



CITY OF ARCOLA

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MINUTES

Arcola City Hall
13222 Highway 6
Arcola, Texas 77583

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MINUTES

6:00 P.M.

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Veeda V. Williams, PhD

Mayor Veeda V. Williams, PhD called the meeting to order at 6:01 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.

Mayor Pro -Tem G. Abarr; Council Member E. Jones; Council Member R. Bigby;
Council Member Fred Burton; Council Member Florence Jackson and Mayor Veeda V.
Williams, PhD

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) **Pamela Johnson**- addressed the council regarding property on Disney Street owned by a woman currently in a nursing home. Ms. Johnson explained that the property, which is 9,750 square feet, is effectively landlocked due to overgrown access on Disney Street. She requested either city assistance in clearing the road or written permission for potential builders to clear the land themselves. Ms. Johnson noted that a business had offered the owner \$5,000 for the property, but based on market information, it should be worth \$50,000-\$75,000. Mayor Williams indicated that city staff would meet with Ms. Johnson to discuss possible solutions, though noting it was not budgeted for the current fiscal year.

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 V. Williams, PhD, Mayor Pro-Tem Greg Abarr, Council Member Evelyn Jones, Council Member Florence Jackson, Council Member Fred Burton, and Council Member Rosemary Bigby.

Council Member Florence Jackson wished everyone a Happy New Year. **Mayor Veeda V. Williams** also extended Happy New Year wishes to all present.

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 to approve the minutes of the workshop on Monday, December 08, 2025 and regular meeting on Tuesday, December 09, 2025. **Ingrid Flornoy, City Secretary**

Council Member Evelyn Jones made a motion to **Approve** the minutes of the workshop on Monday, December 08, 2025 and regular meeting on Tuesday, December 09, 2025, seconded by Council Member Rosemary Bigby. The motion **Passed** unanimously.

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

Nay: 0 Motion Carried 5-0

IV. DISCUSSION ONLY ITEMS

- A. City of Arcola City Hall digital sign
- B. Prior Real Estate Transactions by City of Arcola
- C. Modified Permits Process
- D. Unofficial Public Parking in City Hall Parking Lot
- E. Police Department: Extended Hours/ Code Enforcement
- F. Maintenance Building/ Sewer Line

Mayor Williams suggested tabling items A, B, D, E, and F under the discussion only section until a later date, as these had been discussed in a council workshop the day before.

Motion to **Table** items A, B, D, E, and F was made by Council Member Evelyn Jones, seconded by Council Member Rosemary Bigby. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Nay: 0 Motion Carried 5-0

Mayor Williams briefly discussed the modified permits process (item C), explaining that the city is transitioning to a more efficient system using iWorks, which will improve the process for both residents and commercial entities. She mentioned that this has been part of ongoing efforts to make city processes more effective across all departments.

V. PRESENTATIONS (INFORMATION ONLY)

- A. December 2025 Permit Monthly Report- *Marquis Walker, Permit Administrator* – Included in Backup
- B. City Engineer Report- *Llarance Turner, Kaluza, Inc.* – Included in Backup
- C. City of Arcola Police Department Report- *Arika Carr-Bryant, Police Chief* – Included in Backup
- D. State of the City- *Mayor Veeda V. Williams, PhD*

Mayor Williams announced an upcoming heavy trash day on Saturday, January 17th from 8 AM to 12 PM, with volunteers available to assist seniors and disabled residents. She noted that the city is enforcing its rate order regarding delinquent water accounts and has implemented a \$1,500 fine for illegal access to city infrastructure. Mayor Williams shared a positive commendation from a resident praising Officer Anthony Jones for his professionalism in handling a traffic accident. She thanked local businesses for complying with inspection requirements and noted that construction of the new water tank has begun. Lastly, Mayor Williams reminded all parties involved in reporting for the city, including contractors and staff, to submit their reports promptly to the city secretary to avoid last-minute rushes.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

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

Roland Leal, MOC Area Manager, presented the December 2025 report. He reported 989 total water connections (with 19 vacant) and 1,929 total sewer connections. The well produced 7,363,000 gallons, and the city billed for 7,067,000 gallons (96% accountability). There were 78 delinquent accounts for water and sewer, 46 for sewer only, and 1 sewer count plus. The total revenue was \$135,408.39.

The wastewater treatment plant was operating at 31% of permitted capacity with all parameters within permit limits. Mr. Leal requested approval for writing off two uncollectible accounts totaling \$499.02, and one returned payment for \$188.77. **Report Included in Backup.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Greg Abarr made a motion to **Approve** the MOC monthly report, seconded by Council Member Rosemary Bigby. The motion **Passed** unanimously.

Ayes: Mayor Pro- Tem G. Abarr, Council Member E. Jones, 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 on the final approval of the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget. ***Dr. Annette Guajardo, City Administrator***

Dr. Annette Guajardo, City Administrator, presented the final budget numbers for fiscal year 2024-2025. Key figures included:

- General Fund: \$812,779.38 in expenditures with a net revenue over expenditures of \$682,856.65
- Enterprise Fund: ending fund balance of \$16,088,472
- 4B Corporation Fund: ending balance of \$1,389,844.90
- Debt Service: ending fund balance of \$396,858.69

She noted that these figures were final unless changes were required as a result of the audit. **Report Included in Backup.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Greg Abarr made a motion to **Approve** the final Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget, seconded by Council Member Evelyn Jones. The motion **Passed** unanimously.

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

Nay: 0 Motion Carried 5-0

- C. Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action to approve the completion of the sewer connection for the Maintenance Building in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.00 (Enterprise Fund). *Mayor Veeda V. Williams, PhD*

Mayor Williams explained that the \$2,500 requested would cover the cost to connect the maintenance building to the sewer line that MOC has already extended to the manhole.

Mayor Pro-Tem Greg Abarr made a motion to **Approve** the \$2,500.00 to complete the connection of the maintenance building to the sewer line, seconded by Council Member Evelyn Jones. The motion **Passed** unanimously.

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

Nay: 0 Motion Carried 5-0

- D. Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action concerning the termination of the contract with Teksync Technologies for landline phone service. *David Olson, City Attorney*

Items D and E regarding phone service contracts were moved to follow the executive session on the advice of the City Attorney.

Mayor Pro-Tem Greg Abarr made a motion to **Move** agenda items D and E to after Closed Executive Session, seconded by Council Member Rosemary Bigby. The motion **Passed** unanimously.

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

Nay: 0 Motion Carried 5-0

After discussing the matter in executive session, the City Attorney indicated it would be appropriate to entertain a motion related to their discussion.

Mayor Pro-Tem Greg Abarr made a motion to **Authorize** the city attorney and the mayor to work out an agreement for mutual termination of the contract with TechSync Technologies, seconded by Council Member Evelyn Jones. The motion **Passed** unanimously.

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

Nay: 0 Motion Carried 5-0

- E. Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action to approve a contract with **Airespring** for landline phone service not to exceed \$800.00 monthly (General Fund). Item was tabled December 9, 2025. *Arika Carr-Bryant, Police Chief*

Following the action on the TechSync contract termination, the Council addressed the contract with Airespring for landline phone services.

Mayor Pro-Tem Greg Abarr made a motion to **Approve** the contract with Airespring for landline phone services, contingent on successful agreement on the TechSync contract termination, not to exceed \$800.00 monthly from the General Fund, seconded by Council Member Evelyn Jones. The motion **Passed** unanimously.

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

Nay: 0 Motion Carried 5-0

VII. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

- A.** Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action to approve AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 10 “PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY” OF THE ARCOLA MUNICIPAL CODE; ADOPTING SECTION 1.16.030 “ENFORCEMENT BY CITATION” UNDER TITLE 1 AMENDING SECTION 10.04.040 “ABATEMENT OF THE CITY”; ADDING NEW SECTION 10.04.080 “RIGHT OF ENTRY” AND 10.04.090 “ENFORCEMENT; ISSUANCE OF CITATIONS”, PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT, PENALTIES, AND REMEDIES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE AND PROVIDING AND EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF. *Arika Carr-Bryant, Police Chief*

Chief Carr-Bryant presented an ordinance amending Chapter 10 of the Arcola Municipal Code to provide the police department with the ability to issue citations for code violations.

Mayor Pro-Tem Greg Abarr made a motion to **Approve** the ordinance amending Chapter 10 for public health and safety, seconded by Council Member Evelyn Jones. The motion **Passed** unanimously.

Ayes: Mayor Pro- Tem G. Abarr, Council Member E. Jones, 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 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARCOLA, TEXAS, AMENDING THE FEE SCHEDULE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. *Arika Carr-Bryant, Police Chief*

Chief Carr-Bryant presented the amended fee schedule, which included new items such as a \$2,500 deposit for professional services beyond standard scope, a \$500 pre-development fee, a \$1,000 commercial civil plan review fee, field dirt and a fence permit have been added, and a \$100 annual contractor registration fee. She clarified that residential fees would remain at the cost charged by the inspector providing the service, and that code enforcement abatement costs would be passed through to property owners who failed to address violations themselves.

Mayor Pro-Tem Greg Abarr made a motion to **Approve** the amend the fee schedule, seconded by Council Member Evelyn Jones. The motion **Passed** unanimously.

Ayes: Mayor Pro- Tem G. Abarr, Council Member E. Jones, Council Member R. Bigby, Council Member F. Jackson, and Council Member F. Burton
Nay: 0 Motion Carried 5-0

VIII. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council will convene into Closed Executive Session as authorized under Sections 551.071 and 551.074 of the Texas Government Code for:

- A. Consultation with Attorney. 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.
- a. Teksync Technologies
 - b. Olson and Olson- future litigation
 - c. Patel Follow-up
 - d. Water Leak Adjustments:
 - McKeever residential address
 - St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church

RECESS: At 7:13 p.m., Mayor Williams announced that the City Council would convene into Closed Executive Session as authorized under Section 551.071 and 551.074 of the Texas Government Code for Consultation with Attorney.

PRESENT

All Members of City Council were Present.

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

IX. 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*

Mayor Williams reconvened into the regular meeting at 7:42 p.m. with action taken on agenda items VI. A and VI. B as noted above. One item from closed executive session was voted on and another was only commented on.

- 1) Upon reconvening into regular session, Mayor Pro Tem Abarr made a motion regarding the McKeever resident water and sewer invoice. Based on the facts discussed in executive session, he proposed approving an adjustment to two months of their bill, reducing it to what their average usage is for the year. He noted that the Council had already received a paid invoice showing that the water leak had been repaired.

Mayor Pro-Tem Greg Abarr made a motion to **Approve** an adjustment to two months of the McKeever residence water and sewer bill, reducing it to their average usage for the year, based on the documentation showing the water leak had been repaired, seconded by Council Member Evelyn Jones. The motion **Passed** unanimously.

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

Nay: 0 Motion Carried 5-0

- 2) The Council discussed the water leak adjustment request from Saint Thomas Church but decided to wait until the next meeting when they receive the paid invoice for the water leak repair.

Before adjourning, Police Chief Arika Carr-Bryant addressed the Council regarding concerns about Council Member Burton. She stated that he continues to post information about the police department that is untrue, specifically mentioning a recent video he posted of an officer who had fallen asleep. Chief Carr-Bryant explained that this officer was terminated during Council Member Burton's (then mayor) administration for being asleep, but was later brought back at Burton's request, also during his administration. She noted the officer has a documented medical condition that has been addressed through counseling and discipline.

Chief Carr-Bryant expressed dissatisfaction about Council Member Burton's continued criticism of her officers, including complaints about officers eating at local establishments while on duty. She emphasized that she welcomes complaints to be brought directly to the police department so they can be properly investigated.

During Chief Carr-Bryant's statement, Council Member Burton attempted to interject several times. After multiple warnings from the Mayor about being out of order and disrupting the meeting, he was directed to leave the chambers. Council Member Burton was then escorted out of the meeting.

The City Attorney suggested that Chief Carr-Bryant memorialize her concerns in writing and submit them to the Mayor, himself, and the City Secretary. He indicated the Council could consider a resolution of censorship to distinguish themselves from those comments and clarify the city's position on these matters.

Mayor Williams expressed her dissatisfaction with the ongoing behavior she has endured for the past two years since declaring her candidacy for office, stating she would no longer allow such disruptions in the chamber.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m. Motion to Adjourn was made by Mayor Pro- Tem Greg Abarr and seconded by Council Member Evelyn Jones. The motion Passed unanimously.

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

Nay: 0 Motion Carried 5-0

Ingrid Flornoy, City Secretary

