

Here's a summary of the main points and conclusions from the provided transcript: To the special council meeting held on 6-10-2026 at 5:30 pm

****Main Points:****

*** **Special Meeting for Equipment Purchase:**** The primary focus of the meeting is a discussion and potential decision regarding the purchase or lease of a new piece of heavy equipment, identified as a Case excavator.

*** **Concerns about Financials and Need:**** Several council members express significant concerns about the city's current financial standing, the lack of a clear budget, and the necessity of the expensive equipment purchase. They question the return on investment and whether the city has explored all financial options.

*** **Sewer Infrastructure Issues:**** A major driver for the equipment discussion is the need to address infiltration and repair issues within the city's sewer system, particularly in specific transmission line corridors that are overgrown and inaccessible.

*** **John Deere Trade-in:** The trade-in of a John Deere tractor is mentioned as part of the deal for the new excavator. There's a discussion about its origin (streets, water, sewer) and how the proceeds should be accounted for.

*** **Alternative Funding/Leasing Options:**** The possibility of obtaining a loan from a bank and depreciating the equipment over time is raised as a potentially cheaper alternative to the dealership's lease agreement.

*** **Clearing and Road Repair:**** Significant effort and cost are anticipated for clearing overgrown areas and rebuilding roads to access sewer lines for inspection and repair. This is estimated to take several months.

*** **New Camera Equipment:** The purchase of a new 8-inch camera for sewer line inspection is also discussed, highlighting the need for better equipment to assess the full extent of sewer problems.

*** **Contracting vs. In-House:**** A debate arises about whether it's more cost-effective and efficient for the city to purchase the equipment and do the work themselves or to hire a professional company to handle the infrastructure overhaul.

*** **Grant Opportunities:**** The potential for future grant money for water and wastewater infrastructure is mentioned, but the immediate need to address ADEQ (Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality) concerns is pressing.

*** **Resolution 2026-R-11 Disposal of Surplus Property:** A resolution is passed to authorize the disposal of a police department vehicle.

*** **Resolution 2026-R-12 Appointment of City Maintenance Technician:** A resolution failed to appoint Jamie L. Rogers as the City Maintenance Technician, effective June 22nd, 2026, at \$20 per hour. There's some discussion about whether this technician is qualified to work on all city equipment.

*** **Resolution 2026-R-13 Appointment of City Treasurer:** Amber Knowles is appointed as the City Treasurer, effective June 22nd, 2026, with an annual salary of \$32,000 (including benefits). There's discussion about her qualifications and the transparency of the hiring process.

*** **Resolution 2026-R-14 Appointment of City Recorder:** The council struggles to appoint a City Recorder, debating whether to go with an annual salary or an hourly wage, and what that rate should be, given the workload and the need for fairness to existing employees. The City Council was advised by the mayor that a Recorder needed to be appointed ASAP, according to

City Attorney Will King. This position remains undecided at the end of the transcript.

****Conclusions:****

****Decision on Excavator Purchase/Lease is Tabled:**** Due to ongoing financial concerns, a lack of complete information, and the desire to explore alternative options, the decision on the Case excavator purchase/lease is tabled until a future workshop.

****Need for Financial Clarity:**** A strong consensus emerges that the city council needs a clearer understanding of its current financial situation and budget before making significant capital expenditures.

****Sewer Infrastructure is a Priority:**** Despite financial concerns, the need to address the deteriorating sewer infrastructure and comply with ADEQ requirements is recognized as a critical issue that requires action.


****Resolution 2026-R-12 City Maintenance Technician failed to pass:**** The creation and filling of the City Maintenance Technician position failed approval for appointment by 2/3rds city council, aiming to improve equipment maintenance across departments.

****Treasurer Position Filled:**** Amber Knowles is appointed as the new City Treasurer, with her qualifications and the hiring process being a point of discussion.

****Recorder Position Remains Undecided:**** The appointment of a City Recorder is a significant point of contention, with the council unable to agree on a salary structure (annual vs. hourly) or a specific candidate, highlighting a need for further discussion and potentially a revised approach to attract candidates.

****Transparency and Process Concerns:**** Several council members express concerns about the transparency of hiring processes and decision-making, particularly regarding the new Treasurer and the Recorder position.

****Ongoing Infrastructure Challenges:**** The transcript reveals a city grappling with aging infrastructure, limited resources, and the complex decisions involved in prioritizing and funding necessary repairs and upgrades.



MAYOR BILL STAFIZMAN
CITY OF BULL SHOALS