

## BELLA VISTA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

April 27, 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 Harp, Hughes, Newport, Wilms, Isbell and Honchell 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.

J.B. Portillo, 3 Kirk Circle. J.B., along with three other members, came to speak about a new community initiative, "Grow Native Bella Vista," to "inspire and empower residents to create beautiful, sustainable landscapes using native plants." They were recently accepted by the Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs. They are a volunteer-driven group made up of local residents, gardeners, and community members who care deeply about Bella Vista. Their approach is simple and approachable, with easy beginner workshops and demonstration gardens that people can see and learn from, and partnerships with groups like the garden clubs, master naturalists, and the Benton County Master Gardeners.

Becky Parmalee, 2 Brougham Lane. Becky is the Market Manager of the Bella Vista Farmer's Market. She came to thank the Council and Mayor Flynn for their continued support as the market launches into its fourth season on Sunday, May 3rd. She gave a shout-out to city staff like Taylor, Connor, and Cassi, who continue to go above and beyond to support community efforts. This public-private partnership continues to grow small businesses and push economic development. Last year the market finished the year with 114 small businesses, and they started this year with 89, about 25 more than they started with last year. She believes 2026 will be the biggest on record for the market. She described additional programs like the Double your Dollars Program offering grant money for those who are food insecure. One can participate with the Food Stamp Program, the Senior Market vouchers, and WIC (Women, Infants, Children) through the Farmer's Market. The market also partners with food banks to distribute leftover produce directly into the community on Monday. She thanked the Bella Vista Business Association, the Community Television Station, and Discover Bella Vista for their continued support and promotion of the

Farmer's Market.

**Council Member Reply** Council Member Newport asked for market details to which Becky replied: 10 Sugar Creek Shopping Center, 8:00 am to 1:00 pm on Sundays. The ribbon-cutting is on May 3rd, and everyone is invited. Council Member Isbell expressed her appreciation for the Farmer's Market and for the important role it plays in our community. She also thanked JB and friends for coming to speak about Native Plants in Bella Vista. Council Member Hughes thanked JB and her "motley crew," and Becky for coming to speak. She said they represent examples of positive things that come forth when citizens are engaged, and she thanked them for what they do.

## Reports

Monthly Financial Report: Mayor Flynn

Mayor Flynn gave a brief summary of the financial statements ending February 28, 2026. The city's sales tax is up compared to last year, at 7.1%. The county sales tax is down 7.7%, which is unusual. The suspected reason is the ongoing rebate issues, particularly in Bentonville. The total revenues are up 3.9%, so the situation is good so far this year. On the expense side, the city is \$527,000 under budget, which is a good start this early in the year.

2026 Youth Council Presentation: Mayor Flynn and Communications Director Lapp

Mayor Flynn called forward Communications Director Cassi Lapp, who led the Youth Council this past year. She described this outstanding group of young leaders as having intriguing questions, thoughtful responses, and lofty goals, and wished them the best of luck in the future. The program met once monthly from September to April, and covered a myriad of city topics, from police and fire to budgeting and trails, plus visits to the Library and the Historical Museum. Mayor Flynn called the following Youth Council members forward to receive their certificates: Braeden Edwards, Noa Lessenberry, Isaac Merriman, Sofia Merriman, Emma Paunov, and Mason Weaver. Mayor Flynn echoed what Director Lapp said and thanked the Youth Council members for participating.

Litter Clean-Up Award to Tim Pschierer: Mayor Flynn Mayor Flynn called forward Tim Pschierer, recipient of the Litter Clean-Up Award. He read the Certificate of Recognition: "In recognition of your dedication to leading the charge for at least the last eight years. You keep our community clean and beautiful by organizing and promoting and hosting the creative and well-attended annual litter clean-up event, "Six and Sixty." It is through these volunteer community-led efforts that we see a real impact on the issue of litter along city streets and increase in awareness of this issue, and a

growing pride among residents for the city in which they live. Presented this 27th day of April, 2026."

Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day: Mayor Flynn Mayor Flynn read the Proclamation on the Monarch Pledge Day, which can be found in the Agenda Meeting Packet.

Proclamation Garden for Wildlife Month of May: Mayor Flynn Mayor Flynn read the Proclamation Garden for Wildlife Month of May. He mentioned his appreciation for the Garden Club members present at the meeting. This proclamation can also be found in the Meeting Agenda Packet.

(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.)  
*Motion approved by Council Member Wilms and seconded by Council Member Harp. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.***

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

Approval of Minutes:

March 23, 2026, City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

**RESOLUTION:** AUTHORIZING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A RAZORBACK GREENWAY CORRIDOR KEY PLACE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF BELLA VISTA

**RESOLUTION:** EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF BELLA VISTA TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FUNDS

**RESOLUTION:** EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF BELLA VISTA TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM FUNDS

**RESOLUTION:** AMENDING THE 2026 CITY BUDGET TO APPROVE THE ADDITION OF ONE-HALF (1/2) STAFF HEADCOUNT TO CREATE A FULL-TIME CUSTODIAL POSITION FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

**RESOLUTION:** AMENDING THE 2026 CITY BUDGET TO APPROPRIATE AN ADDITIONAL \$37,386.13 TO FUND NECESSARY REPAIRS TO FIRE DEPARTMENT CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

### **Unfinished Business**

**ORDINANCE:** PROHIBITING CAMPING AND VEHICLE HABITATION ON CERTAIN PUBLIC PROPERTY, PROVIDING DEFINITIONS, ESTABLISHING ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES, PROVIDING EXEMPTIONS, PROVIDING PENALTIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES *2nd reading Mayor Flynn read the ordinance for the second time. Council Member Wilms said, based on feedback from the Police Department that we currently do not have a problem, he would not support the ordinance at this time. Council Member Harp reiterated that he*

proposed this as a proactive measure to avoid these problems in the future. Council Member Hughes mentioned that Bella Vista is unique in that we don't have public parks, and public land is limited to the right-of-ways, Police and Fire Departments, which sets us apart from cities with parks. She agrees with Council Member Wilms that it isn't a problem we have. Council Members agreed to move to the third and final reading during the May City Council Regular Meeting.

**ORDINANCE:** AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2025-16 ESTABLISHING A BUSINESS LICENSE TO EXEMPT SHORT-TERM RENTAL MANAGEMENT BUSINESSES FROM THE LICENSING REQUIREMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES 2nd reading Mayor Flynn read the ordinance for the second reading. Council Member Harp reviewed his desire to make the original ordinance 2025-16 more clear. Council Member Wilms gave his opinion that this ordinance would not clarify the original one, and he could not support it. The Mayor said the ordinance will move to the third reading in May.

**ORDINANCE:** REQUIRING THE BELLA VISTA ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION COMMISSION TO PUBLISH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ON ITS OFFICIAL WEBSITE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES 2nd reading Mayor Flynn read the ordinance for the second reading. Council Member Harp stated his reason for proposing this ordinance was for the sake of transparency. He thinks due to the tax collected from businesses, the financials should be published for accountability and accessibility to that information. Council Member Wilms stated in response that the information is readily available via a FOIA request to the Commission and this ordinance demands extra effort that can already be accomplished easily by a resident. Council Member Isbell stated that one of her questions at the Work Session was about how many FOIA requests had been made in order to determine how important this may be to residents. She reached out to the Commission and found there had been four requests via FOIA and one through email, and three were made by the same person. Council Member Isbell made a motion to table indefinitely, seconded by Larry Wilms. Council Member Harp said it was concerning that only four people asked for these financials, and he thinks it's because people are not aware. Council Member Isbell clarified by saying it was two people that asked, and three of the requests were made by Council Member Harp. Council Member Newport stated she checked on Bentonville's website to see if their A&P Commission posted their financials, and she did not see them or their meeting posting. **Roll Call Vote on motion to table indefinitely: (Ayes: 3 Newport, Wilms, Isbell/Nays: 3 Harp, Hughes, Honchell) Failed: 3-3.** Mayor Flynn declined to vote. The ordinance will go to the third reading in May.

## **New Business**

**ORDINANCE:** WAIVING THE REQUIREMENTS OF FORMAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH SUPERIOR AUTOMOTIVE GROUP IN A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$131,000.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) 2026 CHEVROLET TAHOE SSV VEHICLES WITH POLICE UPFIT FOR USE BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT Mayor Flynn read the ordinance for the first reading. Motion to suspend the rules and waive three readings made by Council Member Newport, seconded by Council Member Wilms. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 5/Nays: 1 Harp) Passed: 5-1.** Mayor Flynn read the ordinance for the third time. Motion to approve made by Council Member Wilms, seconded by Council Member Newport. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.**

**ORDINANCE:** AMENDING THE BELLA VISTA ZONING ORDINANCE AND MAP TO REZONE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN REZONING PETITION NO. 2026-63851 (COUNTY PARCEL NO. 16-43201-000) FROM R-E, RESIDENTIAL ESTATE DISTRICT TO A-P, AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION DISTRICT Mayor Flynn read the ordinance for the first reading. Council Member Hughes made a motion to suspend the rules and move to third and final reading, seconded by Council Member Wilms. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 5/Nays: 1 Harp) Passed: 5-1.** Mayor Flynn read the ordinance for the third reading. Council Member Wilms made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Hughes. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.**

**ORDINANCE:** AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2025-16 ESTABLISHING A BUSINESS LICENSE TO REPEAL SUBSECTION 4(f) TO MAKE CLEAR THAT LAWFUL HOME-BASED BUSINESSES, INCLUDING HOME-BASED PROPERTY MANAGEMENT BUSINESSES AND HOME-BASED SHORT-TERM RENTAL MANAGEMENT BUSINESSES, ARE EXEMPT FROM THE BUSINESS LICENSE REQUIREMENT, WHILE STILL PROVIDING THAT SUCH BUSINESSES CONDUCTED OUTSIDE THE HOME ARE NOT EXEMPT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES Mayor Flynn read the ordinance for the second reading. Council Member Hughes said if the Council agreed to the wording in the original ordinance, she would withdraw this amendment and table it indefinitely. Council Member Newport said she agreed with the original ordinance as written. Council Member Harp agreed with the Council that the original ordinance is fine. Council Member Hughes made a motion to table indefinitely, seconded by Council Member Newport. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.** Staff Attorney Kelley explained how to reconsider and then table Item M at this point. Council Member Hughes made a motion to suspend the rules and reconsider Item M, and table Item M indefinitely, seconded by Council Member Wilms. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.**

**RESOLUTION:** APPROVING THE MAYOR'S REAPPOINTMENT OF ELIZABETH DUNCAN TO THE TREE ADVISORY BOARD (POSITION 5) FOR A THREE (3) YEAR TERM ENDING MAY 1, 2029 Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Council

Member Newport 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 BENJAMIN SASINE TO THE TREE ADVISORY BOARD (POSITION 4) FOR A THREE (3) YEAR TERM ENDING MAY 1, 2029 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:** AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GARRETT EXCAVATING, INC. AT THE AMOUNT OF \$99.31 PER TON FOR ASPHALT STREET RESURFACING (HOT MIX OVERLAY) AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH VANCE BROTHERS, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3.13 PER SQUARE YARD FOR SLURRY SEAL STREETS. Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Council Member Newport made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Hughes. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 6/Nays: 0) Passed: 6-0.**

**RESOLUTION:** AMENDING THE RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE OF THE BELLA VISTA CITY COUNCIL REGARDING PROVISIONS FOR COUNCIL RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Council Members discussed the pros and cons of the resolution and referenced an informal survey conducted on social media by Council Member Hughes. The results of that survey indicated the majority of residents responding wanted to keep the Council Response to Public Comment section of the City Council Regular Meeting Agenda. City Attorney Kelley clarified his statement in favor of amending the Rules of Order and Procedure, supported by legal reasons. He knows of no other city that has a Reply period. Council Member Wilms noted they have received the list of speakers and may reach them using their contact information. Council Member Newport made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Wilms. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 2 Wilms, Honchell/Nays: 4 Harp, Hughes, Newport, and Isbell) Failed: 2-4.**

**RESOLUTION:** TO PROVIDE FOR A STUDY OF CITY PARTICIPATION IN THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM (APERS) FOR NON-UNIFORMED CITY EMPLOYEES Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Council Member Harp explained his reasons for proposing this resolution. He believes APERS is a better way to compensate non-uniformed city employees. Mayor Flynn stated pertinent information and historical data on both APERS and the City's current retirement plan, with information provided by HR Director Kelderman. He reiterated the decision to join APERS is irrevocable. Council Member Honchell said he wouldn't want to speak for employees because no one really knows what a person is going through in this economy. For some, available funds may be more important than a retirement plan. Council Member Isbell believes the city professionals should be trusted with

retirement benefit choices for employees, as they are with healthcare. Council Member Newport believes it would be a waste of city resources to spend time on a study when so much information has already been provided to the Council by HR Director Kelderman. Council Member Hughes made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Harp. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 1 Harp/Nays: 5) Failed: 1-5.**

**RESOLUTION:** REFERRING TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND RECOMMENDATION A ZONING CODE CHANGE TO PERMIT NEWLY CONSTRUCTED ELECTRICAL METERS IN THE FRONT OF A RESIDENCE IF THE RESIDENCE IS MORE THAN FIFTY (50) FEET FROM THE STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY Mayor Flynn read the resolution. Council Member Newport thinks the safety issue raised by Council Member Wilms at Work Session is significant. She does not support this resolution and does not believe it is in the best interest of the public. Council Member Wilms agreed with Council Member Newport, and does not see it as a benefit to the public. Council Member Hughes made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Isbell. **Roll Call Vote: (Ayes: 1 Harp/Nays: 5) Failed: 1-5.**

#### Announcements

- Next City Council Work Session: 6:00 pm Monday, May 18, at Bella Vista District Court
- Next City Council Regular Meeting: 6:00 pm **Tuesday**, May 26, at Bella Vista District Court
- Planning Commission Work Session: 4:30 pm Thursday, April 30, at Bella Vista District Court
- Planning Commission Regular Meeting: 4:30 pm, or immediately following BZA, Monday, May 11, at Bella Vista District Court
- Board of Construction Appeals: 3:00 pm Tuesday, May 12, if necessary, at Fire Station #4 Conference Rm, 1639 Forest Hills Blvd.

**Adjournment** by Mayor Flynn at 7:21 pm.

*Wanda Lepillez Krug*  
City Clerk Wanda Lepillez Krug

*John D. Flynn*  
Mayor John D. Flynn

