

## **BELLA VISTA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

**December 15, 2025 6:00 PM**

**Bella Vista District Court 2483 Forest Hills Boulevard**

### **MINUTES**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance** recited.

**Roll Call** called by Clerk Krug. Council Members Newport, Wilms, Isbell, Honchell, Harp, and Hughes were present. Mayor Flynn was present.

**Citizen Input** Mayor Flynn explained the 3-minute rule for Citizen Input and read the name of each person on the list, in turn.

Matthew Sanders, 7 Nantwich Cir. Matthew read from the Old Testament book of Isaiah chapter 9, verse 6 with the prophecy of the birth of Christ. He invited all to attend the Gracepoint Church Christmas Eve services at 1:30 pm and 3:00 pm in Bentonville. He then recognized many of the non-profits that he works with: Trails Volunteers, Bella Vista Courtesy Van, Bella Vista Litter Patrol, Combat Vets Motorcycle Association, Patriot Guard Riders (Standing for Those Who Stood for Us), NICA (Nat'l. Interscholastic Cycling Assoc.), Sheepdog Impact Assistance, The Therapy Project, and Cooper Elementary. He thanked the City for giving Cooper a resource officer, and said Bella Vista is a great place to live.

Natalie Tibbs, 2 Conner Ln, Rogers. Natalie came to share more about the Children and Family Advocacy Center and said she looks forward to providing a tour in the near future, to Mayor Flynn and other Council Members who may attend. She told about a recent experience with a Bella Vista youth who was sexually abused by her father and taken to their Center for help. Her dignity was protected, and her healing could begin. She hopes Bella Vista will lead the way to more funding for the Center in response to the loss of federal funds. Natalie believes alternative funding is necessary to preserve the protection of children at risk in our community.

**Council Member Reply** Council Member Hughes thanked Matthew for coming and reminding everyone of why we are all here. Council Member Isbell thanked Matthew for calling out eight amazing Bella Vista non-profits, and thanked him for being a part of this great community.

### **Reports**

Monthly Financial Report ending October 31, 2025: Mayor Flynn highlighted several key factors: total operating revenues were up 11% over last year, county sales tax was up 3.2% compared to last year, and city sales tax was up 13%. The property tax revenue was up 19% over the prior year at this point. On the operating expense side, expenses are \$952,000 below

budget. The revenue is \$1.9 million over budget. So that puts the City at \$2.9 million ahead of budget, through the past ten months. The Unassigned Fund balance is \$11.4 million. It is a solid report at this time of the year, but in December funds will be used to cover all the holiday pay, so it is good to be ahead now.

(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 Wilms made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Harp. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.** Next, Mayor Flynn entertained a motion to suspend the rules and have Item P. take place before Item G. Cheryl Schluterman, representing Raymond James, was present from Little Rock to address the Council on Item P. Council Member Isbell made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Wilms. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed 6-0.**

**Consent Agenda** Mayor Flynn introduced the Consent Agenda for Items B.- F. Council Member Wilms made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Harp. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.**

Approval of Minutes: November 24, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting

**RESOLUTION:** EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF BELLA VISTA TO UTILIZE STATE AID STREET MONIES

**RESOLUTION:** APPROVING THE MAYOR'S REAPPOINTMENT OF CODY MOORE AND MANUEL "WADE" HAGAN TO THE BELLA VISTA BOARD OF CONSTRUCTION APPEALS FOR TERMS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2028

**RESOLUTION:** APPROVING THE MAYOR'S REAPPOINTMENT OF ANNA AYALA TO THE BELLA VISTA LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD FOR TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2030

**RESOLUTION:** APPROVING THE MAYOR'S REAPPOINTMENT OF KIM HONCHELL TO THE BELLA VISTA LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD FOR TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2030

#### **Unfinished Business**

**ORDINANCE:** AMENDING THE BELLA VISTA ZONING ORDINANCE AND MAP TO REZONE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN REZONING PETITION NO. 2025-59940 (COUNTY PARCEL NO. 16-43269-000) FROM R-E, RESIDENTIAL ESTATE DISTRICT TO C-1, NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL *Third and final reading.* Mayor Flynn read the ordinance for the third and final time. Motion to approve was made by Council Member Hughes, seconded by Council Member Isbell. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 0/Nays: 6) Failed: 0-6.**

**RESOLUTION:** ESTABLISHING SALARIES FOR MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL MEMBER, AND CITY CLERK TO BEGIN JANUARY 1, 2026 *Tabled from November to December* Mayor Flynn read the Resolution. Staff Attorney Kelley stated

there is a substitute resolution in the packet needing a motion to amend to proceed with that version, if that's the desire. Council Member Harp brought up Council Member Hughes' amendment, and wondered why it wasn't presented. Council Member Hughes said her suggestion was incorporated into the Mayor's substitute resolution. Motion to amend the resolution made by Council Member Wilms, seconded by Council Member Isbell. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 5/Nays: 1 Harp) Passed: 5-1.** Mayor Flynn stated now a motion is needed to approve, made by Council Member Wilms, seconded by Council Member Isbell. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 4/Nays: 2 Harp, Hughes) Passed: 4-2.**

### **New Business**

**RESOLUTION:** AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH CREWS AND ASSOCIATES, INC. AND STEPHENS, INC. FOR BOND UNDERWRITING SERVICES FOR THE CITY RELATED TO THE 2026 SALES TAX BOND ISSUE Mayor Flynn read the resolution, then invited Cheryl Schluterman forward to explain the resolution for bond underwriting. She reminded the Council members of the events leading up to bond underwriting. In the summer, an Elections Ordinance was passed. In November, the citizens voted on the sales tax bond initiative to both extend the tax and refund two of the outstanding bond issues (means refinancing, basically), so the next step was to hire underwriters. As our municipal advisor representing Raymond James, her role is to review the needs of the City's projects with Mayor Flynn and Finance Director Hall, and help to structure how to best finance our projects. They also help the city complete the RFP for various services and hire underwriters. The underwriters help the city to market the bonds and sell them. The underwriters take on an element of risk because if the bonds don't sell, the underwriter needs to underwrite them and take them in-house. The resolution before the Council that evening was put together before the RFPs were due, which was that morning of December 15. Crews and Associates, and Stephens, Inc. both submitted a joint proposal, and they also did that in the initial bond issuance in 2020. The recommendation was to hire them again. They submitted a proposal; fees being similar to what they had submitted before. Raymond James advised the city to take approximately \$25.5 million of the bond now, and issue the \$5.4 million left in 2-3 years. This is due to the pumper fire truck that takes 3 years to be delivered, and the new fire station that will also take time. She asked for questions, and there were none. Mayor Flynn asked for a motion to approve, and Council Member Wilms made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Council Member Harp. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed 6-0.**

**RESOLUTION:** AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH VLP AN EQUIPMENTSHARE COMPANY, PURSUANT TO A

SOURCEWELL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT, FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) NEW CASE BACKHOE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$128,350.00 FOR USE BY THE STREET DEPARTMENT Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Larry Wilms asked clarifying questions about pricing, answered by Superintendent Hunt. She explained they were doing trade-ins to keep the costs down. Motion to approve made by Council Member Hughes, seconded by Council Member Wilms. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.**

**RESOLUTION:** AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SIDDONSON-MARTIN VIA THE HGAC COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$1,243,431.00, FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) PIERCE CUSTOM SABRE FR PUMPER TRUCK FOR USE BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT Mayor Flynn read the resolution, explaining it is one of the items to be covered by the new bond. Motion to approve made by Council Member Harp, seconded by Council Member Hughes. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.**

**RESOLUTION:** AMENDING THE 2025 CITY BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$230,000.00 REGARDING FIRE STATION NO. 1 CAPITAL BUDGET Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Motion to approve was made by Council Member Hughes, seconded by Council Member Harp. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.**

**RESOLUTION:** AMENDING THE 2025 CITY BUDGET TO APPROPRIATE ELIGIBLE FIRE IMPACT FEES TO REIMBURSE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CAPACITY EXPANSION OF FIRE STATION 1 IN AN AMOUNT OF \$1,048,000.00 Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Council Member Wilms made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Hughes. Council Member Harp asked for a quick review of the discussion of this item at work session, which Mayor Flynn provided. He said the main reason to use these fire impact fees now is cash flow and the bond timing. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.**

**RESOLUTION:** ADOPTING A CITY BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF BELLA VISTA FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2026, APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR EACH ITEM OF EXPENDITURE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES Mayor Flynn read the resolution, stating that the 2026 Budget in the packet is the most up-to-date version from Finance Director Hall. Council Member Newport made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Harp. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.**

**RESOLUTION:** REQUESTING CITY STAFF EXPLORE OPTIONS REGARDING CITY ASSISTANCE TO THE CHILDREN AND FAMILY'S ADVOCACY CENTER, INCLUDING REQUESTING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OR ANY OTHER RESEARCH FROM THE ORGANIZATION TO ASSIST THE COUNCIL IN DECISION-MAKING REGARDING THE MATTER Mayor Flynn read the resolution. He mentioned that he would be visiting the CAC that week and had spoken with Natalie Tibbs, who was willing to provide requested financials. Staff

Attorney Kelley explained the legalities of a government entity making a donation to a non-profit. Council Member Harp mentioned other non-profits that received money from our city, and reiterated that he supports this resolution wholeheartedly. Council Member Hughes made clarifying comments regarding the donations spoken about by Council Member Harp. She also said she talked to Chief Graves to see if he would be open to the money coming out of his budget, since our police are involved in many of these cases. He seemed agreeable, she reported. Council Member Isbell brought up the concern of showing favoritism to one non-profit over another, when so many Bella Vista non-profits provide vital services, and federal funding has been cut for many. She voiced additional concern about setting a precedence for one entity, and what the expectation would be in the following years. Council Members commented back and forth about these issues. Motion to approve made by Council Member Harp, seconded by Council Member Newport. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes:5/Nays:1 Isbell) Passed: 5-1.**

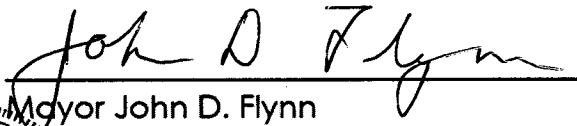
**RESOLUTION: ESTABLISHING RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL RATES FOR SOLID WASTE (TRASH) COLLECTION IN THE CITY** Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Council Member Larry Wilms made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Hughes. **Roll Call Vote: (Yays: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.**

#### Announcements

- Next City Council Work Session: 5:30 pm, **Tuesday**, January 20, at Bella Vista District Court
- Next City Council Regular Meeting: 6:00 pm Monday, January 26, at Bella Vista District Court
- Planning Commission Work Session: 4:30 pm Thursday, January 1, at Bella Vista District Court, **Canceled**
- Planning Commission Regular Meeting: 4:30 pm, or immediately following BZA, Monday, January 12, at Bella Vista District Court
- Board of Construction Appeals: 3:00 pm Tuesday, January 13, if necessary, at Fire Station #4 Conference Rm, 1639 Forest Hills Blvd.

**Adjournment** Mayor Flynn adjourned the meeting at 6:42 pm.

  
City Clerk Wanda Lepillez Krug

  
Mayor John D. Flynn

