



City of Arcola

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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, to be held on Tuesday, August 10, 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.

- I. CALL TO ORDER.** Mayor Burton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. INVOCATION:** Council Member Greg Abarr gave the Invocation.
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:** Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson 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 Rosie Rojas.**
Mayor Fred A. Burton and Council Members Rosie Rojas, Council Member Ebony Sanco, Council Member Greg Abarr, and Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson were present. Council Member Evelyn Jones was absent during roll call. She arrived at 7:04 p.m.

Also present were City Administrator Annette Goldberg, Acting Chief of Police R. Stewart, and City Secretary Sally Cantu.

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. City Council heard comments from Mr. Geronimo Cortez.

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.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

- VII. 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 Evelyn Jones inquired about the paint color of the apartment complex off State Highway 6. Council Member Rosie Rojas gave an update on the apartments.
Council Member Greg Abarr reported that he and City Administrator Annette Goldberg are working on the proposed budget.
Council Member Rosie Rojas suggested a streetlight near Council Member Ebony Sanco's residence. She also suggested a streetlight on South Pine. She will report the pole number.

City Secretary Sally Cantu reported 14 streetlights out within the City of Arcola. The locations were reported by Council Member Rosie Rojas. Sergeant A. Carr sought all the pole numbers for these addresses.

Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson so moved to move the order of the agenda and start with the Regular Agenda letter F; **seconded by Council Member Greg Abarr.** All were in favor.

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA**A. Approval of previous meeting minutes.**

Council Member Evelyn Jones so moved to approve previous meeting minutes of July 13, 2021; **seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson**. All were in favor.

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

IX. REGULAR AGENDA:**A. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—June 2021 Financial Report by Ham, Langston & Brezina, L.L.P.; and related matters.**

City Bookkeeper Ruthie Cable reviewed the June 2021 General Fund Budget. After review, **Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jacksons so moved** to approve the bookkeeper's report; **seconded by Council Member Greg Abarr**. All were in favor.

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

B. 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.

Utility Operator John Montgomery reviewed the Utility Operator's report for the month of July 2021. He also gave a report on delinquent accounts, notices, and disconnections. City Administrator Annette Goldberg asked how much it cost to send delinquent letters. Mr. Montgomery responded that the cost is \$10.00 per letter and \$10.00 per door tag. Ms. Goldberg responded that she would have the letters and door tags prepared at City Hall. Mr. Montgomery is sending a sample letter to her.

After review and discussion, **Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson so moved** to approve the Operations Report for the month of July 2021; **seconded by Council Member Evelyn Jones**. All were in favor.

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

C. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Update from the Mayor's Desk, including:**(a) City of Arcola Heavy Trash pick-up and related matters**

Mayor Fred Burton is steady trying to clean up the city. He has scheduled another heavy trash pick-up for November 6, 2021; 8:00 a.m.—12:00 noon. He hopes to have more involvement on this project.

(b) City of Arcola Summer Program and related matters

Mayor Burton reported that the Summer Program was great. Dr. Veeda Williams and her assistant will have a final analysis at the next meeting.

D. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—City Administrator's Report by Annette Guajardo-Goldberg; updates and pending projects and related matters, including;**(a) CARES ACT**

City Administrator Annette Goldberg reported that the city kicked off the Rent Utility Mortgage Utility Program. Zahoor Gire is the mediator. The rent will go directly to the landlord and the utilities will go directly to the utility.

(b) American Rescue Plan (ARP)

She also reported that there is 500,000.00 allocated to the City of Arcola. They are going to go out for RFP's.

(c) Municipal Courts

She reviewed the municipal court report revenues in comparison to other years to the current year.

Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson so moved to approve the City Administrator's report; **seconded by Council Member Rosie Rojas**. All were in favor.

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

E. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Ordinance No. 2021-08-10; AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO ADMINISTRATORS, ADVISORS, ETC; AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2020-08-11A; Sec.2.304 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA, TEXAS; AND CONTAINING FINDINGS AND PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE SUBJECT.

Council Member Greg Abarr reviewed the proposed ordinance pertaining to City Attorney. He proposed the city hire their own City Attorney.

After discussion, **Council Member Rosie Rojas so moved** to approve Ordinance No. 2021-08-10; AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO ADMINISTRATORS, ADVISORS, ETC; AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2020-08-11A; Sec.2.304 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA, TEXAS; AND CONTAINING FINDINGS AND PROVISIONS; **seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson**. All were in favor.

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

F. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Acting Chief of Police Report by R. Stewart; including approval of IT agreement between City of Arcola and PENNCOMP for IT Maintenance for the Arcola Police Department and related matters.

Acting Chief Stewart proposed to contract with PENNCOMP for IT Maintenance for only the Arcola Police Department for one year. After a one-year period, then entertain extending it for two years.

After discussion, **Council Member Greg Abarr so moved** to approve PENNCOMP for IT Maintenance only for the Arcola Police Department for one year.; **seconded by Council Member Ebony Sanco**. All were in favor.

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

G. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Resolution No. 08-10-2021; A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OFFICER TO CALCULATE AND PUBLISH TAX RATE AND TAKE OTHER ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE LEVY OF TAXES; PROPOSING A TAX RATE AND CALLING HEARINGS.

- (a) Receipt of information from Tax Assessor/Collector, including Certification of 2021 Tax Year Anticipated Collections Rate, Appraisal and Taxable Value of all Properties, Taxable Value of New Property on the Certified Roll, effective tax rate, other etc.; (b) Matters relating to budgets and ad valorem taxes, including tax rate, expenditures, revenues, hearings, notices; (c) Motions, resolutions or ordinances for the following: (1) A Resolution Designating Officer to Calculate and Publish Tax Rate And Take Other Actions In Connection with The Levy of A Tax; Proposing A Tax Rate And Calling Hearings, (2) *scheduling public hearings regarding proposed tax rate*, (3) *setting public hearing on budget for Fiscal Year 2022 and* (4) related matters.

City Administrator Annette Goldberg and City Council reviewed the proposed tax for the City of Arcola. City Council also set public hearings for the proposed tax and proposed budget.

Council Member Greg Abarr so moved to approve Resolution No. 08-10-2021; A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OFFICER TO CALCULATE AND PUBLISH TAX RATE AND TAKE OTHER ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE LEVY OF TAXES; PROPOSING A TAX RATE AND CALLING HEARINGS; **seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson**. All were in favor.

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

Council Member Greg Abarr so moved to set public hearings for the proposed budget and proposed tax rate on September 14, 2021; 7:00 p.m.; Arcola City Hall; 13222 Highway 6; Arcola, Texas; **seconded by Council Member Ebony Sanco**. All were in favor.

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

Council Member Greg Abarr so moved to set September 21, 2021, for adopting the tax rate and the city budget; **seconded by Council Member Evelyn Jones**. All were in favor.

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

H. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Approval of codification services agreement between the City of Arcola and Municode for the City’s Code of Ordinances.

City Administrator Annette Goldberg proposed that the City of Arcola seek codification services through Municode for the City’s Code of Ordinances. City Secretary Sally Cantu reviewed the proposed costs.

Council Member Evelyn Jones needed more time to read and review further. **Council Member Ebony Sanco so moved** to table this item; **seconded by Council Member Evelyn Jones**. All were in favor.

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

X. ADJOURNMENT.

Council Member Evelyn Jones so moved to adjourn at 8:39 p.m; **seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson**. All were in favor.

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0