



Municipal Funding Committee

Boswell Municipal Complex - City Hall Conference Room

210 SW 3rd Street

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/bryantarkansas>

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Date: August 07, 2025 - **Time:** 6:00 PM

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes

1. July 24, 2025 Meeting - Unapproved Minutes
 - [Funding Committee Minutes Unapproved 07242025.pdf](#)

Public Comments

Old Business

New Business

City Government

2. Fire & Police Pension Presentation
 - [Pension Presentation.pdf](#)
3. Draft Ordinance
 - [Ordinance for Special Election on Fire and Police Mills.docx.pdf](#)

Adjournments

Funding Committee Unapproved Minutes 7/24/2025

Members Present: Lisa Meyer, Jon Martin, Jack Moseley, Butch Higginbotham, Denecia Ramsey, Scott Staples, Phillip Partain

Staff Present: Mayor Treat, Ted Taylor, Jordan Reynolds, Rebecca Kidder, Tim Fournier

Guests Present: Madison Basco, Saline Courier

Call to Order: 6:00 PM by Chairperson Meyer

Approval of Minutes-May 20, 2025 Meeting - Motion by Partain, second by Martin

Public Comments

- None

New Business

- **Fee Discussion**
 - Mayor Treat provided an update:
 - Recapped the previous meeting's discussion of the Stormwater Master Plan & WilDan fee study
 - Explained that the city will have to wait on RFP results to determine the cost of initial stormwater projects, which will guide the fee structure
 - Reported on meetings with churches and businesses, noting the need to consider fee caps and a slower rollout
 - Recommended postponing any stormwater fee implementation until feedback is gathered from upcoming comprehensive growth plan process
 - Discussed Act 605 and community outreach strategy
 - Tim Fournier shared updates on the Wastewater Master Plan
 - Staff have been reviewing Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)
 - City staff narrowed the focus to what can be completed within 5 years, with in-house engineering covering an estimated 7% of project costs
 - Wastewater Master Plan will go to Water/Sewer Advisory Committee at August meeting, with the hope they will approve it to go on to City Council to be adopted in August

- Mayor Treat emphasized keeping CIP costs reasonable to avoid inflating future rates
 - Tim clarified that the existing \$15 infrastructure fee is designated for water/wastewater debt
 - Mayor Treat noted that a third draft of the stormwater rate model is expected to provide clearer rate projections
 - Lisa Meyer gave update on town halls and ward meetings, noting they will probably not start until October
- Chamber, Business, and Church Engagement
 - Mayor Treat reported on recent meetings with the Chamber, business leaders, and church representatives:
 - There is concern about the jump from \$6/month (commercial) and \$3/month (residential) to projected higher rates
 - Senior citizens, currently exempt, are unlikely to support additional fees
 - Businesses raised concerns about increasing costs across the board
 - Churches indicated a willingness to pay something, but asked for a phased approach
 - Lisa Meyer noted positive feedback from community members who observed recent stormwater improvements following April rainfall
 - Scott Staples inquired about a database for public/private–staff confirmed one exists
- RFP for Basin Improvements and Repairs
 - Tim Fournier provided details on the upcoming RFP process:
 - Staff is mapping drainage pathways and reviewing easement access
 - Butch Higginbotham asked about accessing basins on private property–Tim noted that most POAs/HOAs do not want the responsibility
 - The City is exploring the total cost of assuming ownership and maintenance of all basins
 - Lisa Meyer inquired about how improvement districts would be included in the fee model–Tim said this would need further evaluation
 - Jon Martin asked if taxes from improvement districts would shift to the City if the basins are taken over–Tim deferred to legal counsel for clarification
 - Due to the need for on-site visits with potential vendors, the RFP process will be lengthy

- Mayor Treat stated that more detailed information will be brought back to the committee as available
- Scott Staples asked if water, wastewater, and stormwater fee proposals will reach Council simultaneously—Mayor Treat said water and wastewater could go to Council by the end of 2025, but stormwater may not be ready until 2027 or later

Adjournment: 6:42 motion by Partain, 2nd by Martin

Next meeting: August 7, 2025 at 6:00 PM in City Hall Conference Room

Police and Fire Pension

Sustaining Public Safety Pensions Long Term



GF Cost

2022 - 746,359

2023 - 906,957

2024 - 963,819



Other Cities

Eldorado

Texarkana

Benton
(Fire Only)



State Law

Allows for voter approval up to 2 Mil one for each.

Generating \$800,000

March Primary



Cost per Resident

Avg. Home Value
237,000

\$7.11 monthly increase



GF Savings

3/4 Police Officers

Ladder Truck

Senior Adult Center

Bryant Youth Association
(Formaly Boys and Girls Club)

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-__

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING VOTER APPROVAL OF REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE FOR POLICE AND FIRE PENSION FUNDS; CALLING A MUNICIPAL ELECTION ON MARCH 3, 2026

WHEREAS, Arkansas Code Annotated § 24-11-404 authorizes cities of the first class, upon majority vote, to levy up to one (1.0) mill annually for police pensions and up to one (1.0) mill for fire pensions; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Bryant, Arkansas, deems it in the public welfare to submit these questions to the voters;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRYANT, ARKANSAS, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That there be and there is hereby called a special election to be held on March 3, 2026, to determine by a vote of the qualified electors of the City of Bryant, Arkansas, the question of whether to approve of a property tax millage for police and fire pension funds:

SECTION 2. The question of levying an annual tax shall be placed on the ballot for the election in substantially the following form:

Question One:

The City of Bryant shall levy an annual tax of up to 1.0 mill on the assessed value of all taxable real and personal property for the purpose of providing funding for the Policemen’s Pension and Relief Fund.

FOR

AGAINST

Question Two:

The City of Bryant shall levy an annual tax of up to 1.0 mill on the assessed value of all taxable real and personal property for the purpose of providing funding for the Firemen’s Pension and Relief Fund

FOR

AGAINST

SECTION 3. Upon voter approval, the City Council may annually set a specific levy rate for example, 1.0 mill for police 1.0 mill for fire—not exceeding the 1.0 mill cap—by ordinance, and shall certify the rate to the Saline County Clerk in accordance with law.

SECTION 4. The election shall be held and conducted and the vote canvassed and the results declared under the law and in the manner now provided for municipal elections unless otherwise provided in the Authorizing Legislation and only qualified voters of the City shall have the right to vote at the election.

SECTION 5. The results of the election shall be proclaimed by the Mayor, and his Proclamation shall be published one time in a newspaper having a general circulation in the City, which Proclamation shall advise that the results as proclaimed shall be conclusive unless attacked in the courts within thirty days after the date of publication.

SECTION 6. A copy of this Ordinance shall be (a) filed with the Saline County Clerk at least 70 days prior to the election date and (b) given to the Saline County Board of Election Commissioners so that the necessary election officials and supplies may be provided.

SECTION 7. The Mayor and City Clerk, for and on behalf of the City, are hereby authorized and directed to do any and all things necessary to call and hold the special election as herein provided.

SECTION 8: All ordinances and resolutions, and part thereof, in conflict in whole or in part, with any of the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 9: If any provisions of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS ____ DAY OF _____ 2025, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BRYANT, ARKANSAS.

Attest:

Chris Treat, Mayor

Mark Smith, City Clerk