

City of Bull Shoals

P.O. Box 390 -706 C.S. Woods Blvd. – Bull Shoals, AR 72619

Website: www.cityofbullshoals.org

Phone: (870) 445-4775 – Fax: (870) 445-4948

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: 07/30/2026

TIME: 6:30PM

Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Council Members

Councilman Hutchison, Councilman Webb, Councilman Meinking, Recorder Jessica Wilkinson, Interim Mayor Fancher, Councilman Grede, and Councilman Howell all in attendance. We have a quorum.

Appointing Mayor for the remainder of the year, to December 31, 2026.

We had one applicant and that was Travis Fancher. Councilman Howell made motion to accept, Councilman Webb seconded. 5 Yay 0 Nays

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes 06/25/2026 and Special Meeting Minutes 07/09/26.

6.25.26-Councilman Meinking made motion to accept and Councilman Webb seconded. 3 Yay 2 No.

7.9.26- Councilman Meinking made motion to accept and Councilman Webb seconded. 3 Yay 2 No.

Treasurer's Report

In the process of building a new database on the software for 2027 this will have expense and revenue codes that were laid out in AML handbook.

First instance of someone trying to cash a check for \$8000, actual check was only \$200. It was stopped.

Councilman Meinking made motion to accept and Councilman Webb seconded. 3 Yay 2 Nay.

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Department Reports

Motion to accept all reports Councilman Howell and Councilman Grede seconded. 5 Yay 0 Nay

Council Members Comments

Ok for people to volunteer to help the city. Boats are going into the swimming area at Brown's Beach. Chief Babb to contact Core to see what can be done about that. Looking to upgrade meters to Census meters This would streamline the whole meter reading process. This will be brought up soon. We need Planning and Zoning, Board of Adjustments and Budget Committee Volunteers. Please see your Councilman or come to City Hall if interested.

Will King

Brought up the case for Tina Bailey. He said we will get an offer to settle for \$160,000 and he suggests we do not settle and let the case go to court. There is a settlement conference on August 24, 2026. Council needs to attend.

Councilman Howell Motioned to not settle the case for \$160,000, Councilman Hutchison seconded. 5 Yay 0 Nay

Citizen Comment's on agenda items only

Old Business:

- **Looking for Low Voltage Integrator company for ACS / CCTV.**

Still looking into this. Have a couple more bids coming in.

- **Reinstate with amendments Resolution 2024-R-14**

Read and Councilman Grede motioned to accept; Councilman Meinking seconded. 5 Yay 0 Nay

- **Repeal Resolution 2026-R-06.**

Read and Councilman Webb Motioned to accept; Councilman Grede Seconded. 5 Yay 0 Nay.

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- **Repeal Resolution 2025-R-29.**
Councilman Meinking Motioned to accept; Councilman Grede seconded. 5 Yay, 0 Nay
- **Police Officers back pay Resolution 2026-R-17.**
Read and Councilman Webb Motioned to accept; Councilman Grede seconded. 5 Yay, 0 Nay.
- **Reading and Approval Resolution 2026-R-18- Amending certain line items of the fiscal year 2026 city budget for police general.**
Read and Councilman Grede Motioned to accept; Councilman Meinking seconded. 5 Yay 0 Nay.
- **Reading and Approval of Resolution 2026-R-16- Removing surplus items.**
Read and Councilman Meinking motioned to accept; Councilman Webb Seconded. 5 Yay, 0 Nay.
- **First Reading of Chicken Ordinance.**

Read first reading Councilman Meinking made motion to accept, seconded by Councilman Grede. 5 Yay, 0 Nay. Will read again next meeting.

New Business:

- **Water Controller retiring, Ed Martin to be interim controller till Dylan gets his Level 2.** Councilman Webb made motion to accept, seconded by Councilman Grede. 5 Yay, 0 Nay.
- **Need a computer for Public Works. Old computer crashed, need one for the sign machine.** There may be a laptop or computer in the ALS building that would work for Public Works. Councilman Hutchison to verify.
- **ALS Building- Items there that will help the police and fire departments. Approval to get the items out of the building.** The council would like a list of items needed. Chief Babb and Chief Mitchell to get this together.
- **Change Jamie Rogers to Streets Supervisor, pay stays the same.** All in favor.
- **Approval of 501C3 (fire and police auxiliaries) to use city equipment. A lot of the city employees are on these auxiliaries.** Councilman Webb motion to accept, Seconded by Councilman Meinking. 5 Yay, 0 Nay.
- **Budget Committee- Who wants to stay on the committee and who wants to join?** W will schedule a Budget meeting soon. We are looking for volunteers.

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Citizen's Comments

Marty Nichols- Is there a pay discrepancy for the fire department like with the police department. Amber is still going through payroll records.

Tracy Pape- We need to treat each other with dignity and respect. Pull together in a pro business posture. Set the standard for public conduct. We need to be the city that welcomes people.

 **Mike Salazar-** Saying no is important. Who speaks for the City? Who do we go to for answers? Is a permit needed for the Farmers Markets and other events held in the city. There is nothing that the office could find.

Keith Hilburn- Certain zones are set up with certain rules. We need to follow the ordinance's and rules.

Jeff Kenna- over the course of a year there have been several complaints or they have been told there are several complaints but he did a FOIA and there were none on file. Bel Arco has been singles out, we look forward to the city working together for the benefit of everyone.

Mayor's Comments

Had to pay a \$727 tariff on the Camera for the sewer.

Upgrading our meter reading infrastructure is something Roger brought up before retiring. This is something we will be looking in to.

Adjournment

Councilman Meinking Motioned to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Grede. 5 Yay, 0 Nay.

SUMMARY

- Travis Fancher was sworn in as mayor for the remainder of the year.
- The council covered financial, legal, governance, and policy issues, plus several upcoming or ongoing projects and appointments.

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- A strong thread throughout was improving controls, transparency, and civility, while continuing to move several initiatives forward (technology upgrades, budget governance, community/business friendliness).

Major topics, actions, and decisions

1) Governance and leadership

- Appointment and oath: Travis Fancher appointed and sworn in as mayor for the remainder of the year.
- Council and citizen engagement: Call for volunteers to join the Budget Committee; openness to citizens attending and watching meetings.

2) Financial controls and reporting

- Treasury/banking improvements: New plan to publish actual account balances online; building a new database with AML handbook expense/revenue codes; payroll setup review with CSA behind the scenes; prior databases retained for audits.
- Fraud prevention: Implementing positive-pay with the bank to better detect fraudulent checks; first fraud attempt detected and stopped; daily check images available for review.
- Budget and transparency: Establishing more formal, public-facing financial reporting starting next month.

3) Legal/AML update related to Tina Bailey case

- Settlement with Tina Bailey: AML advised the city to reject the \$160,000 settlement offer; there is a pending settlement conference (Aug 24 in Fort Smith). If possible, a summary judgment in our favor is preferred to avoid trial.
- Potential outcomes: If summary judgment is denied, a trial is set for the week of Oct 19 in Fayetteville.
- Costs/implications: AML noted the city would share roughly 50% of any settlement; rejection is supported unless new developments occur.
- Council act: Motion to deny the \$160k offer passed; direction to proceed with the existing litigation strategy.

4) Police incentives and budget adjustments

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- On-call incentive: Discussion and passage of a resolution concerning on-call pay for police officers (two officers at \$100 per paid period, with on-call hours designated by the Chief of Police; paid biweekly; funding to be drawn from the police budget).
- Repeals and amendments: Follow-up actions included repealing earlier related resolutions and re-amending the police budget to correct payroll discrepancies and to move overtime into regular wages as appropriate.
- Specific payroll adjustments: Resolutions approved to (a) pay back wages to three officers due to payroll discrepancies and (b) adjust budget line items so overtime is handled correctly under the new plan.

5) Boards, commissions, and permitting

- Board vacancies: Board of Adjustments needs one more member; Planning and Zoning Commission could use more members; appointment discussions deferred to the next meeting.
- Hobby chicken ordinance: First reading of a proposed ordinance establishing a permit system for hobby chickens (definition, permit requirements, sanitary standards, inspection rights, penalties, exemptions). A lengthy draft was presented; first reading approved to proceed, with copies available for review.

6) Infrastructure and city services

- Meter reading upgrade: Discussion of upgrading via Sensus meters; potential investment in the water fund (~\$50k–\$55k) to enable remote reading; anticipated long-term efficiency savings.
- Sewer line update: New camera unit pending import issues; one unit arrived with tariff issues and was damaged; replacement unit on the way; EPA/ADEQ follow-up meetings scheduled.
- Computer/inventory equipment: Need for a new computer for the public works department to produce signs/reports; plan to source an affordable desktop or laptop; exploring existing equipment first.
- Surplus property: Resolution to return surplus inventory to the Streets Department (inventory described and approved).
- Equipment use by city employees and volunteers: Approving city equipment use for city auxiliaries or volunteers under certain conditions.

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7) Administrative and personnel changes

- Interim controller: Ed Martin named as interim controller; discussion of the transition and oversight.
- Street supervisor title change: Proposal to rename Jamie Rogers to Street Supervisor (title change only, pay unchanged, not an appointed position).
- 501(c)(3) utilization of city equipment: Allowing fire/police auxiliaries to use city equipment with their own supplies; approval granted.
- Human resources and hiring: Ongoing recruitment for streets/public works; multiple applicants considered; emphasis on transparency and appropriate posting.

8) Fraud response and public communications

- Fraud reporting: Bank fraud inquiry updates; plan to report significant fraud to appropriate authorities (including potential state attorney general involvement); consideration of direct-deposit payroll to reduce check fraud exposure.
- Public conduct and welcoming climate: A strong appeal for pro-business, welcoming city culture; calls for civility, respect, and consistent standards in dealing with citizens and businesses; emphasis on transparency and reducing "past administration" rhetoric.

9) Public comments and governance concerns

- Substantive concerns raised about who speaks for the city (roles of Planning & Zoning, Board of Adjustments, and city administration), and about inconsistent guidance given to citizens on permits and processes.
- Calls for clear authority lines, consistent policies, and a pro-business, welcoming approach that helps rather than hinders residents and visitors.
- Emphasis on improving communication, reducing political rancor, and rebuilding trust in city government.

Conclusions and takeaways

- Progress on internal controls and governance: The meeting prioritized strengthening financial controls (positive pay, online reporting, updated payroll processes) and reducing fraud risk. This is a positive step toward more accountable city finances.

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- Clear stance on Tina Bailey case: The council opted to reject the \$160k settlement, aiming for a possible summary judgment. This indicates a cautious, litigation-focused approach with an eye toward minimizing costs and risk.
- Budget, transparency, and citizen involvement: Establishing a budget committee process and inviting public participation reflects a commitment to openness, though the governance culture and execution of authority remain under scrutiny from some residents.
- Policy development and infrastructure upgrades: The chicken permit ordinance is moving forward to a first reading, signaling formalization of previously informal processes. Meter-reading modernization and sewer infrastructure updates show the city investing in essential services, with a focus on long-term savings and reliability.
- Governance clarity and tone: A recurring concern is who speaks for the city and how decisions are communicated to the public. Several attendees urged the council to define authority clearly and to adopt a more welcoming, proactive stance toward businesses and events, with a respectful environment for public dialogue.
- Boards and commissions: There is an ongoing need to fill vacancies on the Board of Adjustments and Planning & Zoning. Filling these roles promptly could improve policy consistency and reduce confusion over decision authority.
- Next steps recommended (from a governance perspective)
 - Publish and standardize financial reporting for public access; finalize the new accounting database and payroll validation before year-end.
 - Follow through on the legal strategy for the Tina Bailey case; confirm dates and prepare council travel as needed for the August 24 conference.
 - Move forward with the first reading of the hobby chicken ordinance and clarify enforcement/sanitation provisions; ensure citizen education about the permit process.
 - Fill vacancies on Boards/Commissions to improve policy formation and municipal governance.
 - Solidify clear lines of authority within city administration (who speaks for the city in various situations) and publish a formal guidance document or policy to reduce confusion.
 - Continue pursuing the meter-read and sewer projects, including communicating timeline, costs, and anticipated savings to the public.
 - Enhance efforts to promote a welcoming, pro-business climate while maintaining consistent rules and community safety.

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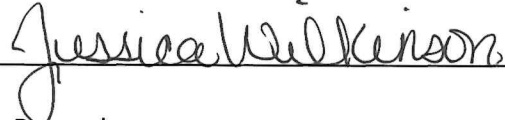
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- Monitor and refine fraud-prevention measures, including potential adoption of direct deposit for vendors to minimize check-related fraud risk.



Mayor



Recorder