

City of Bull Shoals Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday March 26, 2026, at 6:30pm
Bull Shoals City Hall Council Chambers
706 C.S. Woods Blvd Bull Shoals, AR 72619

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from February 26th, 2026, Motion to accept made by Councilman Meinking, 2nd by Councilman Bolen. Yes – 6, No – 0.

Treasurers' Report: Motion to accept made by Councilman Meinking, 2nd by Councilman Bolen. Yes – 5, No – Councilman Grede.

Financial Statement for 2025 is ready.

Dept Reports:

Police/Fire/Public Works Updates:

A "fill-A-Cruiser" event was proposed for April 20th at Blackbird Coffee House to collect donations for the food bank, including non-food items like hygiene products.

The city is losing a full-time firefighter who is relocating. The Chief is exploring options for replacing this position, potentially with part-time firefighters to present at workshop on April 21, 2026. Motion to accept department reports made by Councilman Webb, 2nd by Councilman Hutchison. Yes – 6, No – 0.

Park Committee Updates:

Progress is being made on the "Dam site" with power washing.

Playground construction is resuming at Brown's Beach, requiring additional volunteers.

Cables for the swimming area have been ordered.

Discussion about moving the swimming area to "Point Return" was raised, with parking being a key consideration.

Planning and Zoning: No specific questions were raised, and the committee's report was accepted.

Motion to accept made by Councilman Meinking, 2nd by Councilman Bolen. Yes – 6, No – 0.

Council Member Comments:

Immersive Archery Event: Approval was sought and granted for an immersive archery event "Urban Troll Hunt" at Danuser, with safety mitigation plans discussed.

Positive City Experience: A council member shared a story about a car accident victim who praised the city's rapid and professional response from police and fire departments, highlighting the city's improving image.

Tournament Promotion: A significant discussion focused on attracting more fishing tournaments to the city, leveraging the lake's resources. This includes exploring corporate tournaments, college tournaments, and bass clubs, with a focus on promotion and potential economic benefits. The Tyson Bass Tournament in May is coming.

Deteriorating Properties: A council member raised serious concerns about dilapidated properties,

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specifically [211](#) Alford Drive, citing it as an eyesore, fire hazard, and health hazard. The difficulty in addressing these properties due to ownership disputes and legal complexities was highlighted.

Citizen Comments:

City Treasurer Concerns: A citizen formally requested review and potential replacement of the City Treasurer due to alleged late payments, incorrect withholding, and lack of timely financial reporting, posing financial risks to the city.

Office Manager brought up the over 30 thousand dollars' worth of unpaid water bills from previous administration that was never collected until this administration proceeded on setting up payment accounts and liens on properties.

FOIA Requests: A council member criticized the volume of FOIA requests, calling them a drain on taxpayer resources and urging citizens to consider the impact. This was met with pushback from citizens who defended their right to request information.

Snake Safety: A citizen warned about the presence of snakes and advised caution.

Bell Arco Resort: Significant debate occurred regarding the Bel Arco Resort and its operation, specifically concerning monthly rentals versus tourist accommodations.

Citizens expressed concern about the impact of long-term rentals on the community and property values. The city attorney's opinion on resorts and tourist accommodation was discussed, emphasizing that resorts are for tourist accommodation and should not offer leased apartments. The issue of enforcing zoning codes and the definition of "resort" was central to the discussion.

Ordinances:

Ordinance [2026-03](#) (Golf Carts): Approved on third reading, allowing golf carts on city streets with specific regulations and permit requirements. Concerns about enforcement on state highways were addressed. Motion to accept ordinance made by Councilman Bolen, 2nd by Councilman Webb. Yes – 6, No – 0.

Ordinance [2026-04](#) (Zoning Code Amendment): Approved on second reading. Motion to accept made by Councilman Meinking, 2nd by Councilman Webb. Yes – 6, No – 0.

Mayor's Comments:

The welcome pack for new residents is available online and being updated.

A letter to resort owners regarding regulations will be drafted.

Announcements were made regarding a blood drive, a grant writing meeting, and upcoming street projects.

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Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned after a motion and second. A final discussion about the enforcement of violation letters related to zoning and resorts occurred before adjournment. Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Meinking, 2nd by Councilman Webb. Yes – 6, No – 0.

Conclusions:

Financial Oversight is a Key Concern: The allegations against the City Treasurer highlight a significant concern regarding financial accountability and the accuracy of financial reporting. The council needs to address these concerns to ensure the city's financial health and public trust.

Enforcement of zoning codes is contentious but necessary: The ongoing debate surrounding the Bel Arco Resort and long-term rentals demonstrates a clear need for consistent and effective enforcement of zoning codes. While there are differing interpretations and frustrations, the council must establish clear guidelines and enforce them to maintain the character and integrity of the community.

Economic Development Through Tourism is a priority: The focus on attracting fishing tournaments and promoting the lake indicates a strategic effort to boost the local economy through tourism. This requires coordinated efforts between the city, businesses, and potentially state agencies.


Infrastructure and property maintenance are ongoing issues: The discussion about deteriorating properties and the upcoming street projects highlight the continuous need for investment in infrastructure and addressing blighted properties.

Citizen engagement and transparency are vital: The volume of citizen comments and the passionate debates underscore the importance of open communication, transparency, and responsiveness from the city government. The FOIA request discussion, while contentious, points to the public's desire for access to information.

Balancing property rights with community well-being is Challenging: The issue of dilapidated properties and the differing views on resort operations illustrate the inherent tension between individual property rights and the collective well-being and property values of the community.

The City is Actively Working on Multiple Fronts: Despite the challenges and debates, the meeting shows the city council is actively engaged in addressing various issues, from public safety and infrastructure to economic development and regulatory enforcement.

Approved:



Mayor Bill Stahlman



Recorder Paula Reynolds