



CITY OF ARCOLA

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MINUTES

Arcola City Hall
13222 Highway 6
Arcola, Texas 77583

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL 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 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

Mayor Pro-Tem Greg Abarr

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Fred Burton

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.

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.

Mayor Pro-Tem Greg Abarr informed the Council about a meeting with Ron Cox, who will be conducting the city's strategic plan. Mr. Cox would like to schedule 30-minute to one-hour phone interviews with each council member on Thursday, February 26th. Council members were asked to select a time slot between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM and provide their availability to the city administrator.

III. DISCUSSION ONLY ITEMS

A. Migration to new email “.gov”

Mayor Williams informed the Council that the City of Arcola had completed migration from ".com" to ".gov" email addresses. She noted that emails sent to the old ".com" addresses would still be automatically forwarded to the new addresses. The mayor explained that the change was implemented to reduce scam attempts and phishing emails that had been targeting city officials. She mentioned that if council members experienced any issues with their email, they should contact Penncomp.

IV. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

A. Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action to approve purchasing a new Maintenance Trailer. *Mayor Veeda V. Williams, PhD*

Mayor Williams explained that the current maintenance trailer was in disrepair with significant water leaks. She reported that when it rains, water comes through the ceiling. The city had relocated maintenance staff to the community center as a precautionary measure after concerns about possible mold in the building were raised.

The mayor presented several options that had been investigated:

- Repairing the existing trailer: estimated cost of \$96,150
- Dismantling and removing the existing trailer: estimated cost of \$35,000
- Purchasing a new trailer: estimated cost of \$143,000

- Purchasing a used trailer (less than 5 years old per city ordinance): estimated cost of \$92,000

Mayor Williams noted that a mold inspection had been conducted, and the report indicated no visible mold growth, though there was wet insulation that appeared dark in some areas. The inspector recommended a more invasive inspection and professional drying of the trailer.

Council Member Burton suggested installing an awning over the trailer to prevent further water damage if it was determined there was no mold present.

Mayor Pro-Tem Abarr commented that the building had been moved multiple times and wasn't properly sealed, causing the water infiltration issues. He advocated for first stopping the water from entering the building.

Council Member Jones noted that it would make more financial sense to purchase a used trailer rather than repair the current one, as the repair costs were higher than a used replacement.

After discussion, the Council agreed to authorize the mayor to:

1. Pursue more thorough mold testing to determine definitively if mold is present
2. If mold is present, proceed with seeking a replacement trailer
3. If no mold is present, get estimates for both repairing the trailer and installing an awning over it

Council Member Evelyn Jones made a motion to **Authorize** o have the mold company do more stringent testing and, based on the results, either pursue replacement of the trailer if mold is present or obtain three estimates for repairs and an awning if no mold is detected, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Greg Abarr. 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

V. **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. 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.

There Was no Closed Executive Session

VI. **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*

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m. Motion to Adjourn was made by Council Member Evelyn Jones and seconded by Mayor Pro- Tem Greg Abarr. 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

