

City of Bull Shoals Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday January 29, 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 are all present. Councilman Grede and Councilman Howell did not attend. We have a quorum.

The minutes from December 18, 2025 were approved with Councilman Meinking making the motion to approve, Councilman Webb 2nd motion Yes – 4, No – 0.

Treasurers report: Submitted reports approved with Councilman Meinking making the motion to approve and Councilman Webb 2nd motion. Yes – 4, No – 0.

Pet Therapy Program: A proposal for a pet therapy program at a local nursing home was discussed. The program would involve dogs from "Have a Heart" visiting residents, with no charge. Dates and legalities are being worked out.

Public Works Reports (Water, Sewer, Streets): Councilman Bolen requested more detailed reports on the activities of these departments, which will be provided.

Medical Assistance Clarification: Councilman Hutchison asked for clarification on "assisted medical" versus "unassisted medical" services, which was explained as ambulance transports versus non-emergent situations or refusals of care.

Planning and Zoning: Discussion was tabled due to the discovery of conflicting planning codes (2007 vs. 2001), requiring legal review.

Parks Committee Report: Mulching blades were purchased and are being used.

Councilman Hutchinson's Report (Dog Incident): Kathleen Reed's Dog: A significant portion of the meeting was dedicated to the case of Kathleen Reed's dog, Duke, who was involved in incidents in multiple locations. Vicious Dog Rule: Councilman Hutchison stated that the dog could only return to Bull Shoals if the city council suspended its vicious dog rule for this specific animal.

Council Vote: After hearing from Ms. Reed and the Chief of Police, the council voted to deny the dog's return to Bull Shoals. Councilman Hutchison motioned to deny the dog back in the city, Councilman Webb 2nd the motion. Councilman Meinking also motioned to deny, with Councilman Bolen abstaining.

Council Member Comments:

Snow Removal Appreciation: Appreciation was expressed by Councilman Meinking for the efforts of city departments during recent snow and ice events, acknowledging the limitations of equipment.

Personal Gratitude: Councilman Hutchison thanked Councilman Grede for providing a propane heater during a furnace outage.

Budget Committee Meeting: A budget committee meeting was announced for February 17th, with a call for public input.

Old Business:

Ordinance Amendment (2026-01):** An amendment to rules and procedures for the city council was approved with Councilman Webb making motion to accept, Councilman Hutchison 2nd to accept. Yes - 4, No- 0. Designating Councilman Randal Bolen as the Mayor's alternate.

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Lease Agreement (First Baptist Church): A new lease agreement for the city to rent The Meeting Place to the First Baptist Church was presented and approved with Councilman Webb making motion to accept, Councilman Meinking 2nd the motion. Yes – 4, No – 0. The rent is \$0 per year.

New Business:

Lawsuit (Phil Friese): Approval was sought and granted to send a coverage check to AML for a lawsuit filed by former city employees and officials. Motion to accept made by Councilman Webb, 2nd by Councilman Meinking. Yes – 4, No – 0.

2024 Audit Results: Discussion of the 2024 audit results, including responses to deficiencies and a letter to the Attorney General regarding alleged theft. The council approved the submitted corrective actions with Councilman Meinking motion to accept the corrective actions, Councilman Webb 2nd motion. Yes – 4, No – 0.

Ordinance 2026-02 (Water/Sewer Maintenance Fee): An ordinance to increase the water/sewer maintenance fee from \$5 to \$10 per month was discussed and passed. The first reading Councilman Bolen making motion to accept, Councilman Meinking 2nd. Yes – 4, No – 0. Motion to suspend rules and read by title only and emergency clause motion made by Councilman Meinking, 2nd by Councilman Bolen. Yes – 4, No – 0. The second reading passed, reading by title only. Motion to accept second reading made by Councilman Meinking, 2nd by Councilman Bolen. Yes – 4, No – 0. Motion to accept third reading by title only made by Councilman Bolen, 2nd by Councilman Meinking. Yes – 4, No – 0. This is to fund depreciation accounts for water meters and sewer infrastructure due to rising costs and past accounting issues.

Sewer Plant Pump Repair: The repair and installation of a sewer plant pump were reported. A quote for a new alarm system for lift stations was presented and approved with Councilman Bolen making the motion and Councilman Meinking 2nd the motion. Yes – 4, No – 0.

AI Policy: The discussion on a required AI policy for city government was tabled for further research with Councilman Webb making motion to table, Councilman Bolen 2nd. Yes – 4, No – 0.

Ordinance 2026-03 (Golf Carts): An ordinance to permit golf carts on city streets was introduced and passed. It includes requirements for driver's licenses, inspections, insurance, and limitations on where they can be operated. To accept first reading motioned by Councilman Meinking, 2nd by Councilman Webb. Yes – 4, No – 0. Motion to suspend the rules and read by title only made by Councilman Webb, 2nd by Councilman Bolen. Yes – 4, No – 0. Second and third readings to follow.

Citizens' Comments:

Government Accounting Software: A citizen inquired about the reporting capabilities of the city's accounting software (CSA), specifically requesting more detailed reports on actual vs. budgeted results and fund balances. The city committed to ensuring these reports are available online.

Garbage Pickup and Road Damage: Concerns were raised about large garbage trucks damaging Woodstone roads, with a suggestion for residents to consolidate trash to one side of the street.

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Lawsuit Amount: A citizen asked about the financial amount the city is being sued for in the Phil Friese lawsuit, which was stated as unknown and subject to court decision.

Audit Response: A citizen requested a copy of the city's response to the 2024 audit, specifically regarding remediation steps for alleged theft and policy changes. The city agreed to provide it.

Announcements:

Red Cross Blood Drive: Dates for upcoming blood drives were announced for March 25, 2026.

Water/Sewer/Trash Bill Increase: An upcoming increase in water/sewer/trash bills was announced due to a regional water district rate hike and a mandatory city ordinance increase.

Business Licenses/Sign Permits: A reminder about the deadline for business licenses and sign permits was given.

Dog Registration: A reminder about dog registration requirements, including rabies vaccination proof.

Website Link to Chamber of Commerce: Clarification was provided that linking to the Chamber of Commerce on the city website is legal.

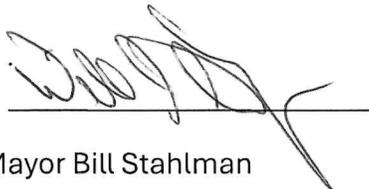
Core of Engineers Meeting: A meeting was scheduled to discuss removing disc nets and trees at Danuser Park.

Sinkhole Solutions: Efforts are underway to convene agencies to address sinkholes on River Cliff.

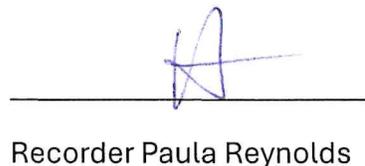
Grant Committee Meeting: A meeting was scheduled with the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District to discuss available grants.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Meinking, 2nd by Councilman Bolen. Yes -4, No – 0. Meeting adjourned.

Approved:



Mayor Bill Stahlman



Recorder Paula Reynolds