



CITY OF ARCOLA

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MINUTES

Arcola City Hall
13222 Highway 6
Arcola, Texas 77583

TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MINUTES

6:00 P.M.

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Veeda V. Williams, PhD

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

INVOCATION

Council Member Rosemary Bigby

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Florence Jackson

ROLL CALL

Mayor, Council Members and Administration

QUORUM PRESENT

City Council Members that were present.

Council Member E. Jones; Council Member G. Abarr; Council Member Florence Jackson; Mayor Pro -Tem E. Sanco; Mayor Veeda V. Williams; Council Member R. Bigby

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.

1) Shirin Dhanai

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, PhD, Council Member Evelyn Jones, Council Member Greg Abarr, Council Member Florence Jackson, Mayor Pro-Tem Ebony Sanco, and Council Member Rosemary Bigby.

No City Council Comments

III. CANVASS ELECTION

- A. Consideration and Possible Action: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA, TEXAS, CANVASSING THE RETURNS AND DECLARING THE RESULTS OF THE GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON MAY 3, 2025; AND CONTAINING FINDINGS AND PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE SUBJECT; **(2)** Certificates of election; **(3)** Written statements of elected officers; **(4)** Related matters. *Mayor, Veeda V. Williams, PhD*

A motion to **Approve**, Item III-A: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA, TEXAS, CANVASSING THE RETURNS AND DECLARING THE RESULTS OF THE GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON MAY 3, 2025; AND CONTAINING FINDINGS AND PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE SUBJECT; **(2)** Certificates of election; **(3)** Written statements of elected officers; **(4)** Related matters, motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ebony Sanco and seconded by Council Member Jones, the motion **Passed**.

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

IV. OATH OF OFFICE

- A. Administer the Oath of Office to Greg Abarr, Council Member At-Large Position 1, and Evelyn Jones, Council Member At-Large Position 3. *Ingrid Flornoy, City Secretary*

Council Members Abarr and Jones both took their oath of office and signed all necessary official documents.

V. ELECTING A MAYOR PRO-TEM

- A. Discussion, consideration of and possible action to elect a Mayor Pro-Tem from the city council members for a one-year term. Texas Local Government Code 22.037(b). *Mayor Veeda V. Williams, PhD*

A motion to **Table**, Item V-A: action to elect a Mayor Pro-Tem from the city council members for a one-year term. Texas Local Government Code 22.037(b) was made by Council Member R. Bigby, and seconded by Council Member E. Jones, the motion **Passed**.

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

VI. ORDINANCE ORDERING RUNOFF ELECTION

- A. Discussion, consideration of and possible action on AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA, TEXAS, CALLING A SECOND ELECTION FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025 TO FILL THE OFFICE FOR COUNCILMEMBER AT- LARGE POSITION NUMBER FIVE (5). *Ingrid Flornoy, City Secretary*

A motion to **Approve**, Item VI-A: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA, TEXAS, CALLING A SECOND ELECTION FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025 TO FILL THE OFFICE FOR COUNCILMEMBER AT- LARGE POSITION NUMBER FIVE (5) was made Mayor Pro-Tem E. Sanco, and seconded by Council Member E. Jones, the motion **Passed**.

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

All Consent Agenda items listed are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

- A. Consideration of and Action on the approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of April 8, 2025 and special meeting of April 29, 2025. *Ingrid Flornoy, City Secretary*

A motion to **Approve**, Items VII-A: is a Consent Agenda item listed is considered to be routine by the City Council and was enacted by one motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem E. Sanco, and seconded by Council Member E. Jones, the motion **Passed**.

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

Nay: 0
Motion carried. 5-0

VIII. PRESENTATIONS (INFORMATION ONLY)

- A. Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives Award Recognition to Arcola Municipal Courts- *Mayor Veeda. V. Williams, PhD*
- B. April 2025 Permit Monthly Report- *Lyneshia Garrette, Permit Manager*
- C. City Engineer Report- *Llarance Turner, Kaluza, Inc.*
- D. State of the City- *Mayor Veeda. V. Williams, PhD*

IX. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action to approve the April 2025 Municipal Operations and Consulting (MOC) report. *Roland Leal, MOC Area Manager Operations*

Mr. Roland Leal, Area Manager Operations, gave a presentation, made comments and answered questions from the City Council.

A motion to **Approve**, Item IX-A: The approval of the April 2025 Municipal Operations and Consulting (MOC) report was made by, Council Member E. Jones and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem E. Sanco, the motion **Passed**.

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

Nay: 0
Motion carried. 5-0

- B. Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action to approve the Financial Reports for March 2025. *Dr. Annette Goldberg, City Administrator*

Dr. Annette Goldberg gave a presentation, made comments and answered questions from the City Council.

A motion to **Approve**, Item IX-B: the Financial Reports for March 2025 was made by Mayor Pro-Tem E. Sanco, and seconded by Council Member R. Bigby, the motion **Passed**.

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

Nay: 0
Motion carried. 5-0

- C. Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action to approve the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone No. 1 2024 Annual Report #5. *Dr. Annette Goldberg, City Administrator*

Dr. Annette Goldberg gave a presentation, made comments and answered questions from the City Council.

A motion to **Approve**, Item IX- C: Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone No. 1 2024 Annual Report #5 was made by Mayor Pro-Tem E. Sanco, and seconded by Council Member R. Bigby, the motion **Passed**.

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

X. PLANS, PLATS AND PERMITS

- A. Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action to accept a petition to consent to annexation to include additional land (**902 Post Road**) in the Charleston Municipal Utility District (MUD) and authorize staff to draft an annexation ordinance concerning same. *Llarance Turner, Kaluza, Inc.*

Llarance Turner and the developer gave a presentation, made comments and answered questions from the City Council.

A motion to **Approve**, Item X-A: to accept a petition to consent to annexation to include additional land (**902 Post Road**) in the Charleston Municipal Utility District (MUD) and authorize staff to draft an annexation ordinance concerning same was made by Council Member E. Jones, and seconded by Council Member R. Bigby, the motion **Passed**.

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

XI. CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS

- A. Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action on engaging in a contract with **Texas Drainage** for ditch and drainage work in the City of Arcola, Texas. *David Olson, City Attorney*

David Olson gave a presentation, made comments and answered questions from the City Council.

A motion to **Approve**, Item XI-A: on engaging in a contract with **Texas Drainage** for ditch and drainage work in the City of Arcola, Texas was made by Mayor Pro-Tem E. Sanco, and seconded by Council Member E. Jones, the motion **Passed**.

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

Nay: 0
Motion carried. 5-0

XII. ORDINANCES

- A. Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action to Amend Ordinance No. 2020-06-16 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA, TEXAS, AMENDING SUBCHAPTER E OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA, TEXAS, RELATING TO THE CITY'S INVESTMENT PLAN AND STRATEGY; APPROVING THE CITY'S INVESTMENT POLICY AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY; ADOPTING ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS FOR DEPOSITORIES; CONTAINING FINDINGS AND PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE SUBJECT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. *Dr. Annette Goldberg, City Administrator*

Dr. Annette Goldberg gave a presentation, made comments and answered questions from the City Council.

A motion to **Approve**, Item XII-A: to Amend Ordinance No. 2020-06-16 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA, TEXAS, AMENDING SUBCHAPTER E OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA, TEXAS, RELATING TO THE CITY'S INVESTMENT PLAN AND STRATEGY; APPROVING THE CITY'S INVESTMENT POLICY AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY; ADOPTING ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS FOR DEPOSITORIES; CONTAINING FINDINGS AND PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE SUBJECT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE Council Member E. Jones, and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem E. Sanco, the motion **Passed**.

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

Nay: 0
Motion carried. 5-0

- B. Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action to Approve AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF ARCOLA, TEXAS REESTABLISHING THE "RESIDENCE HOMESTEAD AND OVER 65/DISABLED PERSONS HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS" FOR APPLICABLE PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE CITY OF ARCOLA; AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS TO EFFECTUATE THE TAX EXEMPTION COMTEMPLATED HEREIN; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. *Dr. Annette Goldberg, City Administrator*

Dr. Annette Goldberg gave a presentation, made comments and answered questions from the City Council.

A motion to **Approve**, Item XII-B: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF ARCOLA, TEXAS REESTABLISHING THE "RESIDENCE HOMESTEAD AND OVER 65/DISABLED PERSONS HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS" FOR APPLICABLE PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE CITY OF ARCOLA; AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS TO EFFECTUATE THE TAX EXEMPTION COMTEMPLATED HEREIN; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE was

made by Mayor Pro-Tem E. Sanco, and seconded by Council Member R. Bigby, the motion **Passed.**

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

- C. Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action to Amend Ordinance No. 2023-03-14 AMENDING AND ESTABLISHING RATES, FEES, CHARGES AND POLICIES FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY SERVICES; AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; AND CONTAINING FINDINGS AND PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE SUBJECT. ***Roland Leal, MOC Area Manager Operations***

Mr. Roland Leal, Area Manager Operations, gave a presentation, made comments and answered questions from the City Council.

A motion to **Approve**, Item XII- C: to Amend Ordinance No. 2023-03-14 AMENDING AND ESTABLISHING RATES, FEES, CHARGES AND POLICIES FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY SERVICES; AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; AND CONTAINING FINDINGS AND PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE SUBJECT was made by, Council Member R. Bigby and seconded by Council Member E. Jones, the motion **Passed.**

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

XIII. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council will convene into Closed Executive Session as authorized under Section 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 6:50 p.m. under Texas Local Government Code, Section 551.087, for the purpose of deliberation regarding Section 551.071 Consultations with Attorney.

PRESENT

All Members of City Council were Present.

Council Member E. Jones; Council Member G. Abarr; Council Member R. Bigby;
Council Member F. Jackson; Mayor Pro-Tem E. Sanco; Mayor Veeda Williams; Annette Goldberg, City Administrator; David Olson, City Attorney; and Ingrid Flornoy, City Secretary

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

RECONVENE: The Mayor reconvened into the regular meeting at 7:21p.m. with no action to be taken.

- A. Council Members may take possible action on matters discussed in Closed Executive Session.
David Olson, City Attorney

XV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

A motion to Approve to close out the city council meeting, was made by Mayor Pro - Tem E. Sanco, and seconded by Council Member E. Jones, the motion Passed.

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

Nays: 0

Motion carried: 5-0

Ingrid Flornoy, City Secretary

