



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, July 13, 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 at 7:04 p.m.
- II. INVOCATION:** Council Member Greg Abarr 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.**
All member of City Council were present. Also present were City Attorney Carl Allred, City Secretary Sally Cantu, and City Administrator Annette Goldberg.

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 Dr. Veeda Williams.

City Council heard comments from James Hearn.

City Council heard comments from Michael Kuhlenberg of FBCSO.

Acting Chief R. Stewart presented candidates for the Arcola Police Department.

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: Concerning the condition of private property under Chapter 342, Texas Health & Safety Code, including Arcola Farms, Block 2, Lot 38 (Jose Benitez Sr. and Jose Benitez Jr.)

Jose Benitez Sr. and Jose Benitez Jr. were not present for the hearing. This item was tabled.

VII. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS: Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson, Council Member Evelyn Jones, Council Member Ebony Sanco, Council Member Chloe Sanco, Council Member Rosie Rojas

Council Member Rosie Rojas thanked Mayor Fred Burton and City Administrator Annette Goldberg for allowing her to work with the residents in need from the Eva Apartments.

Council Member Greg Abarr reported that he and the City Administrator are working on a rate study for the City of Arcola.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA: Midfield West, A subdivision of a 0.7452-acre tract of land being out of Lot 1, New York, and Texas Land Company Subdivision (Vol. 26, PG. 596; F.B.C.D.R.) in the Manuel Escalero Survey, Abstract No. 170, City of Arcola, Fort Bend County, Texas, 1 Reserve, 0 Lots, 1 Block and related matters. (410 McKeever Road)
City Engineer Llarance Turner reevaluated the Midfield West subdivision plat. There are no objections to the plans. The plans have met all the criteria from code enforcement. Staff recommends approval of the Midfield West plat. (410 McKeever)

Council Member Greg Abarr so moved to approve the Midfield West plat; **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

IX. REGULAR AGENDA:

A. Approval of previous meeting minutes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Jackson so moved to approve previous meeting minutes for May 25, 2021, and June 8, 2021; **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

B. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—May Financial Report by Ham, Langston & Brezina, L.L.P.; and related matters.

City Bookkeeper Ruthie Cable was not present.

City Administrator Annette Goldberg reviewed the City of Arcola Financial Report for the month of May 2021.

Council Member Ebony Sanco so moved to approve the City of Arcola Financial Report for the month of May 2021; **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

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

Utility Operator John Montgomery of Municipal Operations reviewed the operations report for the month of June 2021. After discussion and review; **Council Member Ebony Sanco so moved** to approve the Utility Operations report for the month of June 2021; **seconded by Council Member Rosie Rojas.** 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

D. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Approve contract with GB Development, LLC. and related matters.

City Administrator Annette Goldberg reported that Zahoor Gire's contract has expired. She asked to approve the GB Development, LLC contract.

Council Member Rosie Rojas so moved to approve the GB Development, LLC.; which is Zahoor Gire; **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

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

- (a) **Arcola Heavy Trash pick-up report and related matters.** Mayor Burton gave a report on the heavy trash pickup. He aims to clean up the City.
- (b) **Fourth of July report and related matters.** Mayor Burton reported the Fourth of July went well.
- (c) **Fort Bend County Social Services dates and related matter.** Fort Bend County Social Services will be at City Hall this Thursday for anyone who needs assistance.
- (d) **City of Arcola Summer Camp and related matters.** Mayor Burton thanked Dr. Veeda Williams for bringing the Arcola Summer Camp to the City. It has been very successful and beneficial to the youth group.
- (e) **State of the City and related matters.** Mayor Burton noted that the City of Arcola is creating jobs for now and for the future.

- F. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—City Administrator’s Report by Annette Guajardo-Goldberg; updates and pending projects and related matters, including;**
(a) CARES ACT, including authorization to use CARES ACT funds for COVID-19 Rental, Mortgage, Utility, and Food Assistance Program and related matters.

City Administrator Annette Goldberg reported that she learned by speaking with Mayor Neil of Weston Lakes that the City can use CARES money to help with Rental, Mortgage, Utility, and Food Assistance for the citizens of Arcola. All perimeters will be worked on with Zahoor Gire to make sure it is amicable. Authorization by City Council is needed to move forward with the program.

After discussion, **Council Member Greg Abarr so moved** to approve the authorization to use CARES ACT funds for COVID-19 Rental, Mortgage, Utility, and Food Assistance Program; **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

- G. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Approve Juneteenth as a new holiday for the City of Arcola and related matters.**

City Administrator Annette Goldberg noted that the City follows the Fort Bend County Holiday Schedule. Congress recently approved Juneteenth as a Federal holiday. Ms. Goldberg asked that the City be proactive and include Juneteenth in the 2022 calendar.

Council Member Rosie Rojas so moved to approve Juneteenth as a new holiday for the City of Arcola; **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

- H. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—Approve 10/20 year write off of property taxes per Texas Property Tax Code Section 33.05 “Limitation on Collection of Taxes.”**

City Administrator Annette Goldberg presented the 10/20 year write off of property taxes per Texas Property Tax Code Section 33.05 “Limitation on Collection of Taxes” submitted by Fort Bend County for write-off.

After discussion, **Council Member Greg Abarr so moved** to approve 10/20 year write off of property taxes; **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

- I. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—ORDINANCE NO. 2021-07-13; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA, TEXAS APPOINTING EDDIE CALDERON, AN ATTORNEY LICENSED TO PRACTICE LAW IN THE STATE OF TEXAS, AS ASSOCIATE PROSECUTOR IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA.**

Mayor Fred Burton noted that the Municipal Court Judge recommended and requested City Council appoint Eddie Calderon as Associate Prosecutor in the Municipal Court.

Council Member Greg Abarr so moved to approve ORDINANCE NO. 2021-07-13; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA, TEXAS APPOINTING EDDIE CALDERON, 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: Council Members Evelyn Jones, Greg Abarr, Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson, Ebony Sanco, Rosie Rojas
Nay: 0
Motion carried. 5-0

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

City Engineer Llarance Turner reported that everything is going well with regards to the water plant overall. He gave a brief report on the samplings and treatments. He also gave a brief report on the expansion of the wastewater treatment plant and agreement between City of Arcola and Fresh Water Supply District No. 1.

Mayor Pro-Tem Florence Jackson so moved to approve the City Engineer Report by Llarance Turner; **seconded by Council Member Greg Abarr**. 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

K. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—RESOLUTION No. 07-13-2021; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA, TEXAS, APPROVING A FEE SCHEDULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022.

City Secretary Sally Cantu presented to City Council a schedule of fees in a form of a resolution for approval.

Council Member Greg Abarr so moved to approve RESOLUTION NO. 07-13-2021; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA, TEXAS, APPROVING A FEE SCHEDULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022; **seconded by Council Member Rosie Rojas**. 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

L. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action—ORDINANCE NO. 2021-07-13A; AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE USE OF CITY HALL; AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA; TEXAS; AND CONTAINING FINDINGS AND PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE SUBJECT.

City Secretary Sally Cantu presented to City Council an amended ordinance changing the Community Center rental fees from \$75.00 an hour to \$25.00 an hour and change the deposit from \$300.00 to \$75.00, no smoking in or near City Hall or within 25 feet of any entrance of the building; and must have security for the duration of the rental.

Council Member Rosie Rojas so moved to approve ORDINANCE NO. 2021-07-13A; AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE USE OF CITY HALL; AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA; TEXAS; AND CONTAINING FINDINGS AND PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE SUBJECT; **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

M. ADJOURNMENT. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.