

BELLA VISTA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

December 16, 2024 6:00 PM

Bella Vista District Court
2483 Forest Hills Blvd.

MINUTES

Call to Order by Mayor Flynn at 6:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call called by Clerk Krug. Council Members Snow, Hughes, Wozniak, Wilms, Fowler, and Honchell present. Mayor Flynn present.

Citizen Input Two citizens signed up to speak. Mayor Flynn explained the 3-minute rule and called the first person on the list.

Chris Nelson, 1 Harrington Dr. He came to thank Council Members Wozniak and Snow for their service to the City, and said they would receive glass plaques provided from various members of the community as soon as they arrive in the mail.

Laura Gentry, 12 Mason Ln. She came to thank Council Member Fowler for serving diligently on the Council for the last 8 years. She noted his time spent listening to residents, researching issues, and calling people to address their needs and concerns. She said his expertise and willingness to serve this City would be greatly missed, and she wished him and his wife, Rose, the very best.

Council Member Reply None

Action on the Minutes

Approval of Minutes - November 25, 2024, Regular Meeting

*Council Member Snow made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Wilms. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed 6-0.***

Reports

Monthly Financial Report ending October 31, 2024

Mayor Flynn highlighted the report ending Oct. 31, 2024. The Operating Revenue was up 2.1%, City Sales Tax was up 7.3%, and County Sales Tax was up .8% compared to last year. Operating Expenses are \$1.1 million below budget. He said the financials continue to be good, but a bit more of a challenge on the revenue side than in the past few years.

Council Member Recognition Mayor Flynn announced that three members were serving their last meeting on City Council, and he would address them in alphabetical order. Council Member Doug Fowler was on Council for 8

years, he was Mayor Pro Tem for 6 years, and he was on the A&P Commission for 7 years. Council Member Jerry Snow was on City Council from 2012-2014, and more recently he was on for a full term from 2020-2024. He was also appointed at one time to the Quorum Court for 2 years. One cannot run for re-election under state law, because appointment is by the Governor. Council Member Jim Wozniak is a record setter. He has been on City Council for 14 years, and prior to that he was the first Chief of Police in Bella Vista. Before that, he was with the Bella Vista Division of Sheriff's Department. He also served 8 years on the Quorum Court. Mayor Flynn thanked them for their efforts on behalf of the City, and presented each of them with a letter of recognition.

Council Member Hughes said it was an honor to serve alongside each of them these past two years. She recounted their common traits: a resolve to do what they considered best, even if it was not the easy or popular choice. They were willing to ask hard questions, demand answers, and keep asking questions until they were satisfied. She thanked them for their service and said Bella Vista is better because of them.

Council Member Wozniak thanked the residents for the opportunity to serve on the Council for the past 14 years. Added to that, his 39 years of public service bring him to a total of 53 years. He noted that he has been in public service his whole life, and it has been worth it. He advised the newer members to remember that no matter how strongly they feel about an issue, there are other residents who feel differently. It is important to listen to both sides equally.

Council Member Honchell thanked all three Council Members for their service and addressed each Council Member individually, citing examples from the past two years. He noted as a new Council Member, he tried to model the way Council Member Fowler prepared for meetings.

Council Member Wilms thanked Council Member Fowler for his service on the Council. Despite their disagreements, Council Member Fowler represented the core of the community, not the outliers, in the majority of the decisions he took and the actions he led. He thanked Council Member Fowler for his service as Mayor Pro Tem, and also his important work on the A&P Commission to bring organization and structure that has benefited the community. He thanked Council Member Wozniak for his long-term service, and said it has been an honor to serve with him, despite their disagreements. He thanked Council Member Snow once again, noting his two separate terms of service. He thanked him for representing the residents in Ward 1 well.

Council Member Fowler recognized his wife, Rose Fowler, who was in the audience. He said he could not have fulfilled his Council role without her, noting how patient she was with his time spent on phone calls and meeting with people. He pointed to his father who had played a big role in his life,

and how he passed away on Dec. 18, 1974, when Doug was a senior in high school. He said at the beginning of his first term, he made a commitment to this community that he would give everything he had, and that is just what he has done. He advised the new members to do their research, do their homework, land on their decision, and let the social media go. He thanked the community of Bella Vista for putting their trust in him.

Council Member Snow thanked the residents of Bella Vista for the opportunity to serve on the Council for these years. He found it enjoyable and was happy to do what he could to help the people of our community. He ended his brief remarks with "thanks for the memories."

Mayor Flynn made an announcement that the City of Bella Vista has been honored as a Trendsetter City for 2024 for the innovation of the Street Department in using the "asphalt zipper" to be more efficient in resurfacing roads. The honor is from the Arkansas Times and there will be an award given at the Arkansas Municipal League Winter Conference in January 2025. This is the third time Bella Vista has been named a trendsetter city.

(The Chair will entertain a motion to suspend the rules of order and procedure to allow all ordinances on the agenda to be read by title only.) Council Member Fowler made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Wilms. **Roll Call Vote: (Yays: 6/Nays: 0) Passed 6-0.**

Unfinished Business

New Business

ORDINANCE: AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION OF THE CITY OF BELLA VISTA IN BENEFIT PROGRAM 4 OF THE ARKANSAS LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE RETIREMENT SYSTEM (LOPFI) FOR ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES WHO ARE FIREFIGHTERS OR POLICE OFFICERS

*Mayor Flynn read the ordinance for the first time. Staff Attorney Kelley explained the Council adopted this LOPFI issue in the form of a resolution last month. When the paperwork was submitted in Little Rock, LOPFI insisted it be adopted by ordinance, not resolution. For the sake of efficiency, he recommended adopting this ordinance tonight. Council Member Fowler made a motion to suspend the rules and go to third and final reading, seconded by Council Member Wozniak. Council Member Snow made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Wozniak. **Roll Call Vote: (Yays: 6/Nays: 0) Passed 6-0.***

RESOLUTION: ADOPTING A CITY BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF BELLA VISTA FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2025, APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR EACH ITEM OF EXPENDITURE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES *Mayor Flynn read the resolution. He added that it had been discussed by the Council at a Special Work Session in early December. Council Member Wilms noted that proposed capital expenditures may be a challenge to implement in 2025-2027. Member Fowler made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Wilms.*

Roll Call Vote: (Yays: 6/Nays: 0) Passed 6-0.

RESOLUTION: APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR JOHN FLYNN TO SERVE AS A CITY GOVERNING BODY MEMBER OF THE BELLA VISTA ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION COMMISSION EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025, REPLACING DOUG FOWLER *Mayor Flynn read the resolution for the first time. Council Member Snow stated he does not support the resolution because the Mayor oversees all City departments and 200 employees. He thinks a new Council Member would be best to fill the opening. Council Member Fowler shared his experience of being one of the first members of the A & P Commission. He spoke of the talent and dedication of those who work on it, and the success of the Commission in promoting Bella Vista. He believes it would be best initially, with the recent turnover in Council Members, for the Mayor to be appointed to provide stability to the Commission. Council Member Wozniak made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Fowler. Roll Call Vote: (Yays: 5/Nays:1, Snow) Passed: 5-1.*

RESOLUTION: APPROVING THE MAYOR'S REAPPOINTMENTS OF BARBARA KNOTTS, SUSAN SANTOS, AND SALLY BENSON TO THE CITY OF BELLA VISTA PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD FOR TERMS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2028 *Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Council Member Fowler made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Fowler. Roll Call Vote: (Yays: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.*

RESOLUTION: ESTABLISHING RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL RATES FOR SOLID WASTE (TRASH) COLLECTION IN THE CITY *Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Council Member Wilms made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Fowler. Roll Call Vote: (Yays: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.*

RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO A ELEVENTH AMENDED ANIMAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR ANIMAL SHELTERING SERVICES WITH BELLA VISTA ANIMAL SHELTER, INC. *Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Council Member Wilms made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Fowler. Roll Call Vote: (Yays: 6/Nays: 0) Passed 6-0.*

Announcements

- Next City Council Work Session: 5:30 pm Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at Bella Vista Police Training Room
- Next City Council Regular Meeting: 6:00 pm Monday, January 27, 2025, at Bella Vista District Court
- Planning Commission Work Session: 4:30 pm Thursday, January 2, 2025, at Bella Vista District Court
- Planning Commission Regular Meeting: 4:30 pm, or immediately following BZA, Monday, January 13, 2025, at Bella Vista District Court
- Board of Construction Appeals: 3:00 pm Tuesday, January 14, 2025, if necessary, at Fire Station #4 Conference Rm, 1639 Forest Hills Blvd.

Adjournment

Mayor Flynn adjourned the meeting at 6:37 pm.



Wanda Lepillez Krug
City Clerk Wanda Lepillez Krug

John D. Flynn
Mayor John D. Flynn