



City of Arcola

13222 Highway 6—Arcola, Texas 77583—Phone: 281-431-0606
www.cityofarcolatx.org

DRAFT Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Arcola, County of Fort Bend, State of Texas, held on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at: Arcola City Hall, Room 124; 13222 Highway 6; Arcola, Texas 77583 for the purpose of considering the following items. The City Council of the City of Arcola, Texas, reserves the right to meet in closed session on any of the below items should the need arise and if applicable pursuant to authorization by Title 5, Chapter 551, of the Texas Government Code.

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Fred A. Burton called the meeting to order.
- II. INVOCATION:** Council Member Rosie Rojas gave the Invocation.
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:** Council Member Evelyn Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- IV. ROLL CALL:** Mayor Fred A. Burton, Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson, Council Member Evelyn Jones, Council Member Ebony Sanco, Council Member Greg Abarr, Council Member Rosie Rojas were present. Also present were City Secretary Sally Cantu, City Administrator Annette Guajardo, and City Attorney Ford Hamilton.
- V. PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

GENERAL COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE. Citizens who desire to address the City Council with comments of a general nature will be received at this time. The total amount of time that a member of the public may address the City Council is limited to three (3) minutes, provided that any member of the public who addresses the City Council through a translator is limited to six (6) minutes. In accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, the City Council is restricted from discussing or taking any action on items not listed on the agenda. It is our policy to have all speakers identify themselves by providing their name and residential address when making comments.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE FOR CONSENT AND REGULAR AGENDA ITEM Citizens who desire to address the City Council, with regard to matters on the Consent Agenda or Regular Agenda will be received either at this time or, if they state at this time that they elect to do so, during the City Council's consideration of the item. The total amount of time that a member of the public may address the City Council on a given item is limited to three (3) minutes, provided that any member of the public who addresses the City Council on a given item through a translator is limited to six (6) minutes. Comments or discussion by the City Council Members will only be made at the time the agenda item is scheduled for consideration. It is our policy to have all speakers identify themselves by providing their name and residential address when making comments. City Council heard comments from Rodrigo Carreon regarding an opportunity for natural gas to the citizens.

- VI. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS:** Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson, Council Member Evelyn Jones, Council Member Ebony Sanco, Council Member Greg Abarr, Council Member Rosie Rojas
Council Member Ebony Sanco reported large potholes on Dallas Avenue and the street by the crane company.
Council Member Greg Abarr' comments were regarding the upcoming item on the appointment of a certified public accountant.
Council Member Rosie Rojas's comments were regarding streetlights on the SH6/FM 521. Mayor Burton responded that the reason they were not installed was due to airport zoning.
- VII. CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Approval of previous meeting minutes.**
Council Member Evelyn Jones so moved to approve previous meeting minutes of August 17, 2021 and September 14, 2021; seconded by Council Member Greg Abarr. All were in favor.
Aye: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson, Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Ebony Sanco, Rosie Rojas
Nay: 0
Motion carried. 5-0
- VIII. REGULAR AGENDA:**
 - A. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Month of August 2021 Financial Report by Ham, Langston & Brezina, L.L.P.; and related matters.**
Ms. Ruthie Cable reviewed the City of Arcola Financial Report for the month of August 2021.

After review, Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson so moved to approve the City of Arcola Financial Report for the month of August 2021; seconded by Council Member Evelyn Jones. All were in favor.

Aye: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson, Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Ebony Sanco, Rosie Rojas
Nay: 0
Motion carried. 5-0

- B. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Acting Chief of Police Report by R. Stewart and related matters.** Acting Chief R. Stewart was not present. Sgt. A. Carr presented a letter from the Arcola Police Officers to the Mayor and City Council Members expressing their gratitude and efforts in working toward receiving hazard pay. Sgt. Carr reviewed the police report for the month of September 2021. Sgt. A. Carr explained the high cost of technology fees in their department.

Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson so moved to accept the police report by Sgt. A. Carr; **seconded by Council Member Rosie Rojas.** All were in favor.

Aye: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson, Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Ebony Sanco, Rosie Rojas
Nay: 0
Motion carried. 5-0

- C. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Fresno Volunteer Fire Department report from Chief Anthony Bates.**

Council Member Evelyn Jones so moved to table Item C; **seconded by Council Member Ebony Sanco.** All were in favor.

Aye: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson, Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Ebony Sanco, Rosie Rojas
Nay: 0
Motion carried. 5-0

- D. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Water and Wastewater Systems and including (a) Operator's Report by John Montgomery of Municipal Operations and Consulting; and related matters.**

Mr. John Montgomery, Utility Operator for the City of Arcola, reviewed the Operations Report for the month of September 2021. Council Member Greg Abarr expressed his concern over the North Fort Bend Water Authority increased rate fees. City Engineer Llarance Turner explained the increased rate fees to the North Fort Bend Water Authority.

Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson so moved to accept the Operations Report for the month of September 2021 given by John Montgomery; **seconded by Council Member Evelyn Jones.** All were in favor.

Aye: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson, Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Ebony Sanco, Rosie Rojas
Nay: 0
Motion carried. 5-0

- E. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Update from the Mayor's Desk, including:**

- (a) Heavy Trash Reminder**
- (b) BBQ Cook-off**
- (c) N. Pine and S. Pine**

- (a) Mayor Burton reminded everyone of the upcoming Heavy Trash Pickup scheduled for Saturday, November 6, 2021; 8:00 am—12:00 noon.
- (b) Mayor Burton reminded everyone of the upcoming BBQ Cook-Off beginning November 12, 2021.
- (c) Mr. Turner gave a schedule of events to proceed on the N. Pine and S. Pine construction.

Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson so moved to accept the updates from the Mayor's desk; **seconded by Council Member Evelyn Jones.** All were in favor.

Aye: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson, Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Ebony Sanco, Rosie Rojas
Nay: 0
Motion carried. 5-0

- F. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—City Administrator's Report by Annette Guajardo; updates, pending projects, and related matters, including:**
- (a) Hazard Pay and related matters.**
 - (b) Rent, Utility, Mortgage Program.**

- (a) City Administrator Annette Guajardo explained the criteria for receiving Hazard Pay. Mayor Fred Burton emphasized that Ms. Guajardo should be entitled to Hazard Pay. Ms. Guajardo personally emphasized that the Mayor should be entitled to Hazard Pay also. He attends a lot of meetings in person.

Council Member Greg Abarr so moved to include both Mayor Fred Burton and City Administrator Annette Guajardo for the Hazard Pay program; **seconded by Council Member Rosie Rojas**. All were in favor.

Aye: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson, Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Ebony Sanco, Rosie Rojas

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

- (b) Ms. Guajardo gave an update on the Rent, Utility, and Mortgage Program. The city currently has 4 applicants. The program is going to continue until December 2021.

G. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—City Engineer Report by Llarance Turner, updates, pending projects, and related matters.

City Engineer Llarance Turner reviewed the Engineer's Report for the City of Arcola. He has been reviewing plans from telecommunication services. The water plant is going well.

Mayor Pro-Tem Jackson so moved to accept City Engineer Report by Llarance Turner; **seconded by Council Member Evelyn Jones**. All were in favor.

Aye: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson, Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Ebony Sanco, Rosie Rojas

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

H. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action-ORDINANCE NO. 2021-10-12; An ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA, TEXAS, DESIGNATING THE FORT BEND HERALD AS THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA, TEXAS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Council Member Greg Abarr so moved to approve Ordinance No. 2021-10-12; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA, TEXAS, DESIGNATING THE FORT BEND HERALD AS THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF CITY OF ARCOLA, TEXAS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE; **seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson**. All were in favor.

Aye: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson, Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Ebony Sanco, Rosie Rojas

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

I. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Approval of pest control, agreement, and related matters. (Gillen Pest Control, Inc.)

City Council discussed the previous contract with Gillen Pest Control. This contract expired September 30, 2021, and at the request of an elected official it was brought back for consideration and approval to see if they wanted to continue or if there was still a need.

After discussion, **Council Member Rosie Rojas so moved** to approve for pest control for two more months with Gillen Pest Control; **seconded by Council Member Greg Abarr**. All were in favor.

Aye: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson, Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Ebony Sanco, Rosie Rojas

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

J. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Comcast development plans for the City of Arcola, Internet Essentials (IE) program, and including broadband access and related matters.

Robert Yearwood with the partners of Data Link Broadband proposed bringing in broadband services to rural areas in the City of Arcola. He discussed the comcast development infrastructure plans in great length with the City Administrator, City Council, and City Attorney.

Council Member Greg Abarr so moved to request the City Administrator and the City Attorney to work with the developers of the internet system to bring back more information to the City Council; **seconded by Council Member Evelyn Jones**. All were in favor

Aye: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson, Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Ebony Sanco, Rosie Rojas

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

K. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Appointment of Certified Public Account (J. J. Garcia, CPA) for the City of Arcola; including engagement, employment, duties, salary, and related matters.

City Administrator Annette Guajardo reported that the current CPA; Ham, Langston, & Brezina, LLP informed the city that they are losing \$15,000.00 a month with the city services. They would only commit to doing bookkeeping services for six months.

Mayor Burton and City Administrator Annette Goldberg looked at 4 firms if they would provide services. Mr. J. J. Garcia, CPA was the only one that responded. He has been in business for 36 years. He proposed \$5,500.00 a month which will include check writing.

After discussion, **Council Member Rosie Rojas so moved** to bring in Mr. Jeff Garcia as the CPA; **seconded by Council Member Greg Abarr**. All were in favor.

Aye: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson, Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Ebony Sanco, Rosie Rojas

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

L. ADJOURNMENT.

Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson so moved to Adjourn at 9:24 p.m.; **seconded by Council Member Evelyn Jones**.

All were in favor

Aye: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson, Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Ebony Sanco, Rosie Rojas

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0