

Mayor – Angela Russell
Recorder – Rhonda Ardemagni
City Attorney –Justin Eichmann
Law Firm–Harrington-Miller
City Engineer–Zak Johnston



Ward 1 Position 1 – Misty Piazza
Ward 1 Position 2– Amber Ibarra
Ward 2 Position 1–Daniel Montez
Ward 2 Position 2–Larry Ardemagni
Ward 3 Position 1- Mike Washkowiak
Ward 3 Position 2– Tim Burress

City Council
February 20, 2024
Minutes

The Tontitown Public Hearing and City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Tontitown City Hall.

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 220 667 057 989

Passcode: Aepw56

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Due to technical difficulties this meeting is not available on YouTube.

State of the City- Angie

At this time Mayor Russell gave the State of the City.

City Council

1. Meeting Call to Order
2. Roll Call
All in attendance
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Agenda

Three items were added to the end of this agenda G, H, I.

(These three items were moved forward from the last Committee of the Whole Meeting)

Amber Ibarra motioned to approve the agenda.
Second by Misty Piazza

Motion Passes Unanimously

5. Approval of the December 19, 2023, City Council Minutes

Daniel Montez motioned to approve the minutes.
Second by Mike Washkowiak

Motion Passes Unanimously

6. Approval of the December 20, 2023, Training Minutes

Misty Piazza motioned to approve the training minutes.
Second by Daniel Montez

Motion Passes Unanimously

7. Financial Report – January

Reference the city website for detailed report.

8. Financial Report – February

Reference the city website for detailed report.

9. Department Reports

A. Museum – January

Tontitown Historical Museum (THM) Report for the COW Meeting Tuesday, January 16, 2023

The THM Board of Directors met in person on Monday, January 8, 2024.

1. New Board Members: Allyson Bowen Morales and Ashlyn Bowen have asked to join the board of directors as a full board member and junior board member. We ask that the mayor to approve their appointment. Jennifer DeMartino and Caroline Ceola will move off the board after the February meeting.
2. Board Member updates: Bev Cortiana is moving to a regular board member as Megan McAfee takes over as Treasurer for the board. We will be filling the Vice President role next meeting.
3. Staff Changes: The board conducted interviews the past couple weeks and will be offering the part-time (12hour) position, pending the applicants acceptance of the position they will begin by the end of January.
4. New Exhibits Coming: The board has compiled a list of new exhibits and displays that will make their way into the museum and city hall display case, we look forward to sharing these with city council and the community as they are revealed.
5. Hours changes: New hours began January 1st, so far, we have had visitors on the new day!

New Museum Hours starting January 1st: Wednesday & Thursday 9 am – 1 pm; Friday & Saturday 1 pm – 4 pm

The next THM Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 8, 2023, at 6:00 pm in City Hall Conference Room.

B. Museum – February

Tontitown Historical Museum (THM) Report for the COW Meeting Tuesday, February 20, 2024

The THM Board of Directors met in person on Monday, February 5, 2024.

1. Board of Directors Updates: We are excited to announce we have several members of the community wanting to join our Museum Board of Directors: Allyson Bowen and Kara Jo Engle; Junior Board Members: Ashlyn Bown and Torrie Pianalto. We ask the mayor and city council to approve these appointments to the board tonight.
2. New Staff: A small hiring committee interviewed candidates and hired Amanda Taylor for the part-time Museum Assistant position, Amanda is currently a graduate student in Museum Studies and has previous experience working as a registrar at The Old State House in Little Rock. We are excited about the knowledge she brings to the museum and her eagerness to learn our town's history.
3. University of Arkansas Italian Studies Partnership: We have been approached in the past about partnering with the U of A to host a research intern, but the timing just hasn't worked until this spring 2024 semester. We are hosting Alessandro Palazzuoli-Bevilacqua through May, he will be conducting some Italian translations on documents from the early days of Tontitown, as well as helping put together a new exhibit in the museum which we hope to have ready by Heritage Day, June 2, 2024.
4. "Cries From the Cottonfield": Dr. Larry Foley is diligently working on the documentary "Cries from the Cottonfield", he aims to have it completed and ready for premiere in early mid-April, we are currently looking at sites that the first premiere could take place, he would like the first showing to happen in Tontitown as that is the center of the documentary. We hope everyone will have a chance to view the film either at a local showing or via PBS when it is released this summer through their televised showing.

Regular Museum Hours: Wednesday 9 am – 1 pm; Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 1 pm – 4 pm

The next THM Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for March 4th.

C. Police – January

Tontitown Police Monthly Report Month: December 2023

Calls for Service – 842
Accident Reports – 16
Warrants Served – 99
Warrants Outstanding - 1307
Warrants Amount - \$ 1,685,708.50

Training Hours (YTD) – 3063

Citation Total - 218
Speeding Citations - 14
(Other) Traffic Citations - 150
Criminal Citations – 12
Improper Driving (City Ordinance) – 42

Warning Total - 521
Speeding Warnings – 113
(Other) Traffic Warnings – 408

D. Police – February

At this time Police Chief Corey Jenison was surprised when he received a standing ovation for his courage and leadership in a pursuit and the capture of two individuals that had no regard to human life.

Mayor Angie Russell presented a plaque for “Outstanding Courage” to Chief Jenison along with another beautiful wooden award that reads “The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion” Proverbs 28:1.

State Representative Robin Lunstrum thanked Chief Jenison for his great leadership and courage, she then presented to him a Pair Boots, to keep” Kick-N Butt” for the city of Tontitown.

The city council expressed their gratitude to Chief Jenison and how proud the city is for all the Tontitown police officers.

Tontitown Police Monthly Report Month: January 2024

Calls for Service – 647

Accident Reports – 21
Warrants Served – 87
Warrants Outstanding - 1328
Warrants Amount - \$ 1,680,270.50

Training Hours (YTD) – 236
Citation Total - 189
Speeding Citations – 8
(Other) Traffic Citations – 137
Criminal Citations – 31
Improper Driving (City Ordinance) - 13

Warning Total - 405
Speeding Warnings – 98
(Other) Traffic Warnings – 307

E. Fire – January

Fire Department Report December 2023

Total Calls: 45
EMS 26
FIRE 2
MVA 5
FALSE ALARM 9
SERVICE CALL 3
MUTUAL AID 0

Calls within city limits of Tontitown

December 2023: 652 calls for service

December 2022: 514 calls for service

Increase of 138 calls to date over 2022

Average response time (Alarm to en route) listed at: 1 minute 19 seconds.

Average on scene/arrival time (Alarm to on scene): 4 minutes 51 seconds.

Code Enforcement opened __ new cases and closed __ in December.

The fire department completed over 152 training hours in December.

F. Fire – February

Fire Department Report January 2024

Total Calls: 42

EMS 21
FIRE 3
MVA 4

FALSE ALARM 7
SERVICE CALL 7
MUTUAL AID 0

Calls within city limits of Tontitown

January 2024: 42 calls for service
of 15 calls to date over 2023

January 2023: 57 calls for service Decrease

Average response time (Alarm to en route) listed at: 1 minute 25 seconds.

Average on scene/arrival time (Alarm to on scene): 4 minutes 04 seconds.

Code Enforcement opened _0_ new cases and closed _6_ in January.

The fire department completed training hours in January.

G. Public Works/Engineering -January

Reference the city website for detailed report.

H. Building Report – January

Reference the city website for detailed report.

I. Building Report – February

Reference the city website for detailed report.

J. Planning – January

January Agenda: 1. Ruth's Landing, LLC - The applicant is requesting approval of a Large-Scale Development at the southwest corner of E. Henri de Tonti Boulevard and Industrial Circle. Applicant to construct a 7,500 square foot building of four commercial units.

Building Report for December

Planning

1. Refinancing of Bond Election – Staff is working with the U of A Extension office to assist in putting a information packet for the public.

2. Economic Development Plan – I completed an economic development plan for Tontitown. In the plan, it identifies the need for a connection and support for our small business in Tontitown. Our first step will offer a First Coffee meeting on February 6th.

3. Grant for Fire Truck – Ryan and I are scheduled to meet with Tina Cole, NWAEEED on February 1st to discuss applying for 2 grants for the new Fire Truck.

4. Impact Fees for Street, Fire and Police – Consultant requested additional information last week on the Police and Fire. The report is scheduled to be completed sometime in February.

5. Zoning Overlay District for 612/412 – Zak and I met with NWARDP this past week to seek their assistance in putting together an overlay district to assist in the development of this area.

K. Planning – February

COW February Agenda:

1. Willard Rezone – The applicant is requesting a rezone of 2.89 acres Agriculture (AG) to Residential Estate (RE) at 443 W. Liberty 1145 to construct a single-family home. Parcel #: 83037641-001.

Community Development

1. Development Codes Update
2. Community Foundation
3. First Coffee
4. Community project funding
5. Impact fees
6. Hertiage District
7. Street Maintenance Plan

10. Comments from Citizens-

Kenneth Lovett 18702 Clearwater Rd., Fayetteville, AR

1. Vapors are still present.
2. Need Continued support regarding Waste Management.
3. Track out issues on Arbor Acres Road.

Kara Jo Engle 811 Ardemagni Rd., Tontitown, AR

1. Kara Jo Engle added a heartfelt thank you to the Fire and Police Department for their assistance when her home was struck by lightning. She loves the whole team and is proud to be led by such a wonderful group of people.

Brad Bruns 861 Verona Ave. Tontitown, AR

1. Mr. Bruns is retired from the police force and doesn't like pursuits, but Corey's was a need, and with the extensive training, the maneuver that was used along with his instinct, rose to the top, Corey risked his life to save many more, he is a hero.

11. Old Business: NONE

12. New Business:

A. Planning Commission- Letters of Intent

Four letters of intent were submitted by the following. Each individual was given the opportunity to address the council, then the council was initiated into the executive session.

Bill Hudson
Donnie Davis
James Dean
Josh Craine

Daniel Montez motioned that Donnie Davis, James Dean, and Josh Craine be appointed to the Planning Commission.

Second by Larry Ardemagni

Motion Passes Unanimously

- B. Approval of an ordinance to rezone approximately 37.53 acres of real property located at 523 S Barrington Road – Angie/Planning (Carry over from January)

Larry Ardemagni motioned to approve.

Second by Amber Ibarra

Motion Passes Unanimously

- C. Approval of an ordinance to amend section 51.04 Water Service Rates: **Declaring an emergency and for other purposes** – Angie/James (Carry over from January)

Tim Burress motioned to approve.

Second by Misty Piazza

Motion Passes Unanimously

Amber Ibarra motioned to approve the Emergency Clause.

Second by Daniel Montez

Motion Passes Unanimously

- D. Approval of a resolution to amend the 2023 Budget- Angie

Larry Ardemagni motioned to approve.

Second by Misty Piazza

Motion Passes Unanimously

- E. Approval of the appointment of Allyson Bowen, Ashlyn Bowen, Kara Jo Engle, and Torrie Pianalto to the Tontitown Historic Museum Board – Angie

Each individual introduced themselves to the council.

Daniel Montez motioned to approve.

Second by Tim Burress

Daniel Montez Voted- YES

Larry Ardemagni Voted- YES

Tim Burress Voted- YES

Misty Piazza Voted- Abstained

Mike Washkowiak Voted- YES

Amber Ibarra Voted- YES

Motion Passes

- F. Approval for the purchase of a vehicle for the Police Department- Angie/Corey

Daniel Montez motioned to approve and purchase through the General Fund.

Second by Amber Ibarra

Motion Passes Unanimously

- G. Approval of a Resolution authorizing the mayor to negotiate and execute a contract with Black Hills Energy for relocation of a gas main- Angie/James

Larry Ardemagni motioned to approve.

Second by Mike Washkowiak

Motion Passes Unanimously

- H. Approval of a Resolution by the city to appoint a representative to the Benton Washington Regional Public Water Authority- Angie/James

Misty Piazza motioned to approve.

Second by Tim Burress

Motion Passes Unanimously

- I. Approval of a Resolution to authorize a work order for phase 2 of the stormwater master plan- Angie/Mark

Misty Piazza motioned to approve.

Second by Amber Ibarra

Motion Passes Unanimously

13. Comments from Alderman

Mike Washkowiak

1. Request that the Financial Report include a detailed check register of all checks.
2. Thanked those who showed interest in the Planning Commission and asked everyone to stay involved.
3. Nice to see young people getting involved.
4. Thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

Tim Burress

1. Thanked those who showed interest in the Planning Commission.
2. Nice to meet Mr. Hudson.
3. Spoke about the police pursuits.

Larry Ardemagni

1. Thanked Mr. Hudson.
2. Thanked the Police Department.

Amber Ibarra

1. Agreed with what everyone else has already said.

Misty Piazza

1. Thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.
2. Thanked the Planning members and Mr. Hudson.
3. Appreciates what the Police and Fire Departments do for the city.

Daniel Montez

1. Thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.
2. Encourages citizens to get involved.
3. Congratulations to the new members of the Museum Board.
4. Thanked all city employees.

Police Chief Corey Jenison addressed the council regarding the police pursuit.

14. Comments from Mayor

1. Appreciates all the council and their support.
2. Thanked the City Attorney Justin Eichmann.

15. Comments from City Attorney- NONE

16. Adjournment- All in Favor

Approved this day _____ of _____, 2024

Angela Russell, Mayor

Rhonda Ardamagni, City Clerk-Recorder