

**BENTON COUNTY OCTOBER 20, 2025**

**BE IT REMEMBERED THAT ON OCTOBER 20, 2025 THAT THE BENTON COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS MET IN REGULAR SESSION  
AT THE BENTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE @ 6:00 PM.**

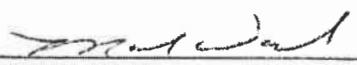
**Opening of meeting was by Sheriff Kenny Christopher or Deputy.**

**Invocation was led by Keith Arnold and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Frank Lashlee**

**ROLL CALL BY COUNTY CLERK, Wanda Malin– 15 Present and 3 Absent  
(Stephen Stokes, Rocky Presson, and Terry Kiehn)**

**ANNOUNCING OF QUORUM BY COUNTY CLERK, Wanda Malin  
APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Holland and seconded by Commissioner Nunnery to approve the agenda. On a voice vote 15 Ayes, 0 No, and 3 Absent. Motion Passed to Approve Agenda.

  
MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR

  
WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

**AGENDA**

- I. Opening of Meeting by Sheriff or his appointee**
- II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Roll Call by County Clerk or Chief Deputy**
- IV. Announcing of Quorum by County Clerk, Wanda Malin**
  - 1) Approval of Agenda**
  - 2) Citizens Forum**
  - 3) Flock Safety-Trevor**
  - 4) Carl Perkins**
  - 5) Commissioners Forum**
  - 6) County Mayor, Attorney, Finance Advisor, or Proclamations**
  - 7) Approval of Minutes**
  - 8) Report of Public Utilities**

- 9) A RESOLUTION by Mayor Mark Ward, to appoint Jonathan Bailey to the Benton County Parks and Recreation Board to serve a four (4) year term. (20251020-01)
- 10) A RESOLUTION by Mayor Mark Ward, to appoint Jody Mock to the Benton County Animal Shelter Board to serve a four (4) year term. (20251020-02)
- 11) A RESOLUTION by DOE Mark Florence to budget funds received from TVA to proper line items in the school budget for expenditure. (20251020-03)
- 12) A RESOLUTION by DOE Mark Florence to budget funds received from the Public Schools Security Grant to proper line items in the school budget for expenditure. (20251020-04)
- 13) A RESOLUTION by DOE Mark Florence to budget funds received from Healthier Schools Challenge Grant to proper line items in the school budget for expenditure. (20251020-05)
- 14) A RESOLUTION by DOE Mark Florence to budget funds received from Health Students Strong Learners Grant to proper line items in the school budget for expenditure. (20251020-06)
- 15) A RESOLUTION by Benton County Mayor Mark Ward to seek permission and approval to allow parties to donate time and supplies to construct a "Catio" structure on the existing Animal Shelter. (20251020-07)
- 16) A RESOLUTION by Benton County Mayor Mark Ward to budget funds in the amount of \$ 2000.00, received as a contribution from TVA and Benton County Electric System to the Benton County Senior Citizens Center. (20251020-08)
- 17) A RESOLUTION by Benton County Mayor Mark Ward to commit up to \$800,000 in grant match funding toward a \$2 million dollar DRA CIF (Delta Regional Authority Critical Infrastructure Fund) for sewer utility extension to serve the Smith property, located on Highway 70 and the Highway 70 Bypass, Camden, Tennessee, and other economic development projects. (20251020-09)
- 18) A RESOLUTION by Mayor Mark Ward, authorizing Mayor Ward to apply for and execute contracts in relation to a Discover business Credit Card for the Benton County Highway Department. (20251020-10)
- 19) A RESOLUTION by Benton County Mayor Mark Ward to appropriate and budget funds in the amount of \$ 200,000.00 to cover a reimbursable grant. (20251020-11)
- 20) A RESOLUTION by Benton County Mayor Mark Ward to budget funds in the total amount of \$ 38877.87 received from reimbursable grants to the airport budget. (20251020-12)
- 21) Appointing Notaries
- 22) Any Other Business
- 23) Adjourn

## CITIZENS FORUM

**FLOCK SAFETY**

Kristen MacIrod & Jordan Burt-Brief Presentation on Flock Safety (License Plate Readers)

**CARL PERKINS**

Carly Wheat (Director of Carl Perkins Center in Henry County, Tennessee) Presentation to Educate about the Child Advocacy Center

**COMMISSIONERS FORUM**

Debbie Bain- Full Time County Attorney Needed

***\*\*\*Chairman Rosanne K. Ward called for a 10-Minute Recess\*\*\****

***\*\*\*7:16 p.m. until 7:28 p.m.\*\*\****

***\*\*\*Chairman Rosanne K. Ward had to leave early\*\*\****

***\*\*\*Pro-Temp Jeff Murphy will serve as the Chairperson\*\*\****

**COUNTY MAYOR, ATTORNEY, FINANCE ADVISOR, OR PROCLAMATIONS**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Holland and seconded by Commissioner Bain for the approval of minutes. On a voice vote 14 Ayes, 0 No, and 4 Absent. Motion Passed.

  
MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR

  
WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

**APPROVAL OF THE REPORT OF PUBLIC UTILITES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Bain and seconded by Commissioner Nunnery to approve the Report of Public Utilities. On a voice vote 14 Ayes, 0 No, and 4 Absent. Motion Passed.

  
MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR

  
WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 20251020-01**

**SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY MAYOR MARK WARD**

**LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**October 20, 2025**

**A RESOLUTION by Mayor Mark Ward, to appoint Jonathan Bailey to the Benton County Parks and Recreation Board to serve a four (4) year term.**

**WHEREAS**, due to a vacancy on the Benton County Parks and Recreation Board it will be necessary to appoint a new member, and

**WHEREAS**, Jonathan Bailey is a talented and honorable citizen of Benton County, who has expressed a willingness to serve our community, and

**WHEREAS**, Benton County Mayor Mark Ward requests that Jonathan Bailey be appointed to the Benton County Parks and Recreation Board to serve a four (4) year term, and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, By the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this the 20th Day of October 2025 that Johnathan Bailey be appointed to a position on the Benton County Parks and Recreation Board, to serve a four (4) year term on said Board, beginning upon passage of this resolution.

Upon a Motion by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

On a Roll Call Vote \_\_\_\_\_ Voted AYE \_\_\_\_\_ Voted NAY \_\_\_\_\_ Passed \_\_\_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN**

Motion was made by Commissioner Melton and seconded by Commissioner Arnold to approve Resolution No. 20251020-01. On a roll call vote 14 Ayes, 0 No, and 4 Absent. Motion Passed.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK**

**RESOLUTION NO. 20251020-02**

**SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY MAYOR MARK WARD**

**LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**October 20, 2025**

**A RESOLUTION by Mayor Mark Ward, to appoint Jody Mock to the Benton County Animal Shelter Board to serve a four (4) year term.**

**WHEREAS**, due to a vacancy on the Benton County Animal Shelter Board it will be necessary to appoint a new member, and

**WHEREAS**, Jody Mock is a talented and honorable citizen of Benton County, who has expressed a willingness to serve our community, and

**WHEREAS**, Benton County Mayor Mark Ward requests that Jody Mock be appointed to the Benton County Animal Shelter Board to serve a four (4) year term, and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, By the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this the 20th Day of October 2025 that Jody Mock be appointed to a position on the Benton County Animal Shelter Board, to serve a four (4) year term on said Board, beginning upon passage of this resolution.

Upon a Motion by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

On a Roll Call Vote \_\_\_\_\_ Voted AYE \_\_\_\_\_ Voted NAY \_\_\_\_\_ Passed \_\_\_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_\_\_

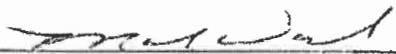
**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN**

Motion was made by Commissioner Burke and seconded by Commissioner Melton to approve Resolution No. 20251020-02. On a roll call vote 14 Ayes, 0 No, and 4 Absent. Motion Passed.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20251020-03

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY DOE MARK FLORENCE

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET COMMITTEE

October 20, 2025

A RESOLUTION by DOE Mark Florence to budget funds received from TVA to proper line items in the school budget for expenditure.

WHEREAS: The Benton County Board of Education received a gift from TVA to purchase supplies;

THEREFORE: Be it resolved by the Benton County Board of Commissioners to approve the following changes within the 2025-26 budget as follows;

INCREASE

44570 TVA Contributions & Gifts \$12,500.00

71100 429 TVA Instructional Supplies \$12,500.00

Upon a Motion by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

On a Roll Call Vote \_\_\_\_\_ Voted AYE \_\_\_\_\_ Voted NAY \_\_\_\_\_ Passed \_\_\_\_\_ Absent

APPROVED:

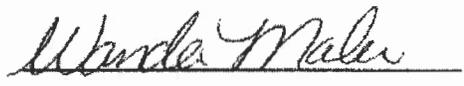
ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Melton to approve Resolution No. 20251020-03. On a roll call vote 14 Ayes, 0 No, and 4 Absent. Motion Passed.

  
MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR

  
WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20251020-04

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY DOE MARK FLORENCE

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET COMMITTEE

October 20, 2025

A RESOLUTION by DOE Mark Florence to budget funds received from the Public Schools Security Grant to proper line items in the school budget for expenditure.

WHEREAS: The Benton County Board of Education received the Public School Security Grant;

THEREFORE: Be it resolved by the Benton County Board of Commissioners to approve the following changes within the 2025-26 budget as follows;

INCREASE

46980 SEC	Public School Security Grant	\$42,366.49
72620 790 SEC	Other Equipment	\$42,366.49

Upon a Motion by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

On a Roll Call Vote \_\_\_\_\_ Voted AYE \_\_\_\_\_ Voted NAY \_\_\_\_\_ Passed \_\_\_\_\_ Absent

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion made by Commissioner Melton and seconded by Commissioner Hall to approve Resolution No. 20251020-04. On a roll call vote 14 Ayes, 0 No, and 4 Absent. Motion Passed.

  
MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR

  
WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20251020-05

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY DOE MARK FLORENCE

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET COMMITTEE

October 20, 2025

A RESOLUTION by DOE Mark Florence to budget funds received from Healthier Schools Challenge Grant to proper line items in the school budget for expenditure.

WHEREAS: The Benton County Board of Education received the Tennessee Healthier Schools Challenge Grant;

THEREFORE: Be it resolved by the Benton County Board of Commissioners to approve the following changes within the 2025-26 budget as follows;

INCREASE

44570	Contributions & Gifts	\$8,000.00
72120 429	Health Services Supplies	\$8,000.00

Upon a Motion by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_  
On a Roll Call Vote \_\_\_\_\_ Voted AYE \_\_\_\_\_ Voted NAY \_\_\_\_\_ Passed \_\_\_\_\_ Absent

APPROVED:

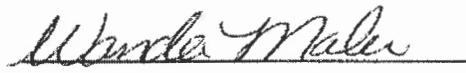
ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Fowler and seconded by Commissioner Burke to approve Resolution No. 20251020-05. On a roll call vote 13 Ayes, 1 No (Bain), and 4 Absent. Motion Passed.

  
MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR

  
WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20251020-06

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY DOE MARK FLORENCE

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET COMMITTEE

October 20, 2025

A RESOLUTION by DOE Mark Florence to budget funds received from Health Students Strong Learners Grant to proper line items in the school budget for expenditure.

WHEREAS: The Benton County Board of Education received the Health Students Stronger Learners Grant;

THEREFORE: Be it resolved by the Benton County Board of Commissioners to approve the following changes within the 2025-26 budget as follows;

INCREASE

46980	HSSL Grant	\$2,000.00
72120 399	Health Services Contracted Services	\$ 500.00
72120 524	Health Services In-Service	200.00
72120-735	Health Services Equipment	1,300.00

Upon a Motion by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

On a Roll Call Vote \_\_\_\_\_ Voted AYE \_\_\_\_\_ Voted NAY \_\_\_\_\_ Passed \_\_\_\_\_ Absent

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Fowler and seconded by Commissioner Melton to approve Resolution No. 20251020-06. On a roll call vote 13 Ayes, 1 No (Bain), and 4 Absent. Motion Passed.

  
MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR

  
WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20251020-07

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY MAYOR MARK WARD

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET & PROPERTY COMMITTEES

October 20, 2025

**A RESOLUTION by Benton County Mayor Mark Ward to seek permission and approval to allow parties to donate time and supplies to construct a “Catio” structure on the existing Animal Shelter.**

**WHEREAS**, Citizens have expressed a desire to donate labor, time and materials to construct a “Catio” on the back of the existing Animal Shelter; and

**WHEREAS**, this structure would allow cats to enter and exit the cat room at their leisure while still being in a secure area; and

**WHEREAS**, this structure will be constructed at no cost to the county:

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Benton County Commission meeting in regular session on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 approves the construction of the above named and described structure

Upon a Motion by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

On a Roll Call Vote \_\_\_\_\_ Voted AYE \_\_\_\_\_ Voted NAY \_\_\_\_\_ Passed \_\_\_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Fowler and seconded by Commissioner Melton to approve Resolution No. 20251020-07. On a roll call vote 14 Ayes, 0 No, and 4 Absent. Motion Passed.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK



**RESOLUTION NO. 20251020-09**

**SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY MAYOR MARK WARD**

**LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**October 20, 2025**

**A RESOLUTION by Benton County Mayor Mark Ward to commit up to \$800,000 in grant match funding toward a \$2 million dollar DRA CIF (Delta Regional Authority Critical Infrastructure Fund) for sewer utility extension to serve the Smith property, located on Highway 70 and the Highway 70 Bypass, Camden, Tennessee, and other economic development projects.**

**WHEREAS, acquisition of the Smith property was funded 95% by the State of Tennessee’s Site Development Grant and infrastructure development will increase the marketability and value of the asset; and**

**WHEREAS, match funding will only be utilized if the DRA CIF is received;**

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee, assembled in regular session on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025, that \$800,000 be committed in grant match funding, to be utilized should the grant be awarded.**

Upon a Motion by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

On a Roll Call Vote \_\_\_\_\_ Voted AYE \_\_\_\_\_ Voted NAY \_\_\_\_\_ Passed \_\_\_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN**

***\*\*\*Resolution No. 20251020-09 was Pulled\*\*\****

**RESOLUTION NO. 20251020-10**

**SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY MAYOR MARK WARD**

**LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**October 20, 2025**

**A RESOLUTION by Mayor Mark Ward, authorizing Mayor Ward to apply for and execute contracts in relation to a Discover business Credit Card for the Benton County Highway Department.**

**WHEREAS, The Benton County Highway Department has a need for a credit card in order to purchase needed parts and supplies, and**

**WHEREAS, Mayor Ward asks for permission to apply for and execute contracts for a Discover Credit Card on behalf of the Benton County Highway department.**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025 that;**

1. The Benton County Mayor, Mark Ward, is authorized to apply on behalf of Benton County and the Highways Department for a Discover Credit Card
2. That should said application be approved by Discover, the Benton County Mayor, Mark Ward, is authorized to execute contracts or other necessary documents, which may be required to signify acceptance of the credit card offer.

Upon a Motion by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

On a Roll Call Vote \_\_\_\_\_ Voted AYE \_\_\_\_\_ Voted NAY \_\_\_\_\_ Passed \_\_\_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN**

Motion was made by Commissioner Burke seconded by Commissioner Melton to approve Resolution No. 20251020-10. On a roll call vote 14 Ayes, 0 No, and 4 Absent. Motion Passed.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK



RESOLUTION NO. 20251020-12

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY MAYOR MARK WARD

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET COMMITTEE

October 20, 2025

A RESOLUTION by Benton County Mayor Mark Ward to budget funds in the total amount of \$ 38,877.87 received from reimbursable grants to the airport budget.

WHEREAS, the Benton County Airport received reimbursements from the state; and

WHEREAS, these payments have been receipted in and need to be budgeted to expenditure accounts; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Mark Ward requests that these funds be budgeted as follows:

DECREASE:

189.47590	OTHER FEDERAL THROUGH STATE	\$ 545.00
189.47590	OTHER FEDERAL THROUGH STATE	\$ 25,010.00
189.47590	OTHER FEDERAL THROUGH STATE	\$ 13,322.87

INCREASE:

189.91110.724	SITE DEVELOPMENT	\$ 38,877.87
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Upon a Motion by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

On a Roll Call Vote \_\_\_\_\_ Voted AYE \_\_\_\_\_ Voted NAY \_\_\_\_\_ Passed \_\_\_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Melton to approve Resolution No. 20251020-12. On a roll call vote 14 Ayes, 0 No, and 4 Absent. Motion Passed.

  
MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR

  
WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

**NOTARIES**

Sonya Leopard

Motion was made by Commissioner Fowler and seconded by Commissioner Melton to approve notaries. On a voice vote 14 Ayes, 0 No, and 4 Absent. Motion Carries.

  
MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR

  
WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Rita Haslam (Benton County Airport Manager)- Update on Airport Renovations

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Holland and seconded by Commissioner Fowler to adjourn the meeting. On roll a call vote 14 Ayes, 0 No, and 4 Absent. Motion Carries.

**WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK, DO CERTIFY THIS TO BE A TRUE AND COMPLETE COPY OF THE OCTOBER 20, 2025, BENTON COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING.**

  
COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

  
COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN