

Meeting Minutes
Bentonville City Council
November 25, 2014

The City Council of Bentonville, Arkansas, met in regular session Tuesday, November 25, 2014, at 6:00 p.m., at the Community Development Building, 305 Southwest A Street, Bentonville, Arkansas.

Present were council members Mary Baggett, John Skaggs, Roger Thomas, Chris Sooter, James Smith, Bill Burckart, Burton Head and Jim Grider. Also present were Mayor Bob McCaslin, City Attorney George Spence, City Clerk Linda Spence, the press, city staff and the audience.

Mayor McCaslin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Mayor led everyone present in the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence in support of our armed forces.

Motion was made by Alderman Grider to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2014 meeting as written, second by Alderman Smith. There was no discussion. Motion carried (8-0).

Motion was made by Alderman Sooter to suspend the rules regarding the reading of all ordinances on three separate days and further that all ordinances and resolutions be read by title only, second by Alderman Grider. There was no discussion. Motion carried (8-0).

1. Mayor McCaslin recognized Shelli Kerr, Planning Services Manager. She gave a report and power point presentation concerning the Northwest Arkansas Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. She noted that the plan was available on the internet at nwabikepedplan.com
- 2a. Ordinance No. 2014-127: Ordinance accepting a lot split of Fast Trip Addition to the City of Bentonville, Arkansas.

[Applicant: Perry Management LP;
Location: 3209 Northeast 11th Street]

City Attorney Spence read the ordinance by title only.
Motion to pass by Alderman Grider, second by
Alderman Burckart. There was no discussion. Motion carried
(8-0).

- 2b. Ordinance No. 2014-128: Ordinance accepting a property line
adjustment Lot 17 Hardcastle Estates to the City of
Bentonville, Arkansas.

[Applicant: Ben/Erin Kiefer; Location: 307 Southwest O
Street]

City Attorney Spence read the ordinance by title only.
Motion to pass by Alderman Grider, second by
Alderman Burckart. There was no discussion. Motion carried
(8-0).

- 2c. Ordinance No. 2014-129: Ordinance accepting a lot split of
Lots 8, 9, 10 and 11, Block 1, Young's Addition to the City
of Bentonville, Arkansas.

[Applicant: Bentonville RE Development, LLC; Location:
Southeast 4th Street and Southeast G Street]

City Attorney Spence read the ordinance by title only.
Motion to pass by Alderman Grider, second by
Alderman Baggett. There was no discussion. Motion carried
(8-0).

3. Approval to award Bid No. 14-59 to Marking Systems in the
amount of \$52,059 for the installation of sharrows.

Alderman Burckart asked about the life span of the installed
sharrows and noted that some of them have only lasted a few
years. Mike Churchwell, Transportation Director, indicated
that if not disturbed by such things as a street overlay or
snow plowing, he estimated the sharrows should last seven to
ten years.

Motion to approve by Alderman Baggett, second by
Alderman Grider. Motion carried (8-0).

4. Approval to award Bid No. 14-58 to ARCO Excavation and Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$825,270.26 for construction of the North Walton Trail on the west side of North Walton Boulevard.

Motion to approve by Alderman Grider, second by Alderman Smith. There was no discussion. Motion carried (8-0).

5. Approval for the reappointment of Howard Kerr to the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport Board to serve a term of six years.

Motion to approve by Alderman Baggett, second by Alderman Grider. There was no discussion. Motion carried (8-0).

6. Resolution No. 11-25-14 A: Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into a professional services agreement with Hight-Jackson Associates, PA for services associated with preparation of a site master plan for the development of City maintenance facilities located on Southwest Airport Road.

City Attorney Spence read the resolution by title only. Motion to pass by Alderman Burckart, second by Alderman Grider. There was no discussion. Motion carried (8-0).

7. Approval of a change order and final reconciliation for the Highway 12 Water and Sewer Utility Relocation Project with Seven Valleys Construction for a total decrease of \$81,164.

Motion to approve by Alderman Baggett, second by Alderman Grider. There was no discussion. Motion carried (8-0).

8. Approval of a grant award from the Walton Family Foundation and a budget adjustment of \$12,779.20 for the purchase and planting of new trees along the North Bentonville Trail and Slaughter Pen Mountain Bike Park.

Motion to approve by Alderman Grider, second by Alderman Smith. There was no discussion. Motion carried (8-0).

9. Approval of change order number one in the amount of \$24,000 for the parking lot project at Merchants Park.

Motion to approve by Alderman Baggett, second by Alderman Grider. There was no discussion. Motion carried (8-0).

10. Approval of a final closeout change order, resulting in a deduction from the original contract in the amount of \$7,923.83, for the downtown trail extension project.

Motion to approve by Alderman Grider, second by Alderman Smith. There was no discussion. Motion carried (8-0).

11. Approval of a final closeout change order, resulting in a final additional cost of \$7,462.13, for the Orchards Park Legacy Orchard project.

Motion to approve by Alderman Burckart, second by Alderman Smith. There was no discussion. Motion carried (8-0).

12. Ordinance No. 2014-130: Ordinance adopting revisions to the personnel policy for the City of Bentonville, Arkansas.

[Section 2.3 - Overtime Pay, paragraph 3;
Section 7.2 - Jury Duty;
Section 8.1.1 - Medical, Dental and Vision Insurance.]

City Attorney Spence read the ordinance by title only. Motion to pass by Alderman Baggett, second by Alderman Grider. There was no discussion. Motion carried (8-0).

13. Resolution No. 11-25-14 B: Resolution adopting the 2015 budget for the City of Bentonville, Arkansas.

Alderman Grider indicated that he had been approached by Dana Davis, President of the Chamber of Commerce, about the amount of money being proposed in the budget for economic development through the Chamber. He made a motion to increase the amount for the Chamber back to \$100,000 from the \$75,000 proposed in the budget, but indicated he wanted to hear more about the reasons for the reduction. Second by Alderman Smith.

Mayor McCaslin asked Troy Galloway, Community Development Director, to address the rationale behind the reduction.

Mr. Galloway indicated that the City has historically budgeted \$100,000 regarding economic development. This past year, part of that money was spent on developing the Bentonville Blueprint, which will be presented on December 9th. The Blueprint contemplates a different way of doing economic development in our community. There will be some recommendations contained in that plan that the council will be asked to consider when it is presented. He further indicated that the Blueprint diverges from our current method of doing economic development through the Chamber of Commerce, and what the plan will advocate is economic development through a separate entity yet to be established. He also noted that is what is planned for next year and that is why the proposal is to set aside \$25,000 in the budget.

Alderman Grider inquired as to the impact on the City's plans by increasing the amount for the Chamber. Mr. Galloway stated that it does not impact the plans but would be divergent from what the Blueprint recommends.

Mr. Galloway indicated that the City was moving forward with the Bentonville Blueprint for next year with the idea being to set up a new economic development entity. Mr. Galloway indicated that the Chamber had been involved in the Bentonville Blueprint planning process for the past eighteen months.

Alderman Burckart stated he thought a presentation from the Chamber about what had and would be done with the money was appropriate before considering a change.

The Mayor stated that the reduction to \$75,000 was on his recommendation. He noted that the City was not in the business of donating money to anyone. He stated that the problem had always been having quantifiable, measurable accomplishments to support the funding.

The Mayor noted that the City had experienced a lot of success with Brian Bahr, Economic Development Manager, being redirected toward economic development efforts.

In response to a question from Alderman Smith, Mr. Galloway stated that 2016 would be when the decisions would be made

about how to go forward in the longer term concerning the City's involvement in economic development.

Motion was made by Alderman Baggett to table Alderman Grider's motion pending more information being brought before the Council, second by Alderman Burckart. Motion carried (8-0).

Alderman Burckart asked questions of Ben Peters, City Engineer, Police Chief Jon Simpson, Fire Chief Bret Boydston, and David Wright, Parks and Recreation Director, concerning details of their budgeted replacement of vehicles and equipment. During this discussion, Alderman Burckart stated that he held to his previously expressed view that the City should move to a motor pooling system with regard to vehicles, resulting in the City having fewer overall vehicles, which he believed would result in lower costs for the City over the long run. Mayor McCaslin stated that there were policies in place with regard to City vehicles which were being adhered to and further indicated that being familiar with the arguments he was opposed to a change in the policy.

Motion by Alderman Baggett to approve the budget as presented, second by Alderman Grider. Motion carried (7-1) with Alderman Burckart voting no.

Motion to adjourn by Alderman Sooter, second by Alderman Smith. Motion carried (8-0).


Linda Spence, City Clerk


Bob McCaslin, Mayor