



CITY OF ARCOLA

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MINUTES

Arcola City Hall
13222 Highway 6
Arcola, Texas 77583

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 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 Rosemary Bigby

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Fred Burton

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) Anna Meuesses
- 2) Jaison T.

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 F. Burton: Addressed the concern of one of the public speakers regarding light poles not having lights. He instructed the speaker to contact the city secretary's office, and she will contact CenterPoint on the residents' behalf. The City Secretary interjected and stated that she does not contact CenterPoint on behalf of residents and there is a way to submit street light issues through Arcola's webpage.

Council Member Burton, proceed with his second comment regarding his name being mentioned in comment regarding the summer program. Under his administration the summer program had been created but it had not been around for 6 years — 4 max. "He stated that it's going to be called out on something he wants to correct the best he can."

Council Member Burton's third comment was regarding the budget on the agenda. He stated that about 2 months ago or longer that he asked for the amount the "City" has spent on the investigation on him. Council Member Burton says he tried to obtain the information through various modes (i.e. city secretary, his social media, and as his official capacity as a council member) the response from the city attorney is that he can't get it him. He stated that in previous workshop that he would have it the next evening at the city council meeting, which he had not gotten it yet. He had the budget all day and he couldn't find the amount spent on the investigation. His question was, is it a secret or is it none of his business as a council member? He further states that as they [council] get into the budget, he has a lot of other stuff he had highlighted, but the most important thing was the money spent on the investigation since his name is on that. Council Member Burton forwarded his questions to the city attorney. David Olson, the city attorney, says that there are invoices available, but he did not have them with him at the meeting.

Mayor Williams interjected by stating that she had the whole amount for him at the previous meeting. She stated "he ran out here so fast. I didn't run behind him to chase him." Council Member Burton asked to see what she had; Mayor Williams responded that she was not giving him the investigation, in his response he stated that he did not want to see that, but he wanted to see the dollar amount. He wants to see how taxpayer dollars are being spent on him.

At 6:20 pm council went into a ten-minute recess while the Mayor went to her office to retrieve the documents presented at the last meeting. Mayor Williams returned and reconvened the council meeting at 6: 27 pm. She did not have the documentation; however, the amount was in the minutes from the August 12th meeting. The amount was \$28,726.70.

Mayor Williams, asked Council Member Burton if he had any concerns or comments that he would like to continue to make. Council Member Burton responded “no, they will come up as we go through the budget.”

Council Member Jones: Stated that she was reminiscing about when Council Member Burton was mayor and they had an investigation on a council member and the council never consented to that, but he did it. Including going to the children’s school videotaping. She further stated that Council Member Burton showed the videos and the council didn’t know all the money he was spending without council’s approval to investigate a council member. But when an investigation is done on him for things under his administration there is a big problem. If it was right for Council Member Burton to do it to someone else then he can’t be mad when it’s done to him. This investigation is lawful and so much information is being revealed. So when there is someone trying to do right by the city then people should back them up instead of coming up with comments that aren’t true and being sneaky.

Then her last comments were directed towards the citizens in the meeting; “If you want what’s best for the city and not just want to be a follower of a leader who’s not an actual good leader, then something is wrong with you too. You should look at the mirror and see what you could see. And seeing if what you’re seeing is something that’s gonna make you proud. And quit being somebody that just let somebody lead you by like you don’t have a thought for yourself.”

Council Member Bigby: Stated that she is still looking for receipts for the sign that was put up and the city paid a fortune for and they have yet to get a receipt. She don’t understand what Council Member Burton is worried about, what was spent on an investigation on him. All she wants to know is where is the sign, where is the receipt, where is the storage bill? Council Member Burton response was “I’m not in the sign business.” Council Member Bigby finishes her comments she would like to know exactly how much was spent on the marque sign. Mayor Williams responded that it was over \$50,000.00. Then she asked the mayor did they pay for storage and the response was no, but they will finish the conversation later. Council Member Burton interjected stated “you should talk about things you know, not things that you think about.” Mayor Williams hit her gavel to bring the decorum back on the dais. Council Member Bigby stated that she was done. Mayor Williams moved on.

Mayor Williams: “Y’all listen. I’ve gotten into this place, into this position just to try to help my community. You know, politics doesn’t have to be like this because that’s what all of this is about. It’s about politics. And, you know, we don’t have to do that. I mean, the city of Arcola has been put out here for so long in a negative light and stuff. And listen, I just felt like this was you know, God allows all of us an opportunity to give back and stuff. And so, I felt like this was an opportunity for me.

Mister Burton, I will say this. I don’t have a problem. If the voters vote you in in May, I will gladly acquiesce this position. I won’t spend one second trolling the next person who sits in this seat. If I can’t help them, you won’t ever hear from me trying to come and constantly badger about the smallest of thing. So, all I’m trying to do is work on behalf of the people here in this city who elected me to be in this city in this position. Had they decided something different, I would’ve gladly accepted that because I trust the voters of this city.

So, you know, we just I just wanna move the city forward, and I understand that it’s gonna come with some criticism, and I’m happy to your criticism about the budget. I get that; nobody’s gonna like that. I mean, that’s criticism that I can accept because that’s about what we’re doing for the people in this city. So I welcome those criticisms. But what I will say is that we are in a better situation financially than we have been in a very long time. We are in a better position financially than we were last year when I took over. And so I’m just saying if y’all — you know, give us a chance. Give the administration a chance to do what it’s going to do. That’s all I’ve asked for, and I think the council who have gotten behind the vision for the city and voted to do the thing, everything we’ve done has been to benefit the residents of this city. Veeda Williams hasn’t benefited one bit from being in this position. I mean, aside from the

\$1,200 dollars stipend per month, I will put it out there. I mean, that's all I get from this position. So please know that it's just to work on behalf of people. And so, anyway, I'll get off my soapbox on that end, and we'll move on to the to the agenda.”

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 minutes of the workshop on Monday August 11, 2025 and regular meeting on Tuesday, August 12, 2025. ***Ingrid Flornoy, City Secretary***

A motion to **Approve**, Items III-A: was enacted by one motion 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 and Council Member F. Burton

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

IV. **PRESENTATIONS (INFORMATION ONLY)**

- A. August 2025 Permit Monthly Report- ***Distributed***

Marquis Walker the Permit Administrator presented the report to the City Council

- B. City Engineer Report- ***Llarance Turner, Kaluza, Inc.***

- C. Summer Camp 2025 Report- ***Priscilla T Graham***

- D. State of the City- ***Mayor Veeda. V. Williams, PhD***

V. **REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action to approve the August 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 V-A: The approval of the August 2025 Municipal Operations and Consulting (MOC) report 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

- B. Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action to approve the Financial Report for July 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-B: The approval of the Financial Report for July 2025 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

Abstain: Council Member F. Burton

Motion carried. 4-1

- C. Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action on the “Petition for Release from ETJ of City of Arcola,” commonly known as 5401 Ladonia St., called Arcola Community Estates, a 26.2161-acre tract of land situated in the A.B. Langermann Survey, Abstract No. 456, Fort Bend County, Texas, being out of and a part of a called 32.6651-acre tract as conveyed unto Arcola Development, LLC. **David Olson, City Attorney**

A motion to **table**, Item V-C: on the “Petition for Release from ETJ of City of Arcola,” commonly known as 5401 Ladonia St., called Arcola Community Estates, a 26.2161-acre tract of land situated in the A.B. Langermann Survey, Abstract No. 456, Fort Bend County, Texas, being out of and a part of a called 32.6651-acre tract as conveyed unto Arcola Development, LLC was made by, Council Member E. Jones and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem G. Abarr, 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 F. Burton.

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

VI. **PLANS PLAT AND PERMITS**

- A. Discussion Consideration of and Possible Action to accept the preliminary plat for Glendale Lakes Section 17, City of Arcola, Fort Bend County, Texas. **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 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 and Council Member F. Burton.

Nay: 0

Motion carried. 5-0

VII. **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

VIII. 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*

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

A motion to **Approve** to close out the city council meeting, 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, Council Member F. Burton.

Nays: 0

Motion carried: 5-0

Ingrid Flornoy, City Secretary

