

BELLA VISTA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

February 23, 2026 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 Isbell, Honchell, Harp, Hughes, Newport, and Wilms 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.

Tom Guarino, 86 Islay Dr. Tom came to speak on behalf of the Bella Vista Townhouse Association, representing 1,048 town homes and 360 acres of common property. He wanted to reach out to introduce the association to the City and bring up some of their challenges, namely deteriorating walls and streets. He will meet with Mayor Flynn next week to discuss ideas for solutions, in cooperation with the City.

Joel Steinle, 53 Melbourn Dr. Joel came to speak about seizure awareness in Bella Vista and shared a personal story related to his nocturnal epilepsy. Out of 7 seizures that he had since diagnosis at age 16, during 3 of those he became violent during the phase immediately following the seizure. In August 2024, he had one of those events, and he believes his constitutional rights were violated by the way the Police Department responded to him. In his opinion, his medical emergency was responded to with indifference, and he felt like he was being treated like a criminal. He believes more training is needed for police officers to differentiate nuance between crimes and medical emergencies.

Council Member Reply Council Member Hughes thanked Tom for coming and hopes the City and the POA can achieve great relationships with the Townhouse Association. She thanked Joel for coming to speak, and she hopes he is doing better and getting the treatment he needs. Council Member Wilms apologized on behalf of the City for the unusual events that transpired with Mr. Steinle. Attorney Kelley interrupted and stated that when a matter is currently in court, it is best not to address it specifically in terms of facts that may not be known.

Reports

Monthly Financial Report: Mayor John Flynn Mayor Flynn noted that last month he covered the time period ending November 30, 2025. The December 2025 year-end report takes longer to complete and was not yet available. He mentioned several items that concern residents, namely the Dec. 3rd Special Meeting related to the Bond. This is the extension of the 1% sales tax bond. The trustee on the new version will be Bank OZK. The city's financial advisor is the same as it was with the first bond, Raymond James, out of the Little Rock office. The two underwriters are Cruze and Associates, Inc. and Stephens, Inc., which are the same as the first bond underwriters. Finance Director Hall, and he wanted to put the bonds out for bid to be fair to taxpayers, and he was pleased that those two Arkansas companies got it. The bond will close on March 20, 2026, and the City did receive an AA rating. When it closes in March, the city will have a take-down of \$25 million which will pay off the old 1% bond and pay off the revenue bond — \$8.7 million total. \$16.4 million is for new projects, although not for all new projects. Any projects started must be completed in three years, so a second take-down will occur in several years for Fire Station #5 and the pumper firetruck, which has already been ordered but takes 35 months to receive. An interest rate of 3.76% was achieved, and the estimated payoff is 7.5 years, assuming there is no increase in our sales tax receipts, which is highly unlikely.

Awards to History Museum: Mayor John Flynn Mayor Flynn presented Certificates of Recognition to Xyta Lucas and Dale Phillips for the time and energy spent across many years to research and preserve the history of Bella Vista. They provide interesting education, have become trusted sources of knowledge, and ensured the lasting preservation of Bella Vista's beginnings.

A third Certificate was presented to the Bella Vista Historical Museum in recognition of all those who serve the residents and visitors of Bella Vista by giving their time and energy to help preserve the history of our city. It has become a treasure within the city, full of information, exhibits, and artifacts.

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

Approval of Minutes:

February 3, 2026, City Council Special Meeting

January 26, 2026, City Council Regular Meeting

(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.**

Unfinished Business

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 second time. Council Member Harp explained the purpose behind this ordinance was for transparency for taxpayers, because the A&P collects over \$500,000 per year in taxes with little oversight by the City. Council Member Hughes asked about an amendment submitted by Council Member Wilms, and he said yes, his amendment was written up by Attorney Kelley and was in the packet. **Council Member Wilms made a motion to amend the ordinance according to his amendment, seconded by Council Member Hughes.** Council Member Isbell noted there was a level of oversight in place with two Council Members sitting on the Commission, but agrees with the amended ordinance. Council Member Hughes mentioned that Arkansas cities are required to post Minutes for 2 years and that requirement would be enough for the A&P Commission. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 5/Nays: 1 Harp) Passed: 5-1.** Council Member Hughes 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.** Council Member Hughes made a motion to approve the ordinance as amended, seconded by Council Member Isbell. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.**

New Business

RESOLUTION: AWARDING BID AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SUPERIOR AUTOMOTIVE GROUP IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$43,990.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 4WD PICKUP FOR USE BY THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Council Member Harp asked about unassigned vehicles in the city and why those can't be used for this purpose, instead of purchasing a new one. Mayor Flynn explained that unassigned vehicles belong to departments, and most of the unassigned ones are in the Police pool of vehicles. Council Member Hughes made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Wilms. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 4/Nays: 1 Harp/Abstain: 1 Wilms) Passed: 4-1, 1 abstain.**

RESOLUTION: APPROVING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF ERIC FATKIN TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR A TERM ENDING DECEMBER

31, 2027 Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Council Member Hughes made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Newport. **Roll Call Vote: (Yays: 6/Nays: 0) Passed 6-0.**

RESOLUTION: APPROVING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF ROBERTO SAEZ TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR A TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2027 Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Council Member Hughes made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Isbell. **Roll Call Vote: (Yays: 6/Nays: 0) Passed 6-0.**

RESOLUTION: APPROVING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF BETH SHAW TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR A TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2027 Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Council Member Harp made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Hughes. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.**

RESOLUTION: APPROVING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF BILLY WENZEL TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR A TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2027 Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Council Member Hughes made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Harp. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.**

RESOLUTION: APPROVING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF KEVIN ATTLESON TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR A TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2027 Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Council Member Hughes made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Isbell. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.**

RESOLUTION: APPROVING THE MAYOR'S REAPPOINTMENT OF JB PORTILLO FOR PLANNING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING MARCH 1, 2030 Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Council Member Wilms made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Hughes. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.**

RESOLUTION: APPROVING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF CLAYTON SEDBERRY TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING MARCH 1, 2030 Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Council Member Wilms made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Council Member Hughes. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.**

RESOLUTION: APPROVING THE MAYOR'S REAPPOINTMENT OF KENNY WILLIAMS TO THE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM BEGINNING MARCH 1, 2026 Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Council Member Hughes made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Isbell. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.**

RESOLUTION: APPROVING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF ABBIE SEIDEL TO THE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD POSITION 5 FOR A TERM EXPIRING MARCH 1, 2029 Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Council Member

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

RESOLUTION: APPROVING THE MAYOR'S REAPPOINTMENT OF ISAAC MERRIMAN TO THE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD AS AN EX-OFFICIO YOUTH MEMBER FOR A TERM EXPIRING MARCH 1, 2027 Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Council Member Wilms made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Hughes. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.**

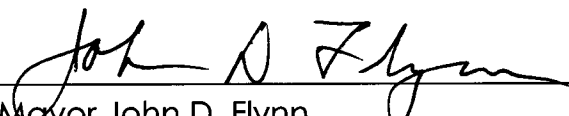
RESOLUTION: APPOINTING ANNA ISBELL TO SERVE AS A CITY GOVERNING BODY MEMBER OF THE BELLA VISTA ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION COMMISSION EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, REPLACING JOHN FLYNN Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Council Member Wilms made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Hughes. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.**

Announcements

- Next City Council Work Session: 5:30 pm Monday, March 16, at Bella Vista District Court
- Next City Council Regular Meeting: 6:00 pm Monday, March 23, at Bella Vista District Court
- Planning Commission Work Session: 4:30 pm Thursday, February 26, at Bella Vista District Court
- Planning Commission Regular Meeting: 4:30 pm, or immediately following BZA, Monday, March 9 at Bella Vista District Court
- Board of Construction Appeals: 3:00 pm Tuesday, March 10, if necessary, at Fire Station #4 Conference Rm, 1639 Forest Hills Blvd.

Adjournment by Mayor Flynn at 6:34 pm.


City Clerk Wanda Lepillez Krug


Mayor John D. Flynn

