

BELLA VISTA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

January 26, 2026 6:00 PM

Bella Vista District Court 2483 Forest Hills Boulevard

MINUTES

Call to Order by Mayor Flynn at 6:00 pm. Due to weather, the meeting was conducted on a Zoom call, set up by IT Director John Moeckel.

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Roll Call called by Clerk Krug. Council Members Isbell, Honchell, Harp, Hughes, Newport were present. Wilms was absent but arrived several minutes after Roll Call.

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

Alan Nabb, 1 Allison Drive. Alan came to speak about the Public Safety Advisory Board, because he understood that the five members chosen for the Board would be approved by Council action that night, but he didn't see any Agenda item for it. He wanted to know when the chosen Board members would be approved by the City Council. The Mayor said the announcement has been moved to the February meeting, and said there were 42 applicants.

Matthew Sanders, 7 Nantwich Circle. Matthew gave a quick rebuttal to someone who reached out to him after last month's meeting, questioning him whether he liked children and wanted to support them. He quoted the New Testament book of Matthew, chapter 18, verse 6, where Jesus speaks about this issue, and he said he stands with Jesus. He moved forward and spoke about his house issues, which he brought to the Council exactly one year ago. At this point, he is sitting on

\$150,000 of known repairs needing to be made on the house to bring the house up to code. He reiterated his home should not have received a certificate of occupancy based on the failures to inspect for each of those known inspections. He understands the inspection officer involved was terminated, and he does not blame the city for what has happened. Now he is asking the city to help him move forward. In June 2025, the builder's lawyer and engineer came to his home. They spent 4.5 hours inspecting all the issues identified, and they produced a 60-page document substantiating every one of those claims.

Furthermore, they identified other issues with the framing, which is also not up to code. He sent a letter to the Mayor and the Council members that night, asking them to re-inspect for the 3 known safety issues that need to be addressed by the city.

Council Member Reply None

Reports

Monthly Financial Report: Mayor John Flynn stated for the period ending November 30, 2025, the operating revenue income was up 10.2% this year as compared to last year. The city sales tax was up 12.3%, county sales tax was up 2.8%, and property tax was up very significantly, but he will report year-end numbers to be certain. The total operating expenditures were \$1.1 million below budget, so the revenues were \$1.8 million more than the budget, which places the city almost \$3 million ahead of budget. It was a very positive report. He explained changes made by Director Hall and himself on the balance sheet. Subcategories were added to provide clarity and to see the Cash and the Fund Balance in more detail. He mentioned the city received an AA credit rating on the new bond issue, which is encouraging. He reminded everyone of the City Council Special Meeting on the bond issue on Tuesday, Feb. 3, at 5:30 pm in the Courtroom. He asked the Council members to communicate any unexpected absence, since only 4 can attend, which just meets quorum.

Election of Mayor Pro Tempore Mayor Flynn introduced this annual procedure and asked Attorney Kelley to explain the rules. Attorney Kelley quoted Rule #9b of the Orders and Procedures that says the City Council shall elect one of its members as Mayor Pro Tempore. Any Council member may nominate him/herself or any other member of the City Council for Mayor Pro Tempore and no second of the motion is required. Each Council Member shall vote by naming his choice, if there is more than one nominee for the position. A majority vote of the City Council shall be required for an election.

Council Member Travis Harp said he believes there are ethical and FOIA violations in relation to the Mayor Pro Tempore vote, so he made a motion to table this until after further discussion. Attorney Kelley said that motion is not in order, because state law requires that during the regular meeting in January, the Council must elect a Mayor Pro Tempore. Council Member Craig Honchell nominated himself and Anna Isbell nominated Wendy Hughes. Council Member Wilms made a motion that nominations be closed, seconded by

Council Member Honchell. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed 6-0. Roll Call Vote for nominees: (FOR Council Member Honchell: Wilms, Honchell, Harp /FOR Council Member Wendy Hughes: Isbell, Hughes, Newport) Tied: 3-3. Mayor Flynn voted for Council Member Honchell which broke the tie, making Council Member Honchell the Mayor Pro Tempore with 4-3 vote.**

(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 Newport. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.**

Consent Agenda

Mayor Flynn introduced the items on the Consent Agenda. Council Member Isbell made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Honchell. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.**

Approval of Minutes: December 15, 2025, Regular Meeting

RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH RIGGS CAT, PURSUANT TO A SOURCEWELL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT, FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) NEW CATERPILLAR MOTOR GRADER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$277,000.00 FOR USE BY THE STREET DEPARTMENT.

RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH RIGGS CAT, PURSUANT TO A SOURCEWELL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT, FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) NEW PAVING AND COMPACTION ROLLER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$164,275.00 FOR USE BY THE STREET DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH HUGG & HALL EQUIPMENT CO., PURSUANT TO A SOURCEWELL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT, FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) NEW JCB WHEELED EXCAVATOR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$217,483.33 FOR USE BY THE STREET DEPARTMENT.

RESOLUTION: AWARDING BID AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PINNACLE EMERGENCY VEHICLES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$251,003.00 FOR A REMOUNT OF A 2017 4X4 CHIEF XL BRAUN AMBULANCE FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION: DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED DISBURSING OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPOSITORY BOARD FOR THE CITY OF BELLA VISTA FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026

RESOLUTION: SUPPORTING THE REVIVAL OF THE STATE-RUN FEDERAL SURPLUS PROPERTY PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING BUDGETARY FUNDING TRANSFERS BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS IN THE 2025 ANNUAL CITY BUDGET

RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO A TWELFTH AMENDED ANIMAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR ANIMAL SHELTERING SERVICES WITH BELLA VISTA ANIMAL SHELTER, INC.

Unfinished Business

New Business

ORDINANCE: AMENDING SECTION 25-51 STANDARDS APPLICABLE TO SPECIAL EVENTS OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BELLA VISTA TO ELIMINATE THE LIABILITY WAIVER REQUIREMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES *Staff requests move to 3rd and final reading* Mayor Flynn read the ordinance for the first time. Council Member Wilms made a motion to suspend the rules and move to third and final reading, seconded by Council Member Isbell. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed 6-0.** Mayor Flynn read the ordinance for the third time. Council Member Harp made a motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Council Member Honchell. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.**

ORDINANCE: WAIVING THE REQUIREMENTS OF FORMAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF STREET SALT AND SAND BASED ON PRICE AND AVAILABILITY BY INFORMAL PRICE QUOTES THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026. Mayor Flynn read the ordinance for the first time. Council Member Wilms made a motion to suspend the rules and move to third and final reading, seconded by Council Member Honchell. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.** Mayor Flynn read the ordinance for the final time. Motion to approve the ordinance made by Council Member Wilms, seconded by Council Member Isbell. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.**

ORDINANCE: MANDATING THE BELLA VISTA ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION COMMISSION PUBLISH AND INDEFINITELY MAINTAIN APPROVED COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES ON ITS OFFICIAL WEBSITE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES Mayor Flynn read the ordinance for the first time, and asked for any discussion. Council Member Wilms spoke about an amendment he proposed. Council Member Hughes said she likes the idea of all Commissions making Minutes available to the public. Staff Attorney Kelley made note that he did not prepare the amendment passed out, and that it was a cut-and-paste from the original ordinance. Council Member

Wilms asked Attorney Kelley to redraft his amendment to bring it to city standards. Attorney Kelley pointed out that not all Advisory Boards take Minutes, and clarified how the A&P Commission is independent compared to others. Council Member Harp reminded the Council that the A&P Commission collects taxes and that sets them apart. Council Members discussed their various perspectives on these issues. The decision was made to go to second reading in February at the Regular Meeting.

RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH P&K EQUIPMENT, INC., PURSUANT TO A SOURCEWELL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT, FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) NEW JOHN DEERE 5075M UTILITY TRACTOR WITH ROTARY CUTTER AND CAGE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$67,275.71 FOR USE BY THE STREET DEPARTMENT.

Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Motion to approve made by Council Member Wilms, seconded by Council Member Newport. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.**

RESOLUTION: AWARDING BID AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SUPERIOR AUTOMOTIVE GROUP IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$120,521.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CHEVROLET TAHOE VEHICLES FOR USE BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Council Member Wilms stated he was not satisfied with the documentation that accompanied the agenda item. Question and answers followed within the Council with Attorney Kelley engaged. Council Member Wilms made a motion to table the resolution until the next regular or special City Council meeting, seconded by Council Member Honchell. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 1 Wilms/Nays: 5) Failed: 1-5.**

Council Member Isbell made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Council Member Newport. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 5/Nays: 1 Wilms) Passed: 5-1.**

RESOLUTION: AWARDING BID AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SUPERIOR AUTOMOTIVE GROUP IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$52,666.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 4WD PICKUP FOR USE BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Council Member Wilms made a motion to table the resolution until the next regular or special meeting of the Council due to incomplete documentation. Council Member Honchell seconded the motion. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 1 Wilms/Nays: 5) Failed 1-5.**

Council Member Honchell made a motion to pass the resolution, seconded by Council Member Harp. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 5/Nays: 1 Wilms) Passed: 5-1.**

RESOLUTION: APPROVING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF EUGENE OBERLANDER, JR. TO THE BELLA VISTA BOARD OF CONSTRUCTION APPEALS FOR A TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2028 Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Council Member Wilms made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Honchell. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.**

RESOLUTION: SETTING A BUSINESS LICENSE FEE AND RENEWAL FEE Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Council Member Wilms presented an amendment to the resolution. Council Member Hughes says she supports the ordinance amendment. Council Member Harp said he does not support any business license or fees. Council Member Honchell said this is an ordinance about public safety and traceable information. Attorney Kelley said there are timing issues and this is not a debate about business licenses because that is already decided. This is only about the amount of the fee charged. Director Robertson said a fee needs to be established before Monday, February 9th. The plan was to release the application tomorrow, if Council approves this resolution tonight. She reminded the Council that there are 4-5 staff members involved in every Business License. Attorney Kelley mentioned that he did not prepare the amendment, but it was a cut-and-paste version of the original. Council Member Honchell would like to know what this business fee really costs the city, because he does not want to short-change the city. Chief Sims said that annual inspections do get accomplished by the Fire Department, but the business license will help with providing an address, and a location change. Mayor Flynn referred to Director Robertson's comparison chart and said her original proposal was eminently reasonable, and to lower it to \$25 and \$10 wouldn't cover the cost to the city. Council Member Wilms made a motion to amend the resolution, seconded by Council Member Newport. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 5/Nays: 1 Isbell) Passed: 5-1.** Council Member Newport made a motion to approve the amended resolution, seconded by Council Member Honchell. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 4/Nays: 2 Wilms, Isbell) Passed: 4-2.**

RESOLUTION: APPROVING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF CHUCK WOODS TO THE TREE ADVISORY BOARD (POSITION 3) FOR THE REMAINDER OF A THREE (3) YEAR UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING MAY 1, 2028 Mayor Flynn read the resolution. The motion to approve was made by Council Member Wilms, 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 RENEWAL CONTRACT WITH BLUE GUYS I.T. IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF

\$73,504.20, FOR THE PURCHASE OF TODAY'S SECURITY SOLUTION TO ENHANCE CITY CYBERSECURITY EFFORTS Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Council Member Wilms made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Honchell. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.**

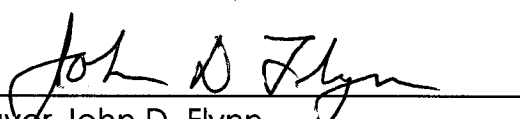
RESOLUTION: AMENDING THE RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE OF THE BELLA VISTA CITY COUNCIL TO LENGTHEN THE PERIOD OF CITIZEN INPUT DURING REGULAR MEETINGS TO SIXTY (60) MINUTES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES Mayor Flynn read the resolution. The Council members discussed their various perspectives on this resolution. Council Member Honchell made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Harp. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 2 - Harp, Hughes/Nays: 4) Failed: 2-4.**

Announcements

- City Council Special Meeting: 5:30 pm, Tuesday, February 3 at Bella Vista District Court
- Next City Council Work Session: 5:30 pm, **Tuesday**, February 17 at Bella Vista District Court
- Next City Council Regular Meeting: 6:00 pm, Monday, February 23 at Bella Vista District Court
- Planning Commission Work Session: 4:30 pm, Thursday, January 29 at Bella Vista District Court CANCELLED
- Planning Commission Regular Meeting: 4:30 pm, or immediately following BZA, Monday, February 9 at Bella Vista District Court
- Board of Construction Appeals: 3:00 pm Tuesday, February 10, if necessary, at Fire Station #4 Conference Rm, 1639 Forest Hills Blvd.

Adjournment by Mayor Flynn at 7:39 pm.


City Clerk Wanda Lepillez Krug


Mayor John D. Flynn

