



City of Arcola

13222 Highway 6—Arcola, Texas 77583—Phone: 281-431-0606
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Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Arcola, County of Fort Bend, State of Texas, held on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 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 at 7:00 p.m.
- II. INVOCATION:** Council Member Evelyn Jones gave the Invocation.
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:** Council Member Greg Abarr led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 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 Rosemary Bigby were present. Also present were City Secretary Sally Cantu, City Attorney Grady Randle, Finance Director Ruthie Cable, and City Administrator Dr. Annette Guajardo.
- 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. No 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. No Comments
- VI. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson, Council Member Evelyn Jones, Council Member Greg Abarr, Council Member Ebony Sanco, and Council Member Rosemary Bigby.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson complained about dogs at large in the City of Arcola, especially on North Pine

Council Member Evelyn Jones inquired about speed bumps on North Pine Street to prevent speedsters flying by to get through the back street. She also reported that the population sign needed to be corrected and complained that whoever worked on FM 521/North Pine entrance torn up the intersection and did not repair it back to how it was. Mayor responded that the speed bumps are coming.

Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson said she was proud of Steve Gaines for cleaning around his area down North Pine. He now has a shop. She pointed out that there is another residential area further down the same street that also needs to clean up.

Council Member Greg Abarr reported that transfers were made from the city's bank accounts to TEXPOOL and happy to report that before the transfers, the city was making about \$700.00 a month in interest rates and now the city is making \$2,700.00 a month in interest rates.

Council Member Ebony Sanco inquired about heavy trash day and requested that the police department be more vigilant in the city.

Council Member Rosemary Bigby complained about the railroad.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**a. Public Hearing on proposed Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.**

Mayor Fred Burton opened the hearing on the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2022/2023. He saw that there was a quorum of the Council present. He asked the City Secretary to report on the notice for this hearing.

City Secretary Sally Cantu responded that the notice of this hearing was published in accordance with the Local Government Code.

Mayor Burton announced that the purpose of this hearing is to allow all interested persons to express their views on the proposed budget.

Mayor Burton asked Finance Director Ruthie Cable to provide background on the proposed budget. Ms. Cable gave a background on the proposed budget.

Mayor Burton asked if there was anyone present who wished to be heard on the proposed budget.

No one asked to be heard on the proposed budget.

He asked if there was a motion to close the public hearing on the proposed budget.

Council Member Greg Abarr so moved to close the public hearing on the proposed budget; **seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson**. All were in favor.

Aye: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson and Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Ebony Sanco, Rosemary Bigby
Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

Mayor Burton announced that adoption of the budget is set for a meeting scheduled for September 20, 2022, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of City Hall, Rm. 124, located at 13222 Highway 6, Arcola, Texas 77583

b. Public Hearing on the proposed tax rate for Fiscal Year 2022.

Mayor Burton opened the hearing on the proposed tax rate for Tax Year 2022. He saw that a quorum of the Council was present. He asked the City Secretary to report on the notice for this hearing. The City Secretary responded that notice of this hearing, was published by Fort Bend Herald in accordance with the Tax Code. The proposed rate, as published, was \$0.680149 per \$100.00 of assessed valuation. Notice of this meeting, including the public hearing, was also posted as required by the Open Meeting Act.

Mayor Fred Burton announced that the purpose of this hearing was to allow taxpayers to express their views on the proposed tax rate and tax increase. The Council may not vote on the tax rate at this meeting. The vote on the tax rate will be taken at the City Council meeting set for September 20, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. right here in the Council Chamber of City Hall, Rm 124, located at 13222 Highway 6; Arcola, Texas 77583.

Mayor Burton asked City Administrator Dr. Annette Guajardo to provide background information about the proposed tax rate.

City Administrator Dr. Annette Guajardo gave a brief description on the derivation of the proposed tax rate.

Mayor Burton asked if there was anyone present who wished to be heard on the proposed tax rate.

No one asked to be heard on the proposed tax rate.

He asked if there was a motion to close the hearing on the proposed tax rate.

Council Member Greg Abarr so moved to close the public hearing on the proposed tax rate; **seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson**. All were in favor.

Aye: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson and Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Ebony Sanco, Rosemary Bigby
Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

Mayor Burton announced that the vote on the tax rate will be taken at the City Council meeting set for September 20, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. here in the Council Chamber of City Hall, Rm. 124, located at 13222 Highway 6, Arcola, Texas 77583.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA. None

IX. REGULAR AGENDA:

A. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Previous meeting minutes and related matters.

After review of previous meeting minutes; **Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson so moved** to approve previous meeting minutes of August 9, 2022; **seconded by Council Member Ebony Sanco**. All were in favor.

Aye: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson and Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Ebony Sanco, Rosemary Bigby
Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

B. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Permits, including permit report, updates, and related matters by Permit Administrator Lyneshia Garrette.

Permit Administrator Lyneshia Garrette gave a report on revenues received for the month of August for the General Fund and Enterprise Fund. She also reviewed permits received from Post Oak Pointe Section 1 for the month of August 2022 to date (September 13, 2022).

After review and discussion, **Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson so moved** to accept the permit report presented by Ms. Lyneshia Garrette; **seconded by Council Member Rosemary Bigby**. All were in favor.

Aye: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson and Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Ebony Sanco, Rosemary Bigby
Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

City Council requested that the permit report be part of the monthly agenda.

C. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Arcola Police Department; including;

1. August 2022 monthly police report by Acting Police Chief, A. Carr

Acting Chief A. Carr reviewed the police report for the month of August 2022.

2. City of Arcola Police Policies, amendments, and related matters.

(1) Body Worn Cameras

(2) Use of Social Media

(3) Reserve Officer Program

Acting Chief of Police A. Carr presented City of Arcola Police Policies for Body Worn Cameras, Use of Social Media, and Reserve Officer Program for the police department. Acting Chief Carr requested approval of these important policies.

After review and discussion, **Council Member Evelyn Jones so moved** to approve the police policies presented by Acting Chief Carr; **seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson**. All were in favor.

Aye: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson and Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Ebony Sanco, Rosemary Bigby
Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

City Council adjourned into Closed Executive Session on Tue 7:55 p.m.

D. Executive Session—Section 551.074, Texas Government Code

Chief of Police position. Matters related to appointment, employment, assignments, duties, evaluation, compensation, and related matters.

--Closed or executive session as authorized by Section 551.074, Texas Government Code

City Council returned from Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.

E. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Recommendation of appointment for Chief of Police position.

Council Member Evelyn Jones so moved to advance Sergeant Arika Carr to Police Chief of the City of Arcola; **seconded by Council Member Ebony Sanco**. All were in favor.

Aye: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson and Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Ebony Sanco, Rosemary Bigby

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

F. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Update from the Mayor’s desk, including;

1. World Teachers’ Day proclamation and related matters.

Mayor Fred A. Burton presented a proclamation proclaiming October 5, 2022 as World Teacher’s Day in the City of Arcola.

2. Tractor from Southwest Mower Service Center, Inc., and related matters.

Mayor Burton noted that the Maintenance Department requested to purchase a tractor for \$13,000.00.

After discussion **Council Member Greg Abarr** so moved to approve buying the new tractor for the City of Arcola Maintenance Department from Southwest Mower Service; **seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson**. All were in favor.

Aye: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson and Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Ebony Sanco, Rosemary Bigby

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

3. Property at FM 521, 0.0375-acre triangular tract in the Manuel Escalera Survey, Abstract No. 170, Fort Bend County Texas, and including permission to sell, and related matters.

Mayor Burton requested to table this item because the 0.0375-acre tract is not the correct tract.

Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson so moved to table this item; **seconded by Council Member Evelyn Jones**. All were in favor.

Aye: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson and Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Ebony Sanco, Rosemary Bigby

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

4. Community Express, Inc. Summer Program, report, and related matters.

Dr. Veeda Williams gave a report on the Summer Program. She presented a power point to City Council on the activities the students were involved in. She thanked everyone who supported the Community Express, Inc. Summer Program.

G. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—ORDINANCE NO. 2022-09-13; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA, TEXAS APPOINTING-EDDIE CALDERON, AN ATTORNEY LICENSED TO PRACTICE LAW IN THE STATE OF TEXAS, AS PROSECUTOR IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA.

Municipal Court Judge Mo Ghuneim recommended appointing now Associate Prosecutor, Eddie Calderon as Prosecutor in the Municipal Court of the City of Arcola. The current prosecutor has declined to continue his service Effective October 1.

Council Member Greg Abarr so moved to approve ORDINANCE NO. 2022-09-13; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA, TEXAS APPOINTING-EDDIE CALDERON, AN ATTORNEY LICENSED TO PRACTICE LAW IN THE STATE OF TEXAS, AS PROSECUTOR IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA; **seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson**. All were in favor.

Aye: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson and Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Ebony Sanco, Rosemary Bigby

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

H. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—ORDINANCE NO. 2022-09-13A; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA, TEXAS APPOINTING-SAMANTHA GONZALEZ, AN ATTORNEY LICENSED TO PRACTICE LAW IN THE STATE OF TEXAS, AS ASSOCIATE PROSECUTOR IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA.

Municipal Court Judge Mo Ghuneim recommended appointing Samantha Gonzalez as Associate Prosecutor in the Municipal Court of the City of Arcola.

Council Member Ebony Sanco so moved to approve ORDINANCE NO. 2022-09-13A; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA, TEXAS APPOINTING-SAMANTHA GONZALEZ, AN ATTORNEY LICENSED TO PRACTICE LAW IN THE STATE OF TEXAS, AS ASSOCIATE PROSECUTOR IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA; **seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson.** All were in favor.

Aye: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson and Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Ebony Sanco, Rosemary Bigby

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

I. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Month of August 2022 Bookkeeping Report and Financial Report by Ruthie Cable, Finance Director, and related matters.

Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson so moved to table Item I; **seconded by Council Member Evelyn Jones.** All were in favor.

Aye: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson and Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Ebony Sanco, Rosemary Bigby

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

J. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Water and Wastewater Systems and including August 2022 Operator's Report by John Montgomery of Municipal Operations and Consulting.

Utility Operator John Montgomery of Municipal Operations reviewed the Water and Wastewater utility report for the month of August 2022.

Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson so moved to approve the Water and Wastewater report for the month August 2022 as presented by Mr. John Montgomery; **seconded by Council Member Evelyn Jones.** All were in favor.

Aye: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson and Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Ebony Sanco, Rosemary Bigby

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

K. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Purchase of Smart Meters for existing account holders.

Mr. John Montgomery requested the purchase of Smart Meters for existing account holders. Dr. Annette Guajardo noted that the goal is to use ARPA money for the smart meters. It is still being researched.

Council Member Greg Abarr so moved to go ahead and purchase the Smart Meters; **seconded by Council Member Rosemary Bigby.** All were in favor.

Aye: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson and Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Ebony Sanco, Rosemary Bigby

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

At this time Mayor Fred Burton administered the Oath of Office to Arika Carr as the new Chief of Police for the City of Arcola.

L. ADJOURNMENT.

Council Member Evelyn Jones so moved to adjourn at 8:52 p.m.; **seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson.** All were in favor.

Aye: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson and Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Ebony Sanco, Rosemary Bigby

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0