



CITY OF ARCOLA

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MINUTES

Arcola City Hall
13222 Highway 6
Arcola, Texas 77583

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MINUTES

6:00 P.M.

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Veeda V. Williams, PhD

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

INVOCATION

Council Member Evelyn Jones

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; Mayor Pro -Tem G. Abarr; Council Member Florence Jackson; Council Member Fred Burton; Council Member R. Bigby; Mayor Veeda V. Williams

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) Juana Jasso
- 2) Marcela Suaste

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, Mayor Pro-Tem Greg Abarr, Council Member Florence Jackson, Council Member Fred Burton, and Council Member Rosemary Bigby.

Council Member R. Bigby – Spoke about the big trucks still coming down streets that they are not allowed to drive down. She believed there was a committee formed; Mayor Williams stated there had not been a committee formed for that, but the police department was monitoring the situation. Chief Carr- Bryant stated there is a traffic enforcement where the officers are out between the hours of 6am and 10am in different areas of the city. Council Member Bigby stated that on North Pine and South Pine are the streets that are being used the most by these big trucks. They are coming more in the evening time and early in the morning after officers have patrolled the area.

Council Member E. Jones – Stated how well the driveway (parking lot) looks at City Hall and thanked Mayor Williams for getting it fixed.

Council Member F. Burton – Made mention that this body (City Council) vote to have a street built on Rice Blvd., but it has not been used and it was not in the budget and it was unplanned. He doesn't understand why the five (5) to six (6) residents on Honey Grove Ave. cannot have an exception made and this body (City Council) cannot vote to have this street repaired. Mayor Williams stated there is an assessment of streets and that the Certificates of Obligation just went through in July. There is a step process and stated this is the first time it has been brought to her attention. Council Member Burton stated he has brought the issue before council several times. He stated that he brought residents from those streets to council and he had to apologize to them that the street wasn't going to get fixed for the following reasons: 1) he occupies the street and 2) because the body (City Council) is biased towards him; however, he is not the only tax payer that uses the street [Honey Grove Ave.].

III. 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 corrections of the special meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 adding the names of the speakers from public comment. *Ingrid Flornoy, City Secretary*
- B. Consideration of and Action on the approval of the minutes of the regular meeting on Tuesday, July 08, 2025 with corrections, changing MOC report from May 2025 to June 2025 and adding Council Member F. Jackson's name to agenda items VIII. A-C. *Ingrid Flornoy, City Secretary*
- C. Consideration of and Action on the approval of the minutes of the following Workshops for June 2024 through July 2025. *Ingrid Flornoy, City Secretary*

A motion to Approve, Items III-A, B and C: was enacted by one motion made by Council Member E. Jones, and seconded by Council Member R. Bigby, the motion Passed.

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

IV. PRESENTATIONS (INFORMATION ONLY)

- A. July 2025 Permit Monthly Report- *Distributed*
Marquis Walker the Permit Administrator presented the report before the City Council
- B. Fire Marshal updates- *Sergeant Efrem Burns*
- C. Police Department Update- *Police Chief Carr-Bryant*
- D. Permit Process- *Police Chief Carr-Bryant*
- E. City Engineer Report- *Llarance Turner, Kaluza, Inc.*
- F. State of the City- *Mayor Veeda. V. Williams, PhD*

V. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action to approve the July 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 with correction, Item V-A: The approval of the July 2025 Municipal Operations and Consulting (MOC) report was made by, Council Member E. Jones and seconded by Council Member R. Bigby, the motion Passed with correction.

Correction is to not cut off resident with \$77.00 water balance that is listed in the report.

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

B. Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action on delinquent MOC sewer accounts. *Roland Leal, MOC Area Manager Operations*

Mr. Roland Leal, Area Manager Operations, gave a presentation, made comments and answered questions from the City Council. Mr. Leal asked for guidance regarding how to move forward with the cutting off of delinquent sewer accounts.

Mayor Pro-Tem Abarr suggested that instead of cutting off services by dollar amount, but instead by number of months delinquent. Mayor Williams, stated the issue will be if the person is behind by a small amount it cost way more to cap the sewer off. If the person can't pay the small amount they definitely can't pay the cost to reconnect it. Mayor Williams agreed there is a need of cohesiveness in the orders and how to cut off delinquent accounts. Council Member Burton stated that this issue will continue to grow, this kind of stuff in the past was put in the hands of MOC and the list got down to 12 accounts. This list will continue to grow and word will spread like wildfire that you can be behind two or three months and city won't cut you off. Mr. Leal stated that he cannot vouch for the past, but the way that the rules are written it could take a person over one thousand dollars to get their service back, due to a sixty dollar delinquent bill. Council Member Jones asked if there can be a warning put in red writing letting the resident know that if you don't pay your bill what the cost will be to get your services back once they are cut off. Mayor Williams wants further discussion with council to reassess how to move forward. So she [Mayor Williams] asked for a motion to table this item.

A motion to **table**, Item V-B: on delinquent MOC sewer accounts, until City Council can come to an agreement after further investigation on how to move forward then they will bring it back to City Council was made by, Council Member E. Jones and seconded by Council Member R. Bigby, the motion **Passed to table item.**

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

C. Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action to approve the Financial Report for June 2025. *Dr. Annette Goldberg, City Administrator*

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

A motion to **Approve**, Item V-C: The approval of the Financial Report for June 2025 was made by, Mayor Pro-Tem G. Abarr and seconded by Council Member R. Bigby, the motion **Passed.**

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

- D. Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action to approve the updated 2025 Employee Handbook. *Dr. Annette Goldberg, City Administrator*

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

A motion to Approve, Item V-D: to approve the updated 2025 Employee Handbook was made by, Mayor Pro-Tem G. Abarr and seconded by Council Member R. Bigby, the motion Passed.

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

Nay: Council Member F. Burton
Motion carried. 4-1

- E. Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action to update **Purchasing Policy** to reflect amended Ordinance No. 2024-06-25A. *Dr. Annette Goldberg, City Administrator*

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

A motion to Approve, Item V-E: to update **Purchasing Policy** to reflect amended Ordinance No. 2024-06-25A, Mayor Pro-Tem G. Abarr and seconded by Council Member E. Jones, the motion Passed.

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

Nay: 0
Motion carried. 5-0

- F. Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action to approve permit waivers for **Community Beautification Project and creation of a Committee for such waivers**. *Police Chief Carr-Bryant*

Police Chief Carr-Bryant gave a presentation, made comments and answered questions from the City Council.

A motion to Approve, Item V- F: to approve permit waivers for **Community Beautification Project and creation of a Committee for such waivers** was made by Council Member E. Jones and seconded by Council Member R. Bigby the motion Passed.

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

Nay: 0
Motion carried. 5-0

- G. Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action to approve forgiveness of a high water utility bill due to a water leak discovered by MOC at **507 Post Rd**. *Mayor Veeda. V. Williams, PhD*

Mayor Williams gave a presentation, made comments and answered questions from the City Council.

A motion to **Approve**, Item V-G: to approve forgiveness of a high water utility bill due to a water leak discovered by MOC at **507 Post Rd** was made by Council Member E. Jones and seconded by Council Member R. Bigby, the motion **Passed**.

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

- H.** Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action to approve two (2) Full-Time Equivalents for the Maintenance Department. *Mayor Veeda V. Williams, PhD*

Mayor Williams gave a presentation, made comments and answered questions from the City Council.

Council Member Burton disagreed with hiring two new maintenance employees “just to cut grass.” The people the city has now should be able to do the work since the city has good equipment. To clean ditches will take more equipment, knowledge and skills. He stated this will be building a department towards public works. Mayor Williams stated that is exactly where the City of Arcola is headed. As the city grows, we should be growing with it; we need to be proactive instead of reactive. She believes we need to invest in our residents and they are worth investing in since it has not been done in such a long time.

A motion to **Approve**, Item V-H: to approve two (2) Full-Time Equivalents for the Maintenance Department was made by Mayor Pro-Tem G. Abarr and seconded by Council Member E. Jones, the motion **Passed**.

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

Nay: Council Member F. Burton

Motion carried. 4-1

- I.** Discussion only, to amend the ordinance relating to the City Council Meeting dates and times. *David Olson, City Attorney*

David Olson, spoke about amending the current ordinance to possibly have the 4th Tuesday of the month as a regular meeting day. This day does not have to be used all the time just as needed.

City Council thought it’s a good idea to have fourth Tuesdays added to the proposed amended ordinance. They gave staff the approval to move forward with drafting a proposed ordinance to bring back before City Council.

- J.** Discussion only, relating to a possible ordinance for **Septic Tanks**. *Mayor Veeda V. Williams, PhD and David Olson, City Attorney*

Mayor Williams stated due to number of calls received by people building in the city and the city not having any available sewer taps it’s been difficult to have people come in and not able to

receive permits. However, TCEQ has provided an option and that is to have a septic system that is approved according to their regulations, there are certain maintenance requirements and TCEQ will be heavily monitoring the homeowner's or property owner's systems for a certain length of time. The cost for the system could possibly be a huge amount, but that is dependent upon different factors. David wanted to see if council wanted to entertain this option until the city has and can provide more sewer taps. He would draft up a proposed ordinance and bring it back before council.

There were no objections from council to have staff draft an ordinance and bring it before council.

K. Discussion only, Electronic Sign. *Mayor Veeda. V. Williams, PhD*

Mayor Williams asked council members to help contact the person to get the city's sign back. Council Member Jones stated that she will reach out once she receives a contact number for the individual holding the sign. Mayor Williams did inform him that if talking with this person does not work then they will unfortunately have to take legal action.

VI. PLANS PLAT AND PERMITS

A. Discussion Consideration of and Possible Action on adopting a Resolution accepting the public infrastructure facilities for Post Oak Pointe Section 5 in the City of Arcola, Texas as recommended by the City Engineer. *Llarance Turner, Kaluza, Inc.*

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

A motion to **Approve**, Item VI-A: adopting a Resolution accepting the public infrastructure facilities for Post Oak Pointe Section 5 in the City of Arcola, Texas as recommended by the City Engineer was made by Council Member E. Jones and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem G. Abarr, the motion **Passed**.

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

VII. CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS

A. Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action to approve a contract with **Kaluza, Inc for engineering and surveying services for West Fork Chocolate Bayou drainage improvements from Farm Market 521 to South Pine, City of Arcola, Fort Bend County, Texas in the amount of \$48,050.00 (Enterprise Fund). *Llarance Turner, Kaluza, Inc.***

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

A motion to **Approve**, Item VII-A: to approve a contract with **Kaluza, Inc** for engineering and surveying services for West Fork Chocolate Bayou drainage improvements from Farm Market 521 to South Pine, City of Arcola, Fort Bend County, Texas in the amount of \$48,050.00 (Enterprise Fund). was made by Council Member E. Jones and seconded by Council Member R. Bigby the motion **Passed**.

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

VIII. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. Discussion Consideration of and Possible Action on adopting an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Arcola, Texas, setting a preliminary ad valorem tax rate for the City of Arcola for fiscal year 2025-2026; setting the date and time of a public hearing to be held regarding the fiscal year 2025-2026 tax rate; and providing an effective date. **Public Hearing to be held Tuesday, September 09, 2025 at 6:00pm, 13222 Hwy 6 Arcola, Texas, 77583. Dr. Annette Goldberg, City Administrator**

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

A motion to **Approve with correction**, Item V-A: The approval of the July 2025 Municipal Operations and Consulting (MOC) report was made by, Council Member E. Jones and seconded by Council Member R. Bigby, the motion **Passed with correction**.

Correction is the public hearing to be held **Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 6:00pm, 13222 Hwy 6 Arcola, Texas, 77583.**

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

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

- B. Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action to amend Resolution No. 06-25-2024D to reflect the current day of the council workshops on the Monday before the second Tuesday of the month.

This agenda was not voted on. David stated that this item can be included with agenda item V: I the amending of the Council meeting dates and times.

- C. Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action to approve a resolution censuring Council Member Fred Burton. **Mayor Veeda V. Williams, PhD**

This item was discussed in July 8, 2025, council meeting. Council asked staff to draft a resolution to bring before council.

Council Member Burton stated that this is his own Facebook page, and he knows that Mayor Williams and Priscilla Graham have posted things about him. He finds interesting that he can be censured and waste taxpayer dollars to pay to have the attorney to draw up such a resolution. Council Member Burton also stated to have such a position “you have to have thick skin” and Mayor Williams does not have it, because all she has done to him (ex. running to lawyers to get letters sent to him, getting peace bonds and having an investigation on him for the last ten months of the last 6/7 years he was there.) It’s interesting that this council would vote for this and regardless of whether he says something or not the page will continue. In his closing he stated if council wants to vote censuring him, they can go ahead, but he votes nay on the item.

Council Member Jones then gave her comments stating that wasting taxpayer dollars she remembers when Council Member Burton in his position as mayor brought in his own engineer, knowing the city already had an honest engineer and the person brought in did not care about how development impacted residents, and a lot of unethical (she calls illegal) things were going on. She would much rather see the city spend money on honest things rather than on corrupt things and giving the city a bad name.

Council Member Bigby comments were directed towards agenda item V:K. She is concerned about the electronic sign and the person who has should have been paid at that time and not coming back to the city requesting payment. The sign cost too much for the city to not have possession of the sign.

Council Member Jackson commented on how the activity that has gone on for the last year has really gotten to her. She stated that council is acting unprofessionally and that people all over the country see all of this and this has impacted on her mental health. Closed out with stating that it’s time for everyone to get along because what goes around will come back around. She stated that everyone is acting like children, but at the end of their scuffle they are playing again so why can’t they get along. City Administrator also agreed that what is going on has impacted her and she is seeking therapy.

Mayor Williams apologized that everything has gotten to this point. She stated that the parking lot incident was due to her wanting to speak with Council Member since he was just voted and they had move forward in order for them to work together. It was clear by his words on various platforms that he did not want to speak with her. She stated that this is needed because he goes below the belt with his postings. She made it clear that she will stand up for herself, but she tries to respond respectfully until it becomes too much. Everything that is positively done for the city is criticized by Council Member Burton (ex. the dinner and dialogue, instructing former employees to sue the city, etc.) Yes, she involves the city attorney on open records request because he will get several of his friends to submit open records request at one time and she wants to ensure that city is serving the residents appropriately and legally. She stated that the city has paid following in attorney fees over the last year \$237,675.31 on Council Member shenanigans. The breakdown was \$114,000.00 to Grady Randles firm to try a case against the councilwomen that currently sits on council and he was found acting outside of the scope of his authority; \$6,400.00 was spent on investigating a council member with out the council’s approval, \$7,500.00 for the Fort Bend Investigator to testify in court, \$40, 000.00 the week before for a settlement to former female employee that he spoke to inappropriately; and another \$20,000.00 settlement for things done

under him. There are still outstanding lawsuits the city is dealing with that happened under his administration. The city has paid \$28,000.00 to investigate things done during his time as mayor and the city will continue to move forward. She feels badly too, but she will defend the city and herself. Council Member Burton has been spreading lies stating that Mayor Williams is prejudice against Indians. This is untrue the City of Arcola has diverse community and everyone is welcomed, the city just does not have sewer connections at this time. A lot of time is being wasted fighting instead of moving the city forward.

A motion to **Approve**, Item VIII-C: to approve a resolution censuring Council Member Fred Burton was made by Council Member E. Jones and seconded by Council Member R. Bigby, the motion **Passed**.

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

Nay: Council Member F. Burton
Motion carried. 4-1

IX. 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 may consult its attorney about contemplated litigation and matters in which the duty of the City Attorney requires the discussion to be conducted in close executive session.

No Closed Executive Session

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

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

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

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

Nays: 0

Motion carried: 5-0

Ingrid Flornoy, City Secretary

