



CITY OF WARD

P.O. BOX 237 • WARD, ARKANSAS 72176 • 501-843-7686

Council Meeting Minutes January 20, 2026 at 6:30 PM

- I. **Call to Order:** by Mayor Gastineau @ 6:30pm. Prayer was offered by Council member Hall, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **Roll Call:** The following council members were present: Steve Hall, Charles Chapman, Stacey McMinn, Robin Hefner, Casey Brooke and Rob Ruble. We have a quorum. Mayor Charles Gastineau and City Clerk Krystal Rummel were also in attendance.
- III. **Review/approval of Council Minutes:** Council member Brooke made a motion to approve the December 16, 2025 city council minutes, seconded by council member McMinn. Motion passes with a 6-0 voice vote.
- IV. **Department Reports and Financials:** Council member Ruble made a motion to approve the department reports and financials for December 2025, seconded by council member Brooke. Motion passes with a 6-0 voice vote.
- V. **Planning Commission Report:** Planning Commission did not meet for the month of December. No action taken
- VI. **Water Wastewater Advisory Committee Report:** no action taken.
- VII. **Old Business:** None
- VIII. **New Business:**
 - A. **ORDINANCE 2026-01: CITY COUNCIL RULES AND PROCEDURES: AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING ORDINANCE O-2025-01; ESTABLISHING THE RULES AND PROCEDURES TO BE USED BY THE WARD CITY COUNCIL; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES** was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Ruble made a motion to approve O-2026-01 on its first reading, seconded by council member Hall. Roll call: Hall-yes, Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes, Hefner-yes, Brooke-no, and Ruble-yes. Motion carries with a 5-1 roll call vote. Council member Hall made a motion to suspend the rules for the second and third readings, seconded by council member Chapman. Motion carries with a 5-1 voice vote. Council member Brooke opposed. Council member Hall made a motion to adopt O-

2026-01, seconded by council member Chapman. Roll call: Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes, Hefner-yes, Brooke-no, Ruble-yes, and Hall-yes. Motion carries with a 5-1 vote. Council member Chapman made a motion to enact the emergency clause, seconded by council member Hall. Roll call: McMinn-yes, Hefner-yes, Brooke-no, Ruble-yes, Hall-yes, and Chapman-yes. Motion carries with a 5-1 vote. O-2026-01 has been adopted and with go into effect immediately.

B. RESOLUTION 2026-01: A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY FOR THE CITY WARD IN COMPLIANCE WITH ACT 848 OF 2025; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Ruble made a motion to approve R-2026-01, seconded by council member Brooke. Motion carries with a 6-0 voice vote.

C. RESOLUTION 2026-02: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MODIFICATION OF THE ZELLA TRASH SERVICE CONTRACT TO INCLUDE PREVIOUS AMENDMENTS AND EXTENSIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Chapman made a motion to approve R-2026-02, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion carries with a 6-0 voice vote.

D. RESOLUTION 2026-03: A RESOLUTION APPOINTING JACK BOLES JR. AS THE CITY OF WARD PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Ruble made a motion to approve R-2026-03, seconded by council member McMinn. Motion carries with a 5-1 voice vote. Council member Brooke opposed.

E. RESOLUTION 2026-04: A RESOLUTION TO AMEND R-2024-45 THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025 was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Brooke made a motion to approve R-2026-04, seconded by council member Hall. Motion carries with a 6-0 voice vote.

F. RESOLUTION 2026-05: A RESOLUTION TO REVISE R-2024-46 THE ANNUAL WARD WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM OPERATING BUDGET FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025 was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Brooke made a motion to approve R-2026-05, seconded by council member Hefner. Motion carries with a 6-0 voice vote.

G. RESOLUTION 2026-06: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WARD TO ENTER INTO A CONSENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER WITH THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT, DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQ) was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Hall made a motion to approve R-2026-06, seconded by council member Chapman. Motion carries with a 6-0 voice vote.

H. RESOLUTION 2026-07: A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE CITY OF WARD PLANNING COMMISSION was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Brooke made a motion to approve R-2026-07, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion carries with a 6-0 voice vote.

I. DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE LAND PURCHASE – SPENCE PROPERTY: Council member Chapman made a motion to allow the Mayor to enter into a discussion about the possible land

purchase with the Spence family, seconded by council member Hall. Motion carries with a 6-0 voice vote.

J. DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE LAND SALE/SWAP – HESTER: Council member Hall made a motion to allow the Mayor to enter into a discussion about the possible land sale/swap with Mr. Hester, seconded by council member Chapman. Motion carries with a 5-1 voice vote. Council member Brooke opposed.

K. DISCUSSION ON ADA IMPROVEMENTS TO CITY HALL: Council member Hall made a motion to allow the Mayor to open the project for bids, seconded by council member Chapman. Motion carries with a 6-0 voice vote.

VIII. Mayor's Report: no action taken.

IX. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: none

X. Council Comment on Non-Agenda Items: none

XI. Announcements

- Planning Commission Meeting: January 26th at 6:30pm
- City Council Meeting: February 17th at 6:30pm
- Early Voting Begins: February 17th from 8am to 6pm

XII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm with a motion by Council Member Brooke, seconded by Council Member Hall. Motion to adjourn passed with a 6-0 voice vote.

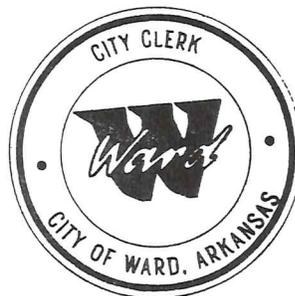
We, the undersigned Mayor and City Clerk for the City of Ward, do hereby verify the foregoing to be true and correct record of proceedings of the City of Ward Council Meeting held on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 6:30PM.

APPROVED DATE: 2-17-2026


MAYOR CHARLES GASTINEAU

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK KRYSTAL RUMMEL



CITY SEAL