

City of Bull Shoals Council Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2026, Thursday, at 6:30pm
Bull Shoals City Hall Council Chambers
706 C.S. Woods Blvd Bull Shoals, AR 72619

Meeting Order and Minutes: The meeting was called to order on May 28, [2026](#) at 6:30pm.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Stahlman, Recorder Reynolds, Councilman Hutchison (phone in), Councilman Webb, Councilman Meinking, Councilman Grede and Councilman Howell are all present. We have a quorum.

Council Seat Appointment: The council appointed Travis Fancher to fill a vacant council seat (Ward 1, Position 1). Motion to accept made by Councilman Howell, 2nd by Councilman Grede. Yes – 6, No – 0. Councilman Grede.

Mayor's Designee: ** Travis Fancher was also approved as the Mayor's designee to perform mayoral duties if the Mayor is unable to do so, as per Arkansas Code Annotated (ACA) [14-43-501\(b\)\(3\)\(c\)](#). This appointment was met with some discussion and a "no" vote from one council member citing a lack of transparency.

* **Financial Concerns and Treasurer's Report:**

* Multiple citizens and council members expressed significant concerns about the city's finances, including a history of indictments and a lack of transparency.

* A citizen requested a forensic audit, which has been repeatedly considered but not yet implemented.

* The council discussed the Treasurer's report, with one council member voting against accepting the minutes due to concerns about unbalanced finances and budget over expenditures.

* A motion for a vote of no confidence in the Treasurer's position was made and passed, signifying serious issues within the treasury department and a pattern of not informing the council about financial matters.

* The need for a qualified CPA to review the city's finances was discussed.

* The Mayor explained that audits are ongoing but delayed due to personnel issues and high costs for external audits. Evidence of money being illegally taken from the water department exists, but action is pending the completion of audits.

* **Equipment Purchase:** The council voted to purchase a remote sewer camera for approximately \$20,000-\$22,000, noting that the previous camera had been down for four months and this purchase is vital for infrastructure issues.

* **Case Excavator Lease Proposal:** A significant portion of the meeting was dedicated to a lease proposal for a new Case excavator.

* The proposal included a 5-year lease with a \$1 buyout option.

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* Concerns were raised about the trade-in value of the city's current equipment (John Deere and backhoe) compared to the offered amount.

* The council decided to table the decision to allow time to sell their existing equipment to potentially secure a better deal and reduce the financed amount.

* ****New City Flag and Logo:**** The council adopted Resolution [2026-R-10](#), establishing a new official city flag and logo.

* ****Ordinance Amendments:****

* An amendment to Ordinance [2025-12](#) was passed with an emergency clause, making it unlawful to discharge mower clippings onto roadways.

* Ordinance [2026-06](#) was passed after multiple readings, separating the offices of City Recorder (elected) and City Treasurer (appointed by a two-thirds council vote).

* ****Sick Time Policy Discussion:**** The council discussed issues with employees abusing sick time, noting that sick time is a benefit not mandated by state law. They are exploring options like a point system and comparing their policies to other cities.

* ****Citizen Complaints and Concerns:****

* James Poochie raised concerns about the Mayor's conduct during a previous meeting, specifically regarding the handling of FOIA requests and the Mayor's letter to the Ethics Commission. He called for consistent enforcement of decorum rules and a corrected statement to the Ethics Commission.

* Tracy Poppy echoed concerns about the Mayor labeling FOIA requests as harassment, the misuse of authority, and the failure of the custodian of records to provide timely and accurate responses. She also reiterated the call for the Treasurer's removal.

* Lynn Nichols expressed a lack of trust in the council due to budget issues and inconsistent financial reporting, stating that the reason for council resignations is the budget and distrust in the numbers.

* A citizen inquired about a letter signed by the Mayor to the Corps of Engineers regarding trails.

* ****Mayor's Comments:**** The Mayor confirmed signing a letter to the Corps of Engineers for a hiking, running, and mountain biking trail, noting it was initiated by a different group than the city's park committee. He also announced a Red Cross Blood Drive and information about opioid abuse counseling funding.

****Conclusions: ****

1. ****Significant Financial Instability and Lack of Transparency: **** The overriding theme of the meeting is deep-seated concern and distrust regarding the city's financial management. Multiple speakers and council members highlighted a pattern of unbalanced reports, potential misuse of funds, and a lack of open communication, leading to a vote of

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no confidence in the Treasurer.

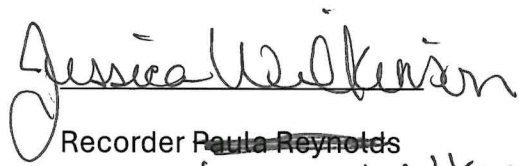
2. ****Need for Professional Financial Oversight:**** The discussions strongly indicate a need for immediate professional intervention to audit and rectify the city's financial records. The cost of audits and the delays in their completion are significant issues.
3. ****Restructuring of Financial Offices:**** The separation of the Recorder and Treasurer roles is a direct response to the perceived issues with financial oversight and accountability, aiming to create clearer lines of responsibility and a more controlled appointment process for the Treasurer.
4. ****Equipment Modernization and Investment:**** The council is actively looking to modernize its equipment, as seen with the sewer camera purchase and the consideration of the Case excavator lease, recognizing the importance of reliable tools for city operations and potential revenue generation.
5. ****Citizen Engagement and Oversight:**** Citizens are actively engaged and holding the council accountable, particularly regarding financial transparency, the proper handling of public records (FOIA), and adherence to council rules.
6. ****Challenges in Employee Management:**** The discussion on sick time highlights a common challenge for municipalities: balancing employee benefits with preventing abuse and maintaining fiscal responsibility.
7. ****Ongoing Legal and Administrative Processes:**** The city is dealing with ongoing legal and administrative matters, including a countersuit and potential investigations related to financial discrepancies.

In essence, the meeting revealed a city grappling with significant financial challenges, a perceived lack of transparency, and a strong desire from both citizens and some council members to implement stricter controls and accountability measures.

Approved:



~~Mayor Bill Stahlman~~
Interim mayor
Travis Fancher


Recorder ~~Paula Reynolds~~
Jessica Wilkinson