

Mayor – Angela Russell
Recorder – Rhonda Ardemagni
City Attorney –
Law Firm--
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
November 4th, 2025
Minutes

The Tontitown Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 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

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1. Prayer- Brad Spurlock
 2. Meeting Call to Order
 3. Roll Call

Misty Piazza was absent.

4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Approval of Agenda

Amber Ibarra requested a change to Old Business Item A- code# 30.06 to 31.03.

Mike Washkowiak motioned to approve the agenda with change.

Second by Daniel Montez

Motion Passes Unanimously

6. Approval of October 7th, 2025, COW Minutes

Mike Washkowiak motioned to approve the October 7th COW minutes.

Second by Amber Ibarra

Motion Passes Unanimously

7. Comments from Citizens

Written comment submitted by Mr. Mick Wagner- This comment is submitted for inclusion in the public record and is intended for reading only. No discussion.

Tammy Graham, 198 1984 S. Pianalto RD., Tontitown, AR

- Council members and fellow citizens, this is a continuation of the issue with public trust, fiscal accountability, and compliance with Arkansas Constitution. Recently, the Washington County Circuit Court ruled that Mayor Angela Russell violated article 12 section 5 of the Arkansas Constitution by using public funds, specifically \$15,079.95 for private legal fees. The court further declared that this act constituted an illegal exaction and permanently blocked any similar future use of public funds. The ruling has now been settled, and the principal amount has been repaid, and attorney fees were awarded. I am asking the city to see the taxpayers be fully and made fully whole including the repayment of interest for the time those funds were improperly used when public funds are diverted even for a short period Arkansas law is clear full restitution includes interest or benefit derived from those funds not recovering interest leaves the taxpayer subsidizing private legal fees contrary to the express findings of the court. In other words, it was an interest free loan taken from the purses and wallets of hardworking, responsible taxpayers of this city. The release signed in connection to the settlement applies only to the single transaction at issue and does not bar taxpayers individually or collectively from ensuring full restitution to the city. This is a matter of public money and constitutional duty. I request that y'all find out when we are going to get paid our interest back. It's pretty much that simple. All right. If you do that, you will uphold your responsibility and protect taxpayers from further abuse. Thank you.

Mick Wagner 409 Penzo Ave., Tontitown, AR

- Council members, mayor, good evening. City correspondent shows that the city funded a phone more particularly number 479-439-3019 and it was activated on November 11 of 2022. Alderman Piazza stated in an email that she had received the device sometime in December of 22. However, she was sworn into office on January 3rd of 2023. So, it is a little unclear exactly if she took it before she was sworn into office or not. Alderman Piazza in the same email confirmed that there was no council authorization for this and there was no reimbursement on her part for use of a city funded phone. And this period existed from sometime late December, early January 23 through May 13th of 2025. Records show that it was turned back in, but I am uncertain by the records provided through FOIA of whether or not it was returned to the city or returned to the carrier. Additionally, neither the 2023 or 2024 budgets include authorization to footnotes approving a phone benefit for alderman. I've confirmed this with several of y'all who have your own phones. September 2025, case number 72CV 2526 taken up by the Washington County Circuit Court found that the public funds in that case were used unlawfully and permitted and permanently enjoined unauthorized signatures. Tonight, I respectfully request the council to one verify the exact physical issuance date to this phone. Two, determine and publish the total taxpayer's cost of use for that phone as charged by the carrier to the city. Three, obtain voluntary reimbursement to the general fund for the use of this phone that was not authorized. Four, adopt a policy requiring the city council's approval. Budget line items and public disclosure of any technology device on be or the benefit provided to elected officials. This isn't personal. It is to ensure equal treatment, public trust, and compliance with the Arkansas Constitution and of course reason order. Thank you for your time.

Joined via TEAMS - Kenneth Lovett 18702 Clearwater RD., Fayetteville, AR

- Spoke on the "Point of Order" under the Robert's Rules of Order.

- We continue to try to keep people from speaking that aren't in the city limits, but we allow people that are in the city limits to attack Mrs. Piazza, to attack the mayor, and continually to dig into business. That's none of their business. They are citizens, but it is none of their business to be digging around in phones and in all this stuff that they keep digging in.

Gene McCartney 1158 Steele RD., Tontitown, AR

- One of the last things that I did with council was to call everyone that was going to be on council and give everyone just a little synopsis of what I thought would help. And several of you that were coming on the council were able to attend because you had not been placed in the position yet and I hope it helped. That's something I didn't get when I came in and I hope that gave you a little bit of leg up so to speak coming in here. This is one of those times when you need to make sure that you are doing what I used to call is my due diligence. Everyone I have told in the past is always do your due diligence. Don't always listen to every rumor around but follow up yourself and do your due diligence. Don't listen to anybody else, that's just rambling. Check yourself and look for the facts. And if there's mistakes, mistakes happen. I've made mistakes. I'll admit it and everyone else will make mistakes whether they admit it or not. But it's your job as councilman to make sure that this city flows. Thank you.

8. Old Business:

A. A discussion of an ordinance to amend Tontitown codes 30.05 and 31.03. Presented by: Amber

A discussion to change the "Order of Business" of the agenda for both COW and City Council Meetings.

Tim Burress motioned to approve and move to the next City Council Meeting as written.

Second by Daniel Montez

Amber Ibarra Voted- NO

Daniel Montez Voted- YES

Tim Burress Voted- YES

Mike Washkowiak Voted- NO

Larry Ardemagni Voted- NO

2 Votes- YES to 3 Votes- NO

Motion Fails

Mike Washkowiak motioned to amend the ordinance for the Tontitown codes 30.05 and 31.03 with changes and **move to the next City Council Meeting.**

Second by Tim Burress

Motion Passes Unanimously

B. A discussion on the city's organizational chart. Presented by: Mike

A discussion of change to clarify the Organizational Chart.

- Change month from October to November.

- Change Admin Assistant Support to Admin Assistant Shared Resource.
- Combine in one box-Permits, Building Inspector and Code Enforcement.

Tim Burress motioned to approve a resolution for the Organizational Chart with changes and **move to the next City Council Meeting.**

Second by Daniel Montez

Motion Passes Unanimously

9. New Business:

A. A discussion and presentation on cellular meter reading. Presented by: James

Travis Norris with Schulte Supply presented to the council the Neptune Cellar Meter Reading Technology.

Reference YouTube for detailed presentation.

B. A discussion of updates on Garver Projects. Presented by: Larry Gregory

Discussion Only-

Larry Gregory with Garver updated the council on several ARDOT projects including Highway 112.

Reference the YouTube for detailed updates.

C. A discussion of a resolution to allow the Police Department to purchase a vehicle. Presented by: Corey

Chief Jenison presented a quote from Superior Auto Group.

Tim Burress motioned to approve a resolution to allow the Police Department to purchase a vehicle **move to the next City Council Meeting.**

Second by Mike Washkowiak

Motion Passes Unanimously

D. A discussion and presentation of the 2026 Budget. Presented by: Mark

Mark Latham presented the 2026 Budget to the council. The council requested a workshop be held Monday November 10, 2025 @ 6:00 PM.

E. A discussion of an ordinance to rezone approximately 5 acres on Fletcher Ave from C-1 "Light Commercial" & A "Agriculture" to C-1 "Light Commercial" Parcel #:830-37615-007 Presented by: Brad

This property is owned by Lipspace, LLC and is currently zoned both C-1 and A. The owner is requesting a change in zoning to C-1 to build new police station for Tontitown to be permissible under

City's zoning regulations. The requested zone change will allow the current owners to sell to the city and allow the city to construct a new police station.

Tim Burress motioned to approve an ordinance to rezone from C-1 & A to C-1 for approximately 5 acres on Fletcher and **move to the next City Council Meeting.**

Second by Amber Ibarra

Motion Passes Unanimously

F. A discussion on an ordinance to implement adaptations to the Master Street Plan. Presented by: Brad

Brad Presented to the council the Master Street Plan that was unanimously passed by The Planning Commission and explained 3 changes.

Mike Washkowiak motioned to approve the ordinance to implement adaptations of the Master Street Plan and **move to the next City Council Meeting.**

Second by Daniel Montez

Motion Passes Unanimously

G. A discussion and review of bids for museum repairs. Presented by: Megan Taldo-McAfee and Billy Morgan

Megan Taldo-McAfee and Billy Morgan presented 3 bids from the following:

Element Roofing, First Star Exterior Roofing and Siding, and Arcadia Roofing

The repairs will be paid for by the insurance, budget and museum savings. The museum has requested that First Star Exterior Roofing and Siding do the repairs.

Amber Ibarra motioned to approve the First Star Roofing and Siding bid and **move to the next City Council meeting.**

Second by Mike Washkowiak

Mike Waskowiack Voted- YES

Daniel Montez Voted- YES

Amber Ibarra Voted- YES

Tim Burress Voted- ABSTAINED

Larry Ardemagni Voted- YES

Motion Passes

H. A discussion of a resolution for the removal of fixed assets for the Fire Department. Presented by: Ryan

A discussion to dispose of certain Fire Department equipment (Bunker Gear) that has become obsolete and is no longer of use to the City of Tontitown.

Mike Washkowiak motioned to approve a resolution for the removal of fixed assets for the Fire Department and **move to the next City Council Meeting.**

Second Amber Ibarra

Motion Passes Unanimously

I. A discussion of a resolution for reimbursement for improper representation from the Harrington-Miller Law firm. Presented by: Danny

Mike Washlowiak motioned to TABLE to the **next Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

Second by Amber Ibarra

Motion Passes Unanimously

J. A discussion on the validity of a letter of engagement. Presented by: Danny

Daniel Montez motioned to TABLE to the **next Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

Second by Mike Washkowiak

Motion Passes Unanimously

K. A discussion of a resolution adopting articles of censure against Mayor Angela Russell. Presented by: Danny

Tim Burress motioned strike all in section 3 and move to the next City Council Meeting.

Second by Daniel Montez

Amber Ibarra Voted- NO

Daniel Montez Voted- YES

Tim Burress- Voted- YES

Mike Washkowiak Voted- NO

Larry Ardemagni Voted- NO

2 Votes- YES to 3 Votes- NO

Motion Fails

L. A discussion to adopt a resolution to not appeal the Waste Management Eco-Vista Expansion litigation suit. Presented by: Danny

Mike Washkowiak motioned to adopt the resolution to not appeal the expansion litigation and **move to the next City Council Meeting.**

Second by Daniel Montez

Daniel Montez Voted- YES

Tim Burress Voted- NO

Larry Ardemagni Voted- YES

Mike Washkowiak Voted- YES

Amber Ibarra Voted- YES

4 Votes- YES to 1 Votes- NO

Motion Passes

10. Comments from Council Members

Mike Washkowiak

- It's going to go back to the public comment section. I think we all realize the importance of the freedom of speech and allowing people to speak. Maybe we should do a better job of enforcing the rules that are in place for that, we're held to a little bit different standard up here. And you may see personal attacks, attacks on things that we do, we don't want the public to be fighting with each other. However, I mean, you can come at us. I mean, we get it. We're public figures. You know, there's a Supreme Court case that offers a lot of leeway to what people can say about elected officials, public people, and that's just the way it is. But what we don't need to have are citizens attacking one another with their comments. You know that I think the intent here. We want to have civil discourse, civil debate. And I think we abide by that up here for the most part. That's all I've got tonight. Thanks for coming out, everybody.

Tim Burress

- Tuesdays are always hard, they're always hard. I don't like Tuesdays. I should because God put me in this role and this role is important. So, for that I'm thankful, but it's hard and I want to support all the people that I have the opportunity to be on this council with. I want to support the citizens. The problem is citizens only agree with me about half the time, maybe less. We're truly trying to do the best we can, and I understand people don't always agree with us. People often get very vehemently angry with us, but to Mr. Washkowiak's point, if we have to do something like raise a point of order, it's not for any other reason than to try to keep some semblance of order. articles of censure, just I want everyone to know I support that woman, but there were some mistakes made, that's all. And I hope that every Tuesday at the end of the night when I feel battered and bruised and exhausted and I'm sure you all do too that you can all go home and rest well and at least know that whether you agree with us or don't agree with us I can honestly tell you every person here is trying their hardest to do their best for you. And if you don't like any of us, that's fine. There's an election a month from today and you can change it all. Thank you for coming. Thank you for your comments. They were wise. They were appreciated. And thank you for being here tonight.

Amber Ibarra

- Some good discussions here tonight. This was a very difficult meeting. I guess I'll start off by thanking the Fire Department. They were called out to my uncle's house, his vehicle caught fire in the shop and so they responded quickly and Chief Krug was also out there. So, I do appreciate them for their service to our community and what they mean to us.
- Halloween in the Park was I feel a great success, the Parks and Rec. Board worked hard on that and it was a big team effort. I don't know. Would you say, Chief, maybe same size crowd, bigger crowd? What would your opinion be? So, it's like years past it' be a little bit bigger. It's always hard to tell,

but it was a success. So, thank you to everybody that helped with that and that participated and we thank you to everybody that came out tonight.

Daniel Montez

- I just want to thank everybody for coming out tonight. It was a big meeting, long discussion and I appreciate it all. We couldn't do this without your input and your comments. So, feel free to reach out via text, email, or in person. And have a great night.

Larry Ardemagni

- I appreciate everybody and as chairman of the Committee of the Whole I conduct a pretty informal meeting. Robert's rules of engagement kind of go out the window with me. And sometimes people appreciate it and sometimes I think I should go back to strict standards, but I want everybody to get their thoughts out and so I do appreciate them. And I do appreciate everybody coming out and hope that we satisfy 51%. You know, 51. That's all we can ask for. Thank you.

11. Comments from Mayor-

- Thanked those who came out to support her, and she'll do her best.
- Sunday November 9th is the Polenta Smear at the St. Joseph Tontitown Parish from 11 to 1. There's going to be a lot of good restaurants that provided food, Venesian Inn, Red Door, Mama Z's. I know I'm forgetting some, but don't forget it is great food over there and all should come and you're welcome. And thank you all

12. Comments from Attorney- no attorney

13. Adjournment- All in Favor

PASSED AND APPROVED this 2 day of Dec 2025.

APPROVED: Angela Russell

Angela Russell, Mayor

ATTEST: Rhonda Ardemagni

Rhonda Ardemagni, City Clerk-Treasurer (SEAL)

PAGE 1 — BULLET POINT SUMMARY FOR ALDERMEN / MINUTES INSERT? RE: Piazza Phone

Citizen: Mick Wagner

Date: November 4, 2025

Subject: Clarification & Recovery of City-Funded Phone Issued to Alderman Piazza

Bullet Point Summary for Aldermen

- **Request: this handout & full statement be included in the official minutes.**
- **Phone number assigned to Alderman Piazza: 479-439-3019**
- **Verizon activation date: November 11, 2022**
- **Piazza stated she received the phone “sometime in Dec 2022”**
- **Sworn into office: January 3, 2023**
- **Therefore: unclear if the device was issued before or after she became an alderman**
- **Piazza acknowledged:**
 - **No Council authorization**
 - **No reimbursement**
 - **No other alderman received a city-funded phone**
- **Phone returned: around May 13, 2025**
- **2023 & 2024 budgets: no authorization for alderman phone benefits**
- **Sept. 30, 2025 Circuit Court order (Case 72CV-25-26) found misuse of public money and permanently enjoined unauthorized expenditures**

Clerk Entry Request

Please include this bullet-point sheet and the attached full public statement in the minutes of the November 4, 2025 council meeting.

Submitted by:

Mick Wagner

PAGE 2 —

EXHIBIT A: FULL PUBLIC STATEMENT

Public Statement to Accompany Minutes

Citizen: Mick Wagner, Tontitown resident @ 409 Penzo Ave

Date: November 4, 2025

Mayor and Council Members, good evening. My name is Mick Wagner, and I am a resident of Tontitown.

City correspondence shows the City-funded phone number **479-439-3019** was activated on **November 11, 2022**. Alderman Piazza stated she received the device **“sometime in Dec 2022.”** She was sworn into office on **January 3, 2023**, so it remains unclear whether the device was issued before or after she took office.

Alderman Piazza confirmed:

- **No Council authorization**
- **No reimbursement**
- **No other alderman received a City-funded phone**
- **Device was returned around May 13, 2025**

Additionally, neither the **2023 nor 2024 budgets** include authorization or footnotes approving a phone benefit for aldermen.

On **September 30, 2025**, in Case **72CV-25-26**, the Washington County Circuit Court found that public funds were used without lawful authority and permanently **enjoined unauthorized expenditures**. That decision reinforces the importance of fiscal controls and transparency in Tontitown.

Tonight, I respectfully request that the Council:

1. **Verify the exact physical issuance date of the device**
2. **Determine and publish the total taxpayer cost**

3. Obtain voluntary reimbursement to the General Fund
4. Adopt policy requiring Council approval, budget line item, and public disclosure for any technology device or benefit provided to elected officials

This is not personal. It is to ensure equal treatment, public trust, and compliance with the Arkansas Constitution and the Court's recent order.

Thank you for your time and commitment to responsible stewardship.

Submitted by:
Mick Wagner