



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, held on Tuesday, August 9, 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:** Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson gave the Invocation.
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:** Council Member Rosemary Bigby 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 Rosemary Bigby were present. Also present were City Administrator Dr. Annette Guajardo, Finance Director Ruthie Cable, City Attorney Grady Randle, 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 Renee Hall and from Minister Johnny B. Jeremiah.**

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. 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.
Council Members Ebony Sanco and Rosemary Bigby commented on heavy trash pick-up.
- VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None
- VIII. CONSENT AGENDA.** None
- IX. REGULAR AGENDA:**
 - A. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Update from the Mayor's desk, including;**
 - 1. Community Express, Inc. summer program, report, and related matters.** Dr. Veeda Williams gave a brief report on the Summer Program. It went well. There were more kids this year than last year. There were about fifty-two kids enrolled. Funds are being well spent and everyone enjoyed the program.
 - 2. Arcola BBQ Cook-off and related matters.** Mayor Burton announced that the BBQ Cook-off is November 11—13, 2022. It is going to be bigger and grander than ever.
 - B. 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.
See comments above.
 - C. 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 minutes of July 12, 2022; **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 and Rosemary Bigby

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

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

Finance Director Ruthie Cable reviewed Bookkeeper's report and Financial Report for the month of July 2022.

After review, **Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson so moved** to approve the Bookkeeper's report and Financial report for the month of July 2022; **seconded by Council Member Greg Abarr**. All were in favor.

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

E. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Authorization to move money from the General Fund to TEXPOOL Account, and related matters.

Council Member Greg Abarr recommended moving 1.1 million dollars to the TEXPOOL Account from the General Fund. Council Member Greg Abarr noted that before the government started increasing interest rates, the city is making about \$20.00 a month because the rates were so low. Now, the rates have been raised significantly and it is anticipated to be raised again next month and now the city can make significant money if the city moves the money. Staying in Frost Bank does not make any interest. It just sits there. TEXPOOL is an authorized investment for a municipality. Council Member Greg Abarr recommended to the Mayor and City Administrator to move approximately 1.1 million dollars from the General Fund into the TEXPOOL Account.

After discussion, **Council Member Greg Abarr so moved** to move 1.1 million dollars from the General Fund into the TEXPOOL Account; **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 and Rosemary Bigby

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

F. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Authorization to create of new TEXPOOL Account for the Enterprise Fund and related matters.

Council Member Greg Abarr noted that there is a significant amount of money sitting in the Enterprise Fund and the city is going to be consolidating bank accounts which will put in even a larger amount of money in there, and it does not make sense to leave that money sitting in an account that does not make interest. Council Member Greg Abarr recommended to City Council to approve a new TEXPOOL account for the Enterprise Fund and then move access funds from the Enterprise Fund over to the TEXPOOL Account. City Council will be creating a third TEXPOOL Account. The third one being for the Enterprise Fund.

After discussion, **Council Member Greg Abarr so moved** to create a new TEXPOOL Account for the Enterprise Fund and once the banking transfers are made, then transfer 1.1 million dollars from the Frost Account to the TEXPOOL Enterprise Fund Account; **seconded by Ebony Sanco**. All were in favor.

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

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

Mr. John Montgomery of Municipal Operations reviewed the Operations Report for the month of July 2022.

After review, **Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson so moved** to accept the July 2022 monthly Operations Report; **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 and Rosemary Bigby

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

1. Smart Water Utility Solutions by Accurate Meter & Supply presented by Jennifer Hicks, and related matters.

Ms. Jennifer Hicks of Smart Water Utility Solutions presented a proposal for residential electrical water meters for the City of Arcola. It will enable the residents to see their water usage. The meters report in four times a day with fifteen- minute readings. It will give a leak alert. It is going to note how the water is used. There is also a smart app to see the usage. It will go in every new installation. City Administrator Dr. Annette Guajardo noted that there are only two companies that will serve this software. The city received two quotes and this one is the better of the two quotes.

After discussion, **Council Member Greg Abarr so moved** that all new taps are using electronic meters and that the Council will allow him and City Staff work together to find a funding plan to replace the existing meters over a certain amount of time, residential and commercial; **seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Jackson**. All were in favor.

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

H. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Submission of Project Status Report by Mr. Llarance Turner, R.P.L.S. of Kaluza, Inc.

City Administrator Dr. Annette Guajardo reported that Mr. Llarance Turner of Kaluza, Inc. submitted to City Council a Project Report on Construction Projects, Engineering Design Projects, and Subdivision Plats.

After review, **Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson so moved** to approve Submission of Project Status from Kaluza, Inc.; **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 and Rosemary Bigby

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

I. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—City of Arcola proposed land # R162465, including proposed sale, appraisal, and related matters.

Mayor Fred Burton informed City Council that the building on property #R162465 off FM 521 was mostly located on city property for years and years. City Attorney Grady Randle noted that the land still belongs to the City of Arcola. This item was discussion, only.

J. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Resolution No. 08-09-2022; 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 2022 Truth in Taxation Calculations, 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 2023 and (4) related matters.

Council Member Greg Abarr reported that he has reviewed the worksheet that the county provided to the city. The tax rate for last year including, maintenance and operations, and debt service was \$.680149 per \$100 assessed valuation. He recommended to keep it at that rate which would mean that maintenance and operations would be \$.565495 per \$100 assessed valuation and debt service would be 0.114654 assessed valuation.

Council Member Greg Abarr so moved to approve the information received from the Tax Assessor Collector certifying the 2022 Truth in Taxation Calculations; **seconded by Evelyn Jones**. All were in favor.

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

Council Member Greg Abarr so moved to approve Resolution No 08-09-2022; 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 and propose a tax rate for maintenance and operations \$0.565495 per \$100 assessed valuation, debt service will be \$0.114654 per \$100 assessed valuation; and the total tax rate will be the same as last year for \$0.680149 per \$100.00 assessed valuation and call a public hearing for September 13, 2022; 7:00 p.m.; Arcola City Hall, Rm. 124; 13222 Highway 6; Arcola, Texas; **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 and Rosemary Bigby
Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

Council Member Greg Abarr so moved to set a public hearing for the tax rate and the budget on September 13, 2022; 7:00 p.m.; Arcola City Hall, Rm. 124; 13222 Highway 6; Arcola, Texas; **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 and Rosemary Bigby
Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

- K. Council Input and Discussion**—Fresno Volunteer Fire Department, including ISO plans, fire insurance, and related matters.

Council Member Greg Abarr so moved to table item K.; **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 and Rosemary Bigby
Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

- L. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action**—City Administrator's Report by Dr. Annette Guajardo, update on current projects, pending projects, and related matters, including;

1. McKeever Road and related matters.
2. Post Oak Pointe and related matters.

City Administrator Dr. Annette Guajardo reported that Council Member Ebony Sanco has a constituent who is really interested in helping to do fundraising to build something on the McKeever property. A committee will go to other cities that have community centers to see who their architect was and see if that plan would fit in this area and would not have to pay full price for an architect.

Dr. Annette Guajardo also reported that CenterPoint took both of their transformers from Post Oak Pointe and used them in other areas of the city and working with CenterPoint to try to get a temporary generator back to that community. Right now, DR Horton has a temporary generator and next week CenterPoint will come back in and give them a temporary until they can come back and give them a permanent.

Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson so moved to move letter M. to follow Roll Call of the agenda; **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 and Rosemary Bigby
Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

City Council adjourned into Executive Session at 7:05 p.m.

- M. Executive Session**—Section 551.074, Texas Government Code

Personnel Matters. Matters related to appointment, employment, assignments, duties, evaluation, discipline, compensation, dismissal of a public officer or employee and related matters. (Chief of Police)

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

City Council reconvened to Regular Meeting at 7:40 p.m.

- N. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action**—Regarding the evaluation of the Chief of Police.

Council Member Greg Abarr 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 and Rosemary Bigby

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

X. ADJOURNMENT.

Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson so **moved** to adjourn at 9:13 p.m.; **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 and Rosemary Bigby

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0