Benton County Commission
October 26, 2026

Convene

Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske called the meeting of the Benton County Commission to order at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, October 26, 2026, in the County Commission Room. Attendance: Larry Berry, Present; Scott Harms, Present; and Steve Daleske, Present.

Approval of Prior Minutes

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to approve prior minutes dated October 19, 2026. District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

Visitors

The following citizens were present: David Malecki, Cynthia Smith, Patty Richardson, Sharon Guess, Kat Tye, Jeff Sims, and George Hall.

E-911

E-911 representative Ron Cobb met with Commissioners to provide an update pertaining to the radio and tower upgrades currently in progress at the E-911 Dispatch Center. The contract received from Second Sight LLC for this service was reviewed.

Cynthia Smith

Cynthia Smith spoke to Commissioner Berry pertaining to the condition of the County portion of Polk Street, also indicating that brush needs to be trimmed along the roadway.

County Clerk

County Clerk Susan Porterfield stated that she is in the process of making appointments with department heads and elected officials for 2027 budget meetings, and follow-up will continue; bills were presented for approval and payment.

Jeff Sims

Jeff Sims met with Commissioners, requesting that a planning and zoning question be put on the April 2027 ballot. Discussion was given to citizens drafting a petition for this purpose. He requested that a Board be established to begin the process and asked for Commission support. Commissioners will discuss this issue further.

Lawsuit Update

Information has been received from legal counsel, indicating that the transcript has been received from the Court pertaining to the lawsuit filed by NSI 6, LLC; an appeal will be filed in this matter.

State Fair Community College

State Fair Community College President, Dr. Brent Bates, met with Commissioners to present a report of student attendance and awards received on behalf of the junior college, as well as an overview of training and education opportunities that are offered. He further requested a $10,000 donation from the County to maintain services offered.

Patty Richardson

Patty Richardson spoke to Commissioners and requested that an ordinance be drafted to govern data centers and landfills that will outline operational procedures for these structures.

Peggy Crabtree-Berry

Peggy Crabtree-Berry met with Commissioners and stated that she has met with Secretary of State Denny Hoskins, who knows an attorney that is against data centers; that attorney will be in contact with Commissioners.

Treasurer

Treasurer Rebecca Minks presented a financial report for the month of October. She also indicated that she will meet with a software provider in November, for possible implementation of a new software program for her office; cost is estimated at approximately $50,000.00.

Adjourn

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms ordered that the Commission adjourn until November 2, 2026; District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes) and Scott Harms (Yes). Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Signature

Steve Daleske
Presiding Commissioner

(Note: Visitors come and go at will during Commission session.)