

Mayor – Angela Russell
Recorder – Rhonda Ardemagni
City Attorney –Justin Eichmann
Law Firm--Harrington-Miller
City Engineer – CK Civil Engineering



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

**Committee of The Whole
September 4th, 2025
Minutes**

The Tontitown Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 4th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Tontitown City Hall, Tontitown, Arkansas and via Microsoft Teams.

Join on your computer, mobile app, or room device.

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Meeting ID: 264 068 997 841

Passcode: eKyS39

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

Tim Burress motioned to approve the agenda.
Second by Mike Waskowiak

Motion Passes

6. Comments from Citizens

Kenneth Lovett 18702 Clearwater Rd., Fayetteville, AR

1. I'm still kind of frustrated with the changes in the agenda in the two week two meetings in a week. So anyway, I don't know if he'll accept it, but I want to pass this to Mr. Tim, and he can read it or pass it along to anybody else he wants. Name of this book is leadership and self deception, getting out of the box. One of the passages on it, it says, "One person in an organization by being in the box and failing to focus on results provokes his or her co-workers to fail to focus on results as well. Collusion spreads far and wide and the end result is that co-workers position themselves against co-workers, work groups against work groups, departments against departments. People who came together to help an organization succeed actually end up delighting in each other's failure and resenting each other's successes. Thank y'all.

Jerry Bowen 235 E Henri De Tonti, Tontitown, AR

1. May take just a hair longer, but I want to apologize. I wasn't here Tuesday. My dad had surgery he had some cancer removed. So anyway, I want to get on this as quickly as I can so I can get through my deal. I stand here today to address behaviors and decisions not only risking damaged individual reputations, but more importantly threatening the standards this governing body is meant to uphold, and I believe it still does. First and foremost, I want to speak about leadership. Over the past year and a half, I have completed FBI Leeda Supervisor Institute, Command Institute, Executive Institute. I've earned a Trilogy Award with FBI Leeda. I'm currently the only officer in the state who's completed FBI Leeda as Five-Star Chief Executive Institute. Through these and other professional development courses, I've learned a great deal about integrity, responsibility, what it truly means to lead. As leaders, we are accountable for those we lead. We accept in their failures, and we give them credit for their successes. Leadership is not about authority. It's about integrity. Integrity, simply put, is doing what's right when no one's watching. It means being honest, transparent, and consistent. It means owning our decision and not shifting blame onto others. In the matter of concerning the city's IT service, I want to be clear. I'm not a decision maker, nor did I purchase equipment for the fire department or the city police server, nor did I sign a contract. Despite that, at times I've been publicly drawn into discussions that I had very little to do with. What I did is speak honestly about the services Mr. Lloyd was providing at the time. We were having issues with the IT company. Mr. Lloyd stepped up and resolved problems quickly and efficiently. That is my experience, and I stand by that statement. I was asked by Mayor Russell to look over agreement with Telecom. I recall raising concerns about a particular sentence, something I interpret as a non-compete clause and I recommended the mayor speak with city attorney. I also said at that time that there was a way to hire Mr. Lloyd. It was worth considering based on his performance. I now recognize involving myself in the matter may have been a mistake made with good intention but it's a mistake, nonetheless. This brings me my next point or next point accountability. True leadership means holding ourselves the same standards we expect from others. It means taking responsibility even when it's uncomfortable. I take responsibility for not speaking up sooner. I remain quiet out of concern for my job and the job of others in the police department. I was told there was a list of employees including myself that were being considered for termination. I know now. I don't know how or why that list was originated. I can only make assumptions. In hindsight, I should have spoken out earlier. I should have stood by my standards I spent my entire career upholding. But I can say this with a clear conscience that my moral compass has always guided my actions. To the citizens of Tontitown, I know there are those who want change. I don't necessarily disagree. I've always treated every citizen who's reached out to me with respect, regardless of their views, and that won't change. I'm not here today to quietly accept false accusations or shoulder blame that is not mine. I am here because I believe that standing firm, speaking the truth, and upholding the standard our community expects from its leaders. When blame is misplaced, when integrity is compromised, and when reputations are used to shield poor decisions, we all lose trust of the public. I urge this council to hold each of us, regardless of the title, to the same high standard we demand of those who lead. Thank you.

Mick Wagner 409 W. Penzo, Tontitown, AR

1. I realize you don't comment back, but hopefully after this one you would answer this question. Since the meeting was, and I understand why, moved from Tuesday night, do y'all get paid two times or just one? I'm going to answer that. I don't know. That's the same answer I got from somebody else. So, I only ask that to bring it up. The code is unclear. So, but if you are getting paid again, then I only ask this. The fact that the agenda wasn't put out in a timely fashion, that's not the first rodeo. It's happened several times in the last few months. So, if y'all are getting paid

twice, then I don't know. I believe that everybody makes mistakes, but not repeatedly. Maybe you're over your head. Thank y'all.

7. Old Business:

A. A discussion on flooring replacement for City Hall – Mayor

Discussed the different types of flooring replacement carpet, tile, laminate.

Tim Burress was very concerned about going back to carpet and the health of the employees in regard to the mold that was found.

Daniel Montez motioned to approve the quote from M&M Tile for \$21,754.77
Second by Mike Washkowiak

Mike Washkowiak Voted- YES
Tim Burress Voted- NO
Larry Ardemagni Voted- YES
Amber Ibarra Voted- YES
Daniel Montez Voted- YES
Misty Piazza Voted- YES

Motion passes to the next City Council Meeting

B. A discussion on Sewer rates – James

Reference YouTube for the lengthy discussion.

FIRST Vote

Tim Motioned to Table to the October 7th Committee of the Whole Meeting.
Second by Misty Piazza

Tim Burress Voted- YES
Amber Ibarra Voted- YES
Mike Waskowiak Voted- NO
Misty Piazza Voted- YES
Daniel Montez Voted- NO
Larry Ardemagni Voted- NO

3 Votes- YES to 3 Votes- NO
Motion Fails

Second Vote

Mike Waskowiak motioned to accept the sewer rates as presented.
Second by Misty Piazza

Tim Burress Voted- NO
Amber Ibarra Voted- YES
Mike Waskowiak Voted-YES

Misty Piazza Voted- NO
Daniel Montez Voted- NO
Larry Ardemagni Voted- YES

3 Votes- YES to 3 Votes- NO

Mayor Russell Voted- YES

Motion passes to the next City Council Meeting.

C. A discussion on Klenc Rd. As to public safety and weight restrictions – Mark

Discussion Only

Discussion of weight limits on the city roads and routes for trash traffic other than Kleenc.

Mark Latham talked quite lengthy with Tim Conklin. Conklin's the Northwest Arkansas regional CEO and told him this cannot be a Tontitown problem. We are a town of 8,000 people. All these other towns are bringing everything down Kleenc Road, which is basically collector for residential traffic. It's not a collector for anything else. It's residential traffic. And we have got to look at a long-term solution. And I've talked to Mayor Sprouse, also talked to I'm going to be speaking with the Boston Mountains. I think I'm scheduled to go in front of them. That's a bunch of mayors along with I think the Washington County judge. And I'll make a presentation to them and tell them that this is not a Tontitown problem. It's a regional problem and we have got to get a way into that landfill that doesn't impact our residents, and it is.

8. New Business:

A. A discussion of cellular meter reading presentation – James

Discussion Only

James Clark addressed the council about the cellular meter system and the positive ways it will help both the city and as well as the citizens of Tontitown.

A presentation is planned to be held later.

Reference YouTube for details.

B. A discussion of pipe bids – James

James Clark will contact the bidders and let them know the bids will be rejected and will advertise for the price we want.

C. A discussion on 2025 Street Improvement Bid Award – Mark

Reference the city website for detailed 2025 bids.

Mike Washkowiak motioned to take off the pothole repairs and move to the next City Council Meeting.
Second by Amber Ibarra

Motion passes to the next City Council Meeting.

D. A discussion on financial policy – Mark

Discussion Only

Mark Latham reviewed Financial Policy with the council and answered their questions.

E. A discussion to amend Ordinance 110, the procurement of business licenses – Mike

Discussion of language changes to city code 110.02 -APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSES AND SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION.

Daniel Montez motioned to move this to city council with the revisions in part B that we add the word shall be **obtained**, kept and filed to the community of development.

Second by Tim Burress

Motion passes to the next City Council Meeting.

F. A discussion on the citizen comments segment – Danny

Discussion only

A workshop will be scheduled at a later date.

9. Comments from Council Members

Mike Washkowiak

1. First of all, I don't expect to get paid for this cow meeting. Whatever happened was beyond our control. I'm not excited about having to come back twice in a row. But in good conscience, I don't think any of us would have felt good about being here getting the agenda so late. It's difficult to discuss some of these matters intelligently when you get and I had no access to my email on Tuesday anyway. As you saw, I came in at 6:15. So, I appreciate the fact that we got this done so quickly and moving it to Thursday. I hope that we can avoid this happening again in the future and obviously I think we need to address this and you know, Megan is in a tough spot. I don't blame her for what happened. So, anyway, that's my point on that.
2. Captain Bowen, thank you for your comments. I appreciate you coming forward and Pastor Schmidt brought out a good point, too. You know, all the differences of opinions that come forward here. We learn from people who think differently, or we should learn from people who think differently than we do. I think our council does a pretty good job. We don't always agree with one another, and in the 3 years that I've been here, I don't know any one of us that has had a personal attack on another council member in here, but we don't agree all the time. It's obvious, we've tied two votes but the differences of opinion that are brought forward to us, they make us think and I've learned a few things, a lot of things here. So, I appreciate all the input.
3. Certainly don't want to eliminate the input from the public, you want to talk about fascism or communism, that's about as fascist as it gets.
4. Thanks everybody for coming out. Thanks for sticking with us for a long meeting. And have a good night.

Tim Burress

1. You know what? This role is not for the teary. It's not for the weary. And sometimes we got to put on our big boy pants and big girl pants. Sorry, I don't mean to be sexist, but we do need accountability. We do need to support our First Amendment rights. But we've got to be careful in the way that we allow the public to speak. There has been threatening. You guys have seen it. We had a comment earlier of a person who said that they only do it a couple times, but you've seen it. There has been profanity in this chamber. You've seen it. You've seen extraordinarily aggressive behavior both here and outside. It's just part of the fun. And it's not okay for us to prop up one side or the other. But I do think it is our responsibility to number one support each other. There's not a person on this council that I haven't supported publicly and privately in the entire time that I've been here. But we also need to hold each other accountable, and we need to make certain that we're making the right decisions for the right reasons and I don't mean necessarily over the health of this or that but for every one of us the comment was, every one of us have messed up on something. Yeah, that's right. And here's what you do when you mess up. You admit what you did. You apologize for what you did. You say, "This is what I'm going to do to make it right." You make it right, and you tell everybody what you did to make it right. So, the idea of threatening and profanity has got to stop. The idea of hiding behind our hurt feelings has got to stop. If you're too thin skinned for the role, please don't run again. If you're too thin skinned for the role, please just step out now. It's hard. I admit I spend hours on these packets. I spend hours on this packet. So, we didn't have a meeting on Tuesday because I couldn't do that. But we're fiduciaries and we've got to do what's right. So, honestly, I just don't bother to listen to those who want to be profane to those who want to attack and be aggressive. I literally don't listen to their calls. I don't listen to their emails. I don't communicate with them. And if that works for you, good.

Amber Ibarra

1. Just thank you everybody for coming out. We had a lot of good discussions.

Misty Piazza

1. One thing I want to address, we called this a workshop. We will not be getting paid twice. That was very clear Tuesday night. So, I just want to clarify that. I fully understood. I'm here on my own accord tonight. I'm not getting paid a second time. Second, it's no fun that we had to move it tonight, but we're constantly and especially this year being told we're not following code and we were trying to follow code. So, it wasn't fun to come back a second time this week. I had to move some stuff around myself, but we're trying to do our best and we're trying to do our code. We can't change the past. All we can change is the future. And so, we're taking our learnings and we're continuing to move into the future. Thank you.

Daniel Montez

1. I want to thank everybody for coming out. I kind of echo the same thing over the meeting it's unfortunate, but we're just following procedure. I think that's probably one of the things that I try to hold myself to is procedure and keeping to a procedure.
2. I want to thank Mr. James Clark and Mark Latham for all the work they've done on a lot of these items, I mean there's lots of work in there but from all city employees. But just a lot of stuff to go over tonight. So, I want to thank them for their time and thank each and everybody up here on the bench. Everybody have a good night.

Larry Ardemagni

1. First and foremost, I didn't do it during the meeting, but I was going to make a motion that we not accept pay for tonight because we were paid before. So, I'm in on not getting paid tonight. Although we have a special immediately after the this. So, still no pay as far as I'm concerned.
2. Mr. Wagner, you made a statement earlier about at least we have sewer, and I think you are in large part responsible for that and thank you.
3. Tim, I am sorry that mold affects your family the way it does and I'm sorry that we went the way we did, but you know, hopefully they can come up here part of the time anyway.
4. Thanks to each and every one of you back there. Great staff.

10. Comments from Mayor

1. I want to apologize to the citizens and council for having to be here tonight. It was due to the agenda's not being out on time. We thought they had gone out and they had not. Again, I apologize for the inconvenience that this has caused everyone. We did have a staff meeting today and we discussed the very issue of the agendas and getting them out on time. Megan came up with a protocol. We've got it right here and I have it for you guys if you'd like to see it. Also she is going to put a received message on her computer so whenever someone opens it she'll know that they've received their agenda and so will I and that will help eliminate the issues and hopefully as we move forward we will not do this again and I will make sure that she sends a copy of this to you guys tomorrow.
2. I also want to state that I take full responsibility for the audit. I was not trying to throw anybody under the bus or shirk my responsibility. I was trying to direct you to the person that can give you the best information, the information that I can't give you because I don't know anything about water and sewer. I don't know anything about different types of planning. You can't know everything, I know certain parts of it and I know the minimal parts of it, but I can't know everything. So, that's why I have department heads or people put in place that does have the knowledge that they can give me. And I try to give you the best information that I can. And if I offended you or upset you, I apologize profusely because you know so much more about it stuff that I run to you because I don't know it and I do want to let you know that. But again, we try to work together. I always get a second or third or more than that opinion on decisions so I can make the best decision for this city, and I make sure that I go to the person that has the knowledge that they can give to me. So, thank you guys.
3. On a lighter note, Family Fun Day will be September 13th. I hope everyone will be able to come out. We do need donations to help make this event function properly. Halloween in the park will be October 31st. Thank you guys

11. Comments from Attorney- NONE

12. Adjournment- All in Favor

PASSED AND APPROVED this ___ day of _____ 2025.

APPROVED: _____

Angela Russell, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

**Rhonda Ardemagni, City Clerk-Treasurer
(SEAL)**