



CITY OF ARCOLA

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Arcola City Hall
13222 Highway 6
Arcola, Texas 77583

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MINUTES

6:00 P.M.

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Veeda Williams

Mayor Veeda Williams called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

Council Member Evelyn Jones

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG

Florence Jackson

ROLL CALL

Mayor, Council Members and Administration

QUORUM PRESENT

City Council Members that were Present.

Council Member E. Jones; Council Member R. Bigby;

Council Member F. Jackson; Mayor Pro-Tem E. Sanco; Mayor Veeda Williams

Absent: Council Member G. Abarr

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

GENERAL 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.

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.

The following members of the public addressed the Council.

- 1) Monroe Williams, 1705 Village Ct. Dr.
- 2) Larry Williams, 3127 Travis Creek Way

II. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 551.0415 of the Texas Government Code, the City Council of the City of Arcola may receive reports about items of community interest from City staff and/or a member of the City Council, but no action or possible action shall be taken or discussed concerning the subject of such report, except as provided by Section 551.042 of the Texas Government Code.

Mayor Veeda Williams, Council Member Evelyn Jones, Council Member Florence Jackson, Mayor Pro-Tem Ebony Sanco, and Council Member Rosemary Bigby.

III. PRESENTATIONS (INFORMATION ONLY)

A. Updating the City of Arcola Schedule of Fees. *Lyneshia Garette, Permit Manager*

Mayor Veeda Williams, gave a presentation in place of Ruthie Cable, Finance Director. Dr. Goldberg made comments and answered questions from the City Council.

IV. TAX RATE ADOPTION ITEMS

A. Discussion and possible action regarding the adoption of the portion of the Tax Rate to fund the debt service of the City for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. *Dr. Annette Goldberg, City Administrator*

Justin Pruitt, City Attorney read and explained the proposed motion for the adoption of \$0.071128 per \$100 of assessed valuation as the portion of the Tax Rate to fund the debt service of the City for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

A motion to Adopt \$0.071128 per \$100 of assessed valuation as the portion of the Tax Rate to fund the debt service of the City for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 was made by Council Member E. Jones, and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem E. Sanco, the motion Passed.

Ayes: Council Member E. Jones, Mayor Pro-Tem E. Sanco, Council Member R. Bigby, and Council Member F. Jackson

Absent: G. Abarr

Nay: 0

Motion Carried 4-0

B. Discussion and possible action regarding the adoption of the portion of the Tax Rate to fund the maintenance and operations of the City for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. *Dr. Annette Goldberg, City Administrator*

Justin Pruitt, City Attorney read and explained the proposed motion for the adoption of \$0.578491 per \$100 of assessed valuation as the portion of the Tax Rate to fund the maintenance and operations of the City for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

A motion to **Adopt** \$0.578491 per \$100 of assessed valuation as the portion of the Tax Rate to fund the debt service of the City for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 was made by Council Member E. Jones, and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem E. Sanco, the motion **Passed**.

Ayes: Council Member E. Jones, Mayor Pro-Tem E. Sanco, Council Member R. Bigby, and Council Member F. Jackson

Absent: G. Abarr
Nay: 0
Motion Carried 4-0

V. **ORDINANCES**

- A. Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action on AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA, TEXAS; PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF AD VALOREM TAXES OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA, TEXAS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025; PROVIDING THE DATE ON WHICH SUCH AD VALOREM TAXES SHALL BE DUE AND PAYABLE; PROVIDING FOR PENALTY AND INTEREST ON ALL TAXES NOT TIMELY PAID; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND, REPEALING ALL OTHER ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT OR IN CONFLICT HERewith. *Dr. Annette Goldberg, City Administrator*

Justin Pruitt, City Attorney explained to council and to members of the community in attendance that the verbiage “increasing the tax rate” is mandatory by the state statute to use these words even though the tax rate will not increase. There’s an increase in property value increased, at the same tax rate, essentially the city will generate more funds.

Justin read the proposed motion to adopt the Tax Rate Ordinance, and that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.649619 per \$100 of assessed valuation, which is effectively a 7.38% increase in the tax rate.

A motion to **Adopt** the TAX RATE Ordinance, and that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.649619 per \$100 of assessed valuation, which is effectively a 7.38% increase in the tax rate was made by Council Member R. Bigby and seconded by Council Member E. Jones, the motion **Passed**.

Ayes: Council Member E. Jones, Mayor Pro-Tem E. Sanco, Council Member R. Bigby, and Council Member F. Jackson

Absent: G. Abarr
Nay: 0
Motion Carried 4-0

After the motion was made and carried by council, Mayor Williams made a statement addressing the community to ensure them that the tax rate is not being increased as stated by the city attorney. The reason council chose not to increase the tax rate the revenue by not increasing the tax rate will help with projects such as drainage and the lift stations that are issues that face the city.

VI. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council will convene into Closed Executive Session as authorized under Sections 551.071 of the Texas Government Code for:

- A. Consultation with Attorney.** The City Council will seek the advice of its attorney about pending or contemplated litigation, or a settlement offer (Section 551.071).

RECESS: The Mayor recessed the meeting into Closed Executive Session at 6:14 p.m. under Texas Local Government Code, Section 551.087, for the purpose of deliberation regarding Section 551.074 Personnel Matters and Section 551.071 Consultations with Attorney.

PRESENT

Members of City Council were Present:

Council Member E. Jones; Council Member R. Bigby; Council Member F. Jackson; Mayor Pro-Tem E. Sanco; Mayor Veeda Williams; Justin Pruitt, City Attorney; Ingrid Flornoy, City Secretary; and Dr. Annette Goldberg, City Administrator

Absent: Council Member G. Abarr;

VII. COUNCIL ADJOURNS CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENES INTO REGULAR SESSION

RECONVENE: The Mayor Williams reconvened into the regular meeting at 6:40p.m with no action to be taken on VI-A. **Consultation with Attorney.** The City Council will seek the advice of its attorney about pending or contemplated litigation, or a settlement offer (Section 551.071).

VIII. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- A.** Consideration and Possible Action on matters discussed in Executive Session. *Justin Pruitt, City Attorney*

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 6:40p.m.

A motion to **Approve** the closing of the meeting was made by Mayor Pro-Tem E. Sanco and seconded by Council Member E. Jones, the motion was **Passed**.

Ayes: Council Member E. Jones, Council Member R. Bigby, Council Member F. Jackson, and Mayor Pro-Tem E. Sanco.

Ingrid Flornoy, City Secretary

