

**SUMMARY OF THE MEETING**  
**BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Tuesday, January 16, 2024**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**\*\*Please note: the meeting summary is not the formal meeting record  
and does not replace official Board Meeting minutes. \*\***

- 1. Opening:**
  - 1. Call to Order**
  - 2. Introductions**
  - 3. Announcements**

No announcements were made.

- 2. Review and Approve Agenda**

The following item was added under 8. Other:

- 8.1 Storm Forecast – *Jef Van Arsdall, Sheriff***

- 3. Comments from the Public**

No comments were offered.

- 4. Work Session**

- 4.1 Monthly Public Health Update – *April Holland, Health Services***

Holland provided an update on the prevalence of COVID-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus at the county and state level. Holland also discussed the status of severe weather sheltering in the City of Corvallis.

- 4.2 Recognition of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Birthday – *Xanthippe Augerot, Board Chair***

Augerot commented on King’s work and legacy, stating that there is still much work to do to achieve King’s vision of equal rights. To share in the further commemoration of King’s life and mission Augerot encouraged the community to attend virtual or in-person events hosted by Oregon State University.

- 4.3 Discussion of Proposed Revisions to Benton County Code (BCC) Chapters 4, 5 and 6 – *James Morales, Records and Elections***

Morales explained that the goal was to clarify and correct elections processes in code, including updates relating to the earlier adoption of ranked choice voting. Wyse provided additional feedback in email regarding clarity and grammar.

After deliberation, the Board decided to continue the Public Hearing to the January 23, 2024 Information Sharing Meeting at 11:00 a.m. to allow time to publish Morales’ original proposed text and a final version incorporating Wyse’s edits.

- 5. Consent Calendar**

- 5.1 Approval of the November 28, 2023 Tuesday Board Meeting Minutes**

Wyse requested two corrections in the minutes.

**MOTION:** Wyse moved to approve the Consent Calendar of January 16, 2024 with the noted corrections. Malone seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0.**

## **6. Public Hearing**

### **PH1 First Reading of Ordinance 2024-0322 Proposing Revisions to Benton County Code, Chapters 4, 5, and 6 – James Morales, Records and Elections**

Morales summarized the changes described during item 4.3.

#### Public Comment

Mark Yeager, resident, requested background information on the process used to develop these changes, and asked if the County had sought input from the public or other election officials.

Morales explained that in the past, staff had struggled to interpret the code. Morales, County Elections Manager Darla Rush, and County Counsel Vance Corney reviewed these chapters to add clarity to existing processes and correct some oversights.

Augerot noted that a Public Hearing is part of the code change process. Because Benton is a home-rule County, only County staff participated. This is part of the effort to use plain English and modernize code.

Chair Augerot continued the Public Hearing to 11:00 a.m., January 23, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. Both versions will be available to review. The opportunity to provide public testimony will continue until the record is closed on that date.

## **7. Departmental Reports & Requests**

### **7.1 Approval of Application for Oregon Parks and Recreation Local Government Grant – Tomi Douglas, Jesse Ott; Natural Areas, Parks, and Events (NAPE)**

In the absence of NAPE staff, Augerot proposed proceeding with the item. The grant will be used to improve McBee Campground restroom facilities.

**MOTION:** Malone moved to approve the Natural Areas, Parks, and Events Department request to apply for the 2024 Oregon Parks and Recreation Local Government Grant. Wyse seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0.**

### **7.2 Approval of Submission of Street Name Recommendations to the City of Corvallis for the New Courthouse/District Attorney's Office Facility – Gary Stockhoff, Public Works**

Stockhoff presented three potential names for the new collector street the County is building for the new Courthouse/ District Attorney's Office/ Emergency Operations Center project. Three prioritized names will be submitted to the City of Corvallis for approval. Names were selected through a poll of community members.

**MOTION:** Wyse moved to approve submitting Champinefu Drive, Carson Drive, and Moore Drive as the preferred street names for the new collector street for the Courthouse/ District Attorney's Office facility. Malone seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0.**

**8. Other**

**8.1 Storm Forecast – *Jef Van Arsdall, Sheriff***

Van Arsdall reported a prediction of freezing rain that afternoon. The County had up to 1,200 electrical outages yesterday. Some flooding is expected when the ice melts.

The Board decided to hold tomorrow's 8:30 a.m. Department Head Meeting remotely due to weather concerns.