OF THE BENTON CITY COUNCIL
Regular Session
February 24, 2025
Benton Municipal Complex

The Benton City Council was called to order at 5:41 p.m.

The invocation was given by Bro. Stephen Harrison.

Council Member Villines 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 Steve Lee
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 nine (9) council members were present. Council Member Jeff Hamm was absent. A quorum was declared.

Council Member Morrow made a motion to approve the January 27, 2025, city council meeting minutes. Second, by Council Member Hart. The Mayor called for a voice vote. All council members present voted in the affirmative. The January 27, 2025, minutes were approved with 9 affirmative votes and 1 absent.

There was not a report from the Advertising and Promotion Commission, the Commission Committee, or the Animal Service 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 8 of 2025 – An Ordinance Restricting Right-of-Way Canvassers and Solicitors to Certain Benton Streets and Roadways, Located within the City of Benton, Because Canvassers and Solicitors Pose a Danger to Themselves and the Public At Large by Intervening with the Safe and Normal Flow of Traffic, Repealing Ordinance 35 of 2022 and Ordinance 2 of 2025; and For Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Donnor. The ordinance was read. The Mayor asked for any questions or comments, none. The intersection of Military Road and East Street was added. 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 absent. Ordinance 8 of 2025 was adopted with 9 affirmative votes and 1 absent.

Council Member Brown was recognized for a report from the Finance Committee. Council Member Brown made a motion to read and adopt Resolution 8 of 2025 – A Resolution

Accepting a Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant From ARDOT for the Congo Widening Project Design Phase and Amending the 2025 Street Improvement Budget to Increase the Appropriation in the Amount of \$400,000 for Revenues and \$500,000 for Expenditures; and For Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Morrow. The resolution was read by title. The Mayor stated that basically we are paying \$100,000 to get this portion. The grant is \$400,000. 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 absent. Resolution 8 of 2025 was adopted with 9 affirmative votes and 1 absent vote.

Resolution 9 of 2025 – A Resolution Approving a Contract with Elrod Glass for the Installation of Bulletproof Glass for the Benton District Court and Amending the 2025 Budget to Increase the Appropriation in the Amount of \$44,307 Using Cash On Hand; and For Other Purposes was pulled from the agenda.

Council Member Brown made a motion to read and adopt Resolution 10 of 2025 – A Resolution Approving a Contract with Preferred Office Technologies for the Digitization of Records for the Benton District Court and Amending the 2025 Budget To Increase the Appropriation in the Amount of \$129,977 Using Cash on Hand; and For Other Purposes. Second, by Council Member Baptist. The resolution was read by title. The Mayor stated that this was for the district court, there were eight bids, and this was the most qualified bid that the judge and his staff felt was best for the situation. 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 absent. Resolution 10 of 2025 was adopted with 9 affirmative votes and 1 absent vote.

Council Member Brown made a motion to read and adopt Resolution 11 of 2025 - A Resolution Approving a Contract with Lonestar Tactical Buildings for the Construction of a New Fire Training Facility and Amending the 2025 Public Safety Budget to Increase the Appropriation in the Amount of \$463,045 for the Build of a Fire Training Facility Using Cash on Hand; and For Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Reed. The resolution was read by title. The Mayor stated that two bids were received on this, and this was the lowest bid. 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 absent. Resolution 11 of 2025 was adopted with 9 affirmative votes and 1 absent.

Council Member Brown made a motion to read and adopt Resolution 12 of 2025 - A Resolution Authorizing the City To Enter into a Contract with Saline County for the Payment of the Saline County District Court – Benton Division Judge's Salary; Authorizing Payments of \$35,651.60 For the Calendar Year 2025; and For Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Lee. The resolution was read by title. The Mayor stated that this is done annually, to help pay part of the judge's salary. 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 absent. Resolution 12 of 2025 was adopted with 9 affirmative votes and 1 absent.

Council Member Hart was recognized for a report from the Parks Committee. Council Member Hart made a motion to read and adopt Ordinance 9 of 2025 – An Ordinance Setting the 2025 Stage Rental Rates for the Parks and Recreation Department; and For Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Morrow. The ordinance was read. The Mayor thanked Farmers Bank & Trust, they gave us \$95,000 and some change for this stage to go in half with the parks department. Rates are \$2,500 per day with a \$500 deposit and \$100 if you want to rent the pop up. The rates are a result of other rates charged around the state and this being a medium price range of those. The stage will not leave the city of Benton and Farmers Bank & Trust can use the stage twice a year. Our people will set it up and take it down. 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 absent. Ordinance 9 of 2025 was adopted with 9 affirmative votes and 1 absent.

Council Member Donnor was recognized for a report from the Personnel/Health and Safety Committee. Council Member Donnor made a motion to read and adopt Ordinance 10 of 2025 – An Ordinance Adopting Amendments to the “City of Benton Employee Handbook”; and For Other Purposes. Second, by Council Member Spencer-Cole. The ordinance was read. The Mayor stated that the handbook was passed in 2023 and there were some loopholes in it, so department heads go together, opinions were gathered, and the wording was done. This was a yearlong process. It basically just changed some wording. It did not add or delete any benefits for our employees. 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 absent. Ordinance 10 of 2025 was adopted with 9 affirmative votes and 1 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 11 of 2025 – An Ordinance Rezoning 1205 and 1207 Highway 35 in the City of Benton, Saline County, Arkansas, From AG Agricultural to R5 Multi Family District; and For Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Reed. The ordinance was read. The Mayor stated that this is around the Silica Heights area. Glenda Brinsfield, owner of the property, was there to answer any questions. 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 absent. Ordinance 11 of 2025 was adopted with 9 affirmative votes and 1 absent.

Council Member Spencer-Cole made a motion to read and adopt Ordinance 12 of 2025 – An Ordinance Rezoning 219 Kenwood Road 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 Reed. The ordinance was read. The Mayor 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 absent. Ordinance 12 of 2025 was adopted with 9 affirmative votes and 1 absent.

Council Member Spencer-Cole made a motion to read and adopt Ordinance 13 of 2025 – An Ordinance Providing for Conditional Use for a Duplex Located at Multiple (12) Parcels Along S. Main Street; and for Other Purposes. Second, by Council Member Morrow. The ordinance was read. The Mayor asked if anyone was here from LNP Properties, no one came forward. The Mayor asked for any questions or comments. Council Member Hart asked if they were tearing these down and building duplexes or adding to what is currently there? John Parton, Community Development Director, stated that the city has not received construction plans for those, but they have renovated and built some in the area and have done a good job. He stated that the use is consistent with our comprehensive plan. Some will be rehab and some built. 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 absent. Ordinance 13 of 2025 was adopted with 9 affirmative votes and 1 absent.

Council Member Spencer-Cole made a motion to read and adopt Ordinance 14 of 2025 – An Ordinance Accepting the Annexation of Certain Territory to the City of Benton, Arkansas; Approving the Schedule of Services to Be Extended to Said Area; Assigning Such to Ward Five; and for Other Purposes. Second, by Council Member Baptist. The ordinance was read. The Mayor asked for any questions or comments. Council Member Lee asked where this is located. The Mayor stated on Highway 5, where Benton Transmission was located. Mr. Parton, Community Development Director, stated that this annexation closed up an enclave. 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 absent. Ordinance 14 of 2025 was adopted with 9 affirmative votes and 1 absent.

Council Member Hart was recognized for a report from the Public Utility Commission. Council Member Hart asked for the first reading of Ordinance 15 of 2025 – An Ordinance Establishing Electrical Rates for Customers of the City of Benton, Arkansas; Repealing Electrical Rate Structures Adopted by The City in Ordinance No. 59 of 2022; and For Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Morrow. The ordinance was read. The Mayor stated that this only affects three customers, our three biggest customers. Mr. Pedersen has a meeting with one of the customers this week. A public hearing will be held on March 17th. The Mayor asked for any questions or comments. Council Member Hart stated this changes the CPI to a power cost adjustment. Ordinance 15 of 2025 had its first reading.

Council Member Hart made a motion to read and adopt Ordinance 16 of 2025 – An Ordinance Waiving Competitive Bidding and Authorizing Benton Utilities To Purchase an M4008 Base Station with Installation & Decommission of the Old Base Station; and For Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Morrow. The ordinance was read. 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 absent. Ordinance 16 of 2025 was adopted with 9 affirmative votes and 1 absent.

Council Member Baptist was recognized for a report from the Streets Committee. Council Member Baptist made a motion to adopt Resolution 13 of 2025 – A Resolution Approving a Contract With H.W. Tucker for the South Shoreline Blvd Drainage Improvements Project and Amending the 2025 Street Improvement Budget to Increase the Appropriation in the Amount of \$539,828 Using Cash on Hand; And For Other Purposes. Seconded by Council Member Reed. The resolution was read by title. The Mayor stated that this was the lowest acceptable bid. They did the work along Airline Drive last year and we were happy with what they have done. 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 absent. Resolution 13 of 2025 was approved with 9 affirmative votes and 1 absent.

There was not any old business nor public comment.

The committee meetings will be on March 10th and 11th. The council meeting will be March 17th.

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Tom Farmer, Mayor

Cindy Stracener, City Clerk

Benton Advertising & Promotion Commission
Agenda
February 12, 2025
3:30 pm at the Benton Municipal Complex in Council Chambers

- 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 January Meeting**
- IV. Financial Reports**
- A. Profit and Loss Reports – Jordan Woolbright
 - B. Bank Balances and Collections Report – Mandy Spicer
 - C. 2025 Budgets – Jordan Woolbright / Bill Eldridge
- V. Administrative**
- Delinquency Report – Mandy Spicer
- VI. Funding**
- A. Saline County Fair Association – 2nd Reading and Vote
 - B. Saline County Art League – 1st Reading
 - C. The Royal Players – 1st Reading
- 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 – Steve Brown
- X. New Business**
- Next Meeting Date – March 12
- XI. Other Business**
- XII. Adjournment**

BENTON ADVERTISING & PROMOTION COMMISSION

Minutes

January 8, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bill Eldridge called the meeting of the Benton Advertising & Promotion Commission to order on January 8, 2025, at 3:30 pm at the Benton Municipal Complex in Council Chambers.

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. MINUTES

Luke Moody made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2024 meeting. Steve Brown 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 December 31, 2024:

Bank OZK – Focus Group Project	\$647,845.75
Bank OZK – A&P	\$137,242.80
Bank OZK – Event Center	\$456,070.48
Bank OZK – Savings	<u>\$394,898.98</u>
Total Checking/Savings	\$1,636,058.01

There is a liability of \$2,386.25 owed to the Arkansas Department of Finance for sales tax and to the City of Benton for sales tax.

A&P profit and loss statement: for the month of December 2024 total income of \$18,204.08 and total expenses of \$12,363.01 resulting in net income of \$5,841.07. For the year to date as of December 2024 total income of \$218,276.28, total operating expenses of \$176,874.06 resulting in net income of \$41,402.22.

Event Center profit and loss statement: for the month of December 2024 total income of \$62,925.98, total operating expenses of \$65,640.42 resulting in a net loss of (\$2,714.44). For the year to date as of December 2024 total income of \$729,687.12, total operating expenses of \$528,238.99 and capital expenditures of \$63,061.17 resulting in net income of \$138,386.96.

Focus Group profit and loss statement: for the month of December 2024 total income of \$19,882.19 and total expenses of \$0 resulting in net income of \$19,882.19. For the year to date as of December 2024 total income of \$235,053.35 and total expenses of \$0 resulting in net income of \$235,053.35.

B. Bank Balances and Collections Report

Mandy Spicer presented the bank accounts with the following balances as of December 31, 2024:

	Statement Balance	Prev. Month's Balance
A&P Collections General	\$5,249.24	\$5,615.94
Bond Account	Closed	Closed
A&P Large Project Checking	\$2,530,413.15	\$2,435,753.07
A&P Small Project Checking	\$1,257,128.75	\$1,218,458.06
A&P General Operating Checking	\$137,965.39	\$133,713.72
Benton Focus Group Checking	\$647,845.75	\$627,963.56
Benton Event Center Gen Operating Checking	\$454,274.77	\$458,402.91
Benton Event Center Savings	<u>\$394,898.98</u>	\$393,587.74
	<u>\$5,427,776.03</u>	

Mandy reported installment number three was paid on the Thomas property in January out of the large project account.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE

Collections received in the month of December 2024 were \$177,658.47 which is 8.62% more than December 2023. The deadline for the current A&P tax payments due is later this week. Towards the last week in December, all payers who had not yet paid were contacted and reminded about the deadline.

Below are the amounts collected in December of this year along with December of the previous five years:

December 2024 Collections:	\$177,568.47
December 2023 Collections:	\$163,482.66
December 2022 Collections:	\$148,725.26
December 2021 Collections:	\$135,536.13
December 2020 Collections:	\$109,901.21
December 2019 Collections:	\$116,259.46

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

VI. FUNDING REQUESTS

A. AFC Benton – 2nd Reading and Vote – Bill Eldridge recognized Dan Wilson.

Discussion included: This is a special project and any approved funds would not be considered funding. The two projects recommended by the focus group several years ago were a RV park and a soccer complex. Dan Wilson confirmed that a \$50,000 sponsorship has been secured and additional sponsorships have been requested and are currently being considered. When asked by a commissioner, Dan stated that a total of \$100,000 would allow the club to complete one soccer field by fall. The commissioners confirmed that the proposed three soccer fields are located by Sunset Lake on property owned by the City of Benton and the fields could be converted to pickleball courts once the soccer complex is completed. It was added any approved funds would serve as the foundation for the property. Lighting for the fields was discussed (not included in the original \$225,240 project amount).

Luke Moody made a motion to approve \$50,000 from the Focus Group account and another \$50,000 in April to be used for lighting contingent on the AFC Benton club acquiring funding to complete the three fields.

B. Saline County Fair Association – 1st Reading – Bill Eldridge recognized Julie Kerr who said the request for \$7,500 is a small increase from 2024 due to increases in advertising rates. Approximately 35,000 people attended the fair in 2024 but an increase is expected this year since the interstate construction is complete. There were no questions from the commissioners. They will vote on the request at the next meeting.

VII. REPORT FROM BENTON EVENT CENTER

Nikki Chumley reported about ten events that have been hosted in the building since the last meeting, including several Christmas parties, a conference and a gun and knife show. Attendance since the building opened on October 1, 2013 is 978,900.

VIII. REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF EXIT 114 PROPERTY

Bill Eldridge reported all permits have been received by Buc-ees and the groundbreaking should be soon. As part of the agreement, the A&P Commission is responsible for paying for a temporary barbed wire fence (approximately 300 yards) that will be erected by the Buc-ees excavating company. The cost is to be determined.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. A&P Marketing Committee – Steve Brown reported the committee has not met since the last A&P meeting due to the holidays. Steve recognized two representatives from The Sells Agency who stated they intend to regularly attend A&P meetings to be available to answer questions and to provide updates.

B. 2025 Budget Committee – Bill Eldridge said the budget committee will meet on Thursday, January 16, at 9:00 am at the Chamber. The committee is Bill Eldridge, Luke Moody, Nikki Chumley, Gary James, Mandy Spicer, Jordan Woolbright and Amy McCormick.

X. NEW BUSINESS

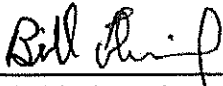
The next meeting of the A&P Commission will be February 12, 2025.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

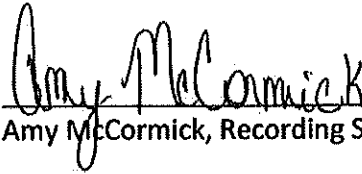
None

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Luke Moody made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Elgin Hamner seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 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 January 31, 2025

	<u>Jan 31, 25</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Bank OZK - Focus Group Project	635,417.71
Bank OZK - A&P	127,511.81
Bank OZK - Event Center	413,205.94
Bank OZK - Savings	382,140.48
Total Checking/Savings	<u>1,558,275.94</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>1,558,275.94</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>1,558,275.94</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Sales Tax Payable	465.80
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>465.80</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>465.80</u>
Total Liabilities	465.80
Equity	
Retained Earnings	1,633,671.76
Net Income	(75,861.62)
Total Equity	<u>1,557,810.14</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>1,558,275.94</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
January 2025

	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Interest	422.57	350.00	72.57	120.73%
Sales Tax Revenue	0.00	18,868.00	(18,868.00)	0.0%
Total Income	<u>422.57</u>	<u>19,218.00</u>	<u>(18,795.43)</u>	<u>2.2%</u>
Gross Profit	<u>422.57</u>	<u>19,218.00</u>	<u>(18,795.43)</u>	<u>2.2%</u>
Expense				
Accounting Services	500.00	500.00	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	0.00	4,166.00	(4,166.00)	0.0%
Legal Counsel	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	100.0%
Postage	224.92	225.00	(0.08)	99.96%
Repairs & Maintenance	820.31	825.00	(4.69)	99.43%
Service Agreement	6,658.33	6,658.33	0.00	100.0%
Total Expense	<u>10,153.56</u>	<u>14,388.63</u>	<u>(4,235.07)</u>	<u>70.57%</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>(9,730.99)</u>	<u>4,829.37</u>	<u>(14,560.36)</u>	<u>(201.5%)</u>
Net Income	<u>(9,730.99)</u>	<u>4,829.37</u>	<u>(14,560.36)</u>	<u>(201.5%)</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
January 2025

	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Interest	2,669.58	2,300.00	369.58	116.07%
Sales-Revenue				
Alcohol Sales-Beer/Wine	344.69	2,700.00	(2,355.31)	12.77%
Alcohol Sales-Mixed Drinks	937.96	2,500.00	(1,562.04)	37.52%
Sales-Revenue - Other	23,650.40	52,325.00	(28,674.60)	45.2%
Total Sales-Revenue	<u>24,933.05</u>	<u>57,525.00</u>	<u>(32,591.95)</u>	<u>43.34%</u>
Sales Tax Revenue	17,764.73	18,868.00	(1,103.27)	94.15%
Total Income	<u>45,367.36</u>	<u>78,693.00</u>	<u>(33,325.64)</u>	<u>57.65%</u>
Gross Profit	<u>45,367.36</u>	<u>78,693.00</u>	<u>(33,325.64)</u>	<u>57.65%</u>
Expense				
Alcohol Expense	3,791.99	3,700.00	91.99	102.49%
Bank Service Fees	522.59	1,356.22	(833.63)	38.53%
Building Alarm System	147.61	147.61	0.00	100.0%
Cable TV	186.35	186.35	0.00	100.0%
Cleaning Service	1,180.71	1,345.00	(164.29)	87.79%
Contract Labor	5,601.50	5,625.00	(23.50)	99.58%
Health Insurance	1,159.85	1,159.85	0.00	100.0%
Internet/IT	323.95	2,193.00	(1,869.05)	14.77%
Labor Expenses	20,200.00	21,262.24	(1,062.24)	95.0%
Laundry Expense	4,007.70	4,000.00	7.70	100.19%
Linen & Supplies	677.32	675.00	2.32	100.34%
Office Expense	518.92	660.31	(141.39)	78.59%
Pest Control Expense	76.66	70.00	6.66	109.37%
Repairs & Maintenance	5,158.83	9,455.00	(4,296.17)	54.56%
Supplies	684.88	981.47	(296.59)	69.78%
Telephone Expense	107.84	117.00	(9.16)	92.17%
Trash Pickup	460.60	557.92	(97.32)	82.56%
Utilities	6,021.02	6,000.00	21.02	100.35%
Website	69.95	69.95	0.00	100.0%
Total Expense	<u>50,898.17</u>	<u>59,561.92</u>	<u>(8,663.75)</u>	<u>85.45%</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>(5,530.81)</u>	<u>19,131.08</u>	<u>(24,661.89)</u>	<u>(28.91%)</u>
Other Income/Expense				
Other Expense				
Capital Expenditures				
Security Cameras	23,959.14	23,959.14	0.00	100.0%
LED Lights Change Out	6,447.91	6,447.91	0.00	100.0%
Total Capital Expenditures	<u>30,407.05</u>	<u>30,407.05</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Total Other Expense	<u>30,407.05</u>	<u>30,407.05</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Net Other Income	<u>(30,407.05)</u>	<u>(30,407.05)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Net Income	<u>(35,937.86)</u>	<u>(11,275.97)</u>	<u>(24,661.89)</u>	<u>318.71%</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 2025

	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Interest	2,042.50	1,500.00	542.50	136.17%
Sales Tax Revenue	17,764.73	18,868.00	(1,103.27)	94.15%
Total Income	<u>19,807.23</u>	<u>20,368.00</u>	<u>(560.77)</u>	<u>97.25%</u>
Gross Profit	<u>19,807.23</u>	<u>20,368.00</u>	<u>(560.77)</u>	<u>97.25%</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>19,807.23</u>	<u>20,368.00</u>	<u>(560.77)</u>	<u>97.25%</u>
Other Income/Expense				
Other Expense				
Special Projects	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	100.0%
Total Other Expense	<u>50,000.00</u>	<u>50,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Net Other Income	<u>(50,000.00)</u>	<u>(50,000.00)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Net Income	<u>(30,192.77)</u>	<u>(29,632.00)</u>	<u>(560.77)</u>	<u>101.89%</u>

NO ASSURANCE IS PROVIDED ON THESE STATEMENTS.

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

Account Name		Acct #	Statement Balance	Previous Month's Balance
Cash Accounts:				
A&P Collections General		***1584	9,571.21	5,249.24
Bond Account		***1592	CLOSED	CLOSED
A&P Large Project Checking	50%	***0318	1,707,466.24	2,530,413.15
A&P Small Project Checking	20%	***0348	1,289,032.36	1,257,128.75
A&P General Op Checking	10%	***3297	127,511.81	137,965.39
Benton Focus Group Checking	10%	***2274	635,417.71	647,845.75
Benton Event Center General Op Checking	10%	***2640	442,002.12	454,274.77
Benton Event Center Savings		***9832	382,140.48	394,898.98
TOTAL OPERATING CASH & INVESTMENTS				<u><u>4,593,141.93</u></u>

RESTAURANTS:

[illegible]

Benton Focus Group			Benton A&P Commission			Benton Event Center		
2025 Budget			2025 Budget			2025 Budget		
INCOME			INCOME			INCOME		
Interest	\$	18,000.00	Interest	\$	4,200.00	Interest	\$	27,600.00
Sales Tax Revenue	\$	219,227.80	Sales Tax Revenue	\$	219,227.80	Alcohol Sales-Beer/Wine	\$	13,800.00
Gross Profit	\$	237,227.80	Gross Profit	\$	223,427.80	Alcohol Sales-Mixed Drinks	\$	9,400.00
						Refunds/Returns	\$	-
EXPENSES	\$	-	EXPENSES			Sales-Revenue-Other	\$	475,353.00
			Accounting Services	\$	7,315.00	Sales Tax Revenue	\$	219,227.80
SPECIAL PROJECTS	\$	100,000.00	Advertising	\$	5,094.18	Gross Profit	\$	745,380.80
			Comp. for Commissioners	\$	9,000.00			
NET INCOME	\$	137,227.80	Funding	\$	50,000.00	EXPENSES		
			Legal Counsel	\$	14,400.00	Advertising	\$	2,000.00
			Office Expense	\$	-	Alcohol	\$	7,941.41
			Postage	\$	225.00	Alcohol Permit	\$	3,576.00
			Repairs & Maintenance	\$	5,300.00	Bank Service Fees	\$	6,810.89
			Service Agreement	\$	79,899.96	Building Alarm Systems	\$	3,569.13
			Total Expenses	\$	171,234.14	Cable TV	\$	2,236.20
			NET INCOME	\$	52,193.66	Cleaning Service	\$	16,140.00
						Contract Labor	\$	48,025.00
						Dues & Membership	\$	1,279.95
						Health Insurance	\$	15,965.00
						Insurance (Building)	\$	26,298.13
						Internet / IT	\$	26,316.00
						Labor	\$	187,969.46
						Laundry	\$	25,582.45
						Linens & Supplies	\$	2,139.48
						Mileage Reimb.	\$	-
						Office Expense	\$	4,530.54
						Pest Control	\$	1,115.00
						Repairs & Maintenance	\$	86,715.09
						Supplies	\$	18,164.60
						Telephone	\$	1,404.00
						Trash	\$	6,716.16
						Utilities	\$	77,266.18
						Website	\$	878.45
						Total Expenses	\$	572,639.12
						CAPITAL EXPENDITURES		
						Painting	\$	9,316.00
						Chair replacement	\$	10,337.00
						Light retrofitting	\$	19,447.91
						Security cameras	\$	23,959.14
						Total Capital Expenditures	\$	63,060.05
						NET INCOME	\$	109,681.63

NOTES ON 2025 BUDGETS

BENTON FOCUS GROUP BUDGET

1. Sales tax revenue budgeted to increase 3%

BENTON ADVERTISING & PROMOTION BUDGET

1. Sales tax revenue budgeted to increase 3%
 2. Funding budget remains at \$50,000 - will transfer unused funds to Focus Group account to use on RV park project
- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 2024 Funding: | |
| budgeted | \$ 50,000.00 |
| total approved funding paid | \$ (40,330.84) |
| amt to transfer to Focus Group | \$ 9,669.16 |
3. Repairs & Maintenance - maintenance contract with Lights by Sparky - \$750/quarter plus \$2,000 for misc. repairs

BENTON EVENT CENTER BUDGET

1. Sales tax revenue budgeted to increase 3%
2. Rental income budgeted to increase 3%
3. Contract labor - increased hourly rate by \$1.00
4. Dues & memberships - Nikki joined Heart of Arkansas \$1,000
5. Capital expenditures:
 - will transfer exact amount of expenditure from BEC savings to BEC operating as expense is incurred
 - paint all event rooms & lobby
 - chair replacement
 - LED light change out
 - final payment for security cameras (1st payment made in 2024)
6. Transfer \$10,000 each month from BEC operating to BEC savings

Benton Event Center-Event Report

January 8, 2025 to February 9, 2025

October 1, 2013 to January 7, 2025

978,800

	Date(s)	# of Attendees
Vietnamese New Year Celebration	1/11-1/12/2025	700
PLANTS Convention	1/13-1/14/2025	325
Padala Anniversary Party	1/18/2025	400
Sportscard & Memorabilia Show	1/25/2025	300
Duck Duck Goose Children's Consignment Sale	1/26/2025-2/3/2025	4000
Varsity Cheer Conference	2/4-2/5/2025	600
Yea! Recycle Saline Banquet	2/6/2025	300
FACS Pillar Community Awards	2/8/2025	60
JA Charity Gala	2/8/2025	250
Rhea Lana's Children's Consignment Sale	2/9-2/23/2025	TBD

of Events: 10

TOTAL: 6,935

TOTAL: 985,735

CITY OF BENTON UTILITY COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2025, 6:00 P.M.,
ELECTRIC UTILITY BUILDING
1827 DALE AVENUE

The City of Benton Utility Commissioners met in regular session Monday, February 3, 2025, at the Electric Utility Building, 1827 Dale Avenue.

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

The invocation was given by Commission Member Stott.

Commission Chairman Johnston led the Pledge of Allegiance.

When the roll was called, Commissioners present were:

Brad Johnston, Chairman
David McCollum, Commission Member
Jana Hogue, Commission Member
Skylyr Stott, Commission Member

A quorum was declared with five members present. Commission Member Ponder came in at 6:02.

Commission Chairman Johnston asked if everyone had read the regular meeting minutes of January 21, 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 Johnston called for a voice vote. All commission members present voted in the affirmative. January 21st 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. October Financials

Mr. Jimmy Garrett, CFO, went through the financials for December. In December, expenses were over revenues by \$477,451. 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 cash balance. Commission Member McCollum made a motion to approve the December financials as presented. Commission Member Stott seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Johnston called for a voice

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

Old Business

A. Review/Approve New Electric Rates

Mr. Pedersen went through the electric rates that were proposed at the January 21st meeting. He explained the changes and asked for approval to send them to City Council along with an ordinance to change them. He explained that he is basically taking the CPI (Consumer Price Index) off and adding a PCA (Power Cost Adjustment). Commission Member Stott made a motion to allow Mr. Pedersen to move forward with the new electric rates to City Council. Commission Member Hogue seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Johnston called for a voice vote. All commission members voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

New Business

A. Sewer Rate Discussion Request from Customer

Mr. Pedersen explained that Mr. Alan Selby had requested to be taken off of the sewer averaging and to only pay for his actual usage. He said that the averaging is how most cities handle the sewer billing but, Mr. Selby asked to only pay for the amount he uses each month. Mr. Pedersen said he did not have a problem with this but if the Commission approves the change he would like the ordinance to state that once a customer is off of averaging and on actual usage that they have to stay on this type of billing until the sewer averaging time period starts again. After much discussion Commission Member Ponder made a motion to table this until the next meeting to give them time to go over it. Commission Member Hogue seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Johnston called for a voice vote. All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

B. Waiving of Competitive Bidding for Replacing Communications Tower

Mr. Chris Martin, Metering Dept Manager, explained the need for a new base station at the Silica Heights Water Tower. He said this station sends the reading for the smart meters to the billing office and the one currently on the water tower is from 2006-2007. He needs to waive bidding because the base station is sole source purchase. Commission Member Ponder made a motion to allow staff to move forward with an ordinance to waive bidding due to the base station have a sole source provider. Commission Member McCollum seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Johnston called for a voice vote. All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

C. Mrs. Dorothy Self, Billing Department Manager, told the commission that the Share Board has been down two members and Mr. Michael L Shaw had sent in his resume requesting to be on the board. She asked the commission to approve Mr. Shaw. The commissioners agreed that Mr. Shaw would be a good candidate. Commission Member McCollum made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Shaw to the Share Board. Commission Member Hogue seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Johnston called for a voice vote. All commission members voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Announcements

Mr. Pedersen reminded the commissioners about the Chamber Banquet on March 4th at 6 p.m. and that Benton Utilities had purchased a table.

Commission Chairman Johnston said the next regular meeting date would be Monday, March 3, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Executive Session

A. GM Annual Review

Commission Member McCollum made a motion to adjourn into executive session and Commission Member Stott seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned into executive session at 7:14 p.m.

Meeting was reconvened at 7:44 p.m.

Commission Member Stott made a motion to give Mr. Pedersen a merit increase of 4.45% with a second from Commissioner Hogue. All commission members present voted in the affirmative.

Commission Member Stott made a motion to approve the employee agreement with the modification to section 3B from 30 days to 60 days and second from Commission Member McCullum. (The Employee shall give the Commission no less than sixty days' notice in advance of his departure.) All commission members present voted in the affirmative.

Commission Member Stott made a motion to adjourn with a second by Commission Member McCollum. Commission Chairman Johnston called for a voice vote. All

commission members present voted in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Brad Johnston, Commission Chairman

Madeline Wilson, Recording Secretary

CITY OF BENTON, ARKANSAS
Planning & Zoning Special Meeting
Tuesday January 7th, 2024
6:00 P.M.

Chairman Stilwell called the meeting to order. Roll call resulted in 2 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	
John Parton, Comm. Development Director	
Chelsea Matthews, City Planner	

Approval of the minutes of the December 3rd, 2024, 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.

Public Hearing

Renaming of Dixie Street

Chairman Stilwell asked Ms. Matthews to introduce the renaming of Dixie Street. Ms. Matthews reads the memorandum that states that there has been a petition filed by Carl Fuller [property owner on Dixie Street] to rename “Dixie” Street to “Fuller” Street. The petition filed was sent out to the 58 property owners along Dixie Street and 36 property owners signed “in favor” of the name change. Multiple citizens from the community speak in favor of and against the name change. Since this is a public hearing, no vote is taken on the name change. Another public hearing and a vote will take place at the February Planning Commission meeting.

1. Rebecca Wine [Part of Ralph Bunch Neighborhood Association; does NOT live on Dixie Street] Speaks in favor of name change.
2. Rodney Wine [does NOT live on Dixie Street; Grew up on Dixie Street] Speaks in favor of name change.
3. Rebecca Fuller [1601 Dixie Street; Married to Carl Fuller (petitioner)] Speaks in favor of name change.
4. Marie Williams [does NOT live on Dixie Street] States some family members live on street. Speaks against name change. Wants the community to come together to decide on a different name.
5. Winifred Stanford [Daughter of Van D. Stamps; 1500 Dixie Street] Spoke for mother to revoke her signature on the petition.
6. Vernicesa Lee [Grew up on Dixie Street] Speaks in favor of name change.
7. Joseph Brown [1318 Dixie Street] Speaks against name change. States he pays Dixie Street taxes and has all his life. Doesn't have an issue with changing the name but wants to change to something the community agrees on].
8. Runion Anderson [does NOT live on Dixie Street; member of the community] Speaks in favor of name change to honor veteran who died.

CITY OF BENTON, ARKANSAS
Planning & Zoning Special Meeting
Tuesday January 7th, 2024
6:00 P.M.

9. Constella Bowman [does NOT live on Dixie Street; member of the community] Speaks against the name change. States CPL Fuller is not the only one who has served, and we shouldn't change something that isn't broke.
10. Kim Velez [does NOT live on Dixie Street; part of the Community; helps with trash pickup, parks, etc.] Speaks in favor of name change. States area is run down and needs change.
11. Carl Fuller [1601 Dixie Street; brother of Cario Fuller] Speaks in favor of change of name change. States Cario is the only soldier in their community that did not come back home.
12. Tom Hanson [does NOT live on Dixie Street; part of the Benton Community; is a Vietnam veteran] Speaks in favor of name change. States he went to the war like Cario and would love a street name to be named after a fellow veteran.
13. Cindy Bowden [does NOT live on Dixie Street; Benton Citizen] Speaks in favor of name change to be after a Gold Star Veteran. States father was in the Airforce.
14. Karen Rivera [does NOT live on Dixie Street; owns 9 properties within Ralph Bunch Community] Speaks against name change due to the community having a lot of good changes recently. States it would be a lot of work to change all documentation related to name changes.
15. Greg Reed [lives on Dixie Street] Wrote a letter against name change. States it is not needed.

Board of Adjustments

7812 S. Shoreline Blvd [Variance for Side Setbacks]

Chairman Stilwell asked Ms. Matthews to introduce the Variance request. Ms. Matthews reads the memorandum that states that Tim Fulks [property owner] is requesting a variance for a property located at 7812 S. Shoreline Blvd. The purpose of this variance is to be able to reduce the side setbacks from 8' to 7' due to a home being built over these setbacks. Chairman Stilwell calls for any questions or comments regarding this request. Commissioner Chilton makes a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Wood second. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Planning Commission

712 & 716 N. Main Street [Rezone from R2 to C1]

Chairman Stilwell asked Ms. Matthews to introduce the Rezone request. Ms. Matthews reads the memorandum that states that RC & CS Properties LLC [property owner] is requesting approval of a rezone at 712 & 716 N. Main Street. The current zone is R2 [single family district detached housing] and the applicant is requesting this property to be rezoned to C1 [neighborhood commercial]. Commissioner Stilwell calls for any questions or comments regarding this request. Kazi, with Hope Consulting LLC, speaks in favor of this item and clarifies that the applicants are wanting to expand Simmons Eye Care Center. Commissioner Wood makes a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Gibson second. **Motion carried 6-0. Since this is a rezone request, final approval will go before City Council later this month.**

#805-10100-000, #805-10096-000, & #805-10089-000 [Rezone from R2 to C3]

Chairman Stilwell asked Ms. Matthews to introduce the Rezone request. Ms. Matthews reads the memorandum that states that Kevin Johnson [property owner] is requesting a rezone of three of his properties

CITY OF BENTON, ARKANSAS
Planning & Zoning Special Meeting

Tuesday January 7th, 2024

6:00 P.M.

along Benton Parkway [#805-10100-000; Address Not Assigned][#05-10096-000; 3521 Coats Road][#805-10089-000; 3517 Coats Rd]. These properties are currently zoned R2 [single family district detached housing] and the applicant is requesting this property to be rezoned to C3 [service commercial]. Commissioner Stilwell calls for any questions or comments regarding this request. Kazi, with Hope Consulting LLC, speaks in favor of this item. Commissioner Wood makes a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Warford second. **Motion carried 6-0. Since this is a rezone request, final approval will go before City Council later this month.**

Severn Landing Phase 3 [Final Plat]

Chairman Stilwell asked Ms. Matthews to introduce the Final Plat for Severn Landing Phase 3. Ms. Matthews reads the memorandum that states that Richardson Engineering is requesting approval of a Final Plat for Severn Landing Phase 3. Chairman Stilwell calls for any questions or comments regarding this request. Dorothy Speaks with Richardson Engineering speaks in favor of this item. Commissioner Chilton makes a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Gibson second. **Motion carried 6-0.**

New Lost Pizza Location @ Highway 5 [Annexation]

This item has been tabled per applicant request.