

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

City Council
November 18th, 2025
Minutes

The Tontitown City Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 18th, 2025, 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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City Council

- 1) **Prayer**- Brad Spurlock
- 2) **Meeting Call to Order**
- 3) **Roll Call**- Tim Burress was absent
- 4) **Pledge of Allegiance**
- 5) **Approval of Agenda**

Larry Ardemangi requested that the following be added to the agenda-

Add Item 12H- Approval of a Resolution to waive the competitive bidding and authorize the purchase of 5 Motorola portable radios for the Fire Department.

Tim Burress attended the meeting at this time.

Amber Ibarra motioned to approve the agenda with the additional Item 12H.
Second by Mike Washkowiak

Misty Piazza Voted- YES
Mike Waskowiak Voted- YES
Daniel Montez Voted- YES
Amber Ibarra Voted- YES
Tim Burress Voted- ABSTAINED
Larry Ardemagni Voted- YES

5 Votes- YES to 1 Vote ABSTAINED

Motion Passes

- 6) **Approval of October 21st, 2025, City Council Minutes and November 10th, 2025, Special City Council Minutes.**

Mike Washkowiak motioned to approve the October 21st, 2025, City Council Minutes and the November 10th, 2025, Special City Council Minutes.

Second by Larry Ardemagni

Motion Passes unanimously

7) **Financial Report**- Reference the city website for detailed report

8) **Department Reports**

A. Museum

The THM Board of Directors did not meet in November due to the Polenta Smear

1. Springdale Schools Collaboration: Museum Manager Emily met with students at Helen Tyson to discuss how to research topics for the Veterans of Tontitown Discovery Box they are preparing. Students looked at the macro history (nation-wide and world-wide) and the micro history (individual's history and Tontitown specific news). Students asked to learn more about families that have generationally served in the military, what artifacts will be included in the upcoming exhibit and what stories will be told. Mrs. Berry plans to bring this group to the museum in December to do further work and to see the collection.

2. Tontitown Polenta Smear & Taste of Tontitown: November 9th, over 160 community members and visitors enjoyed the Tontitown Polenta Smear & Taste of Tontitown. This event harkens back to the Northern Italian villages where many of the founding families are from, most still hold Polenta Smears as part of their community gatherings. This dish is important to Tontitown as it is what the founding families ate the first winter to survive. At this year's event we honor our Veterans of Tontitown and gathered stories and information on our Veterans.

3. Digitization Project: Since purchasing a lightbox for the museum, Juli and Emily have worked to update artifact photos and will continue this work to improve the online collection photos. Juli is continuing her work in adding photos, artifacts and archives into the online catalog.

4. Visitors: 21 visitors for October, including descendants from Lake Village and Sbanottos from our of town that were here for a family reunion.

5. New Exhibits 2026: Staff are actively working on two new exhibits within the museum. We are excited to celebrate the 250th anniversary of America with an interactive exhibit on the founding of Tontitown and how the first mayor and city council built the city infrastructure of the newly incorporated town in 1910. As well as celebrate the Veterans of Tontitown who have served America since the World War I. If you have photos, stories or artifacts you would like to loan or have scanned for the Veterans of Tontitown exhibit please reach out to staff to see how you can help enrich

this exhibit; museum@tontitownar.gov any artifacts must be submitted by December 15th to ensure they will be included in the exhibit, photos and stories are welcome at any point and can be added to the slideshow that will be playing in the room.

6. Fall Programming: OLLI: Museum Manager Emily was invited by the Osher Life Long Learning Institute to present a lecture on Father Bandini and show the “Cries from the Cotton Field” film to students. Both were well attended and sparked a desire for the OLLI group to plan a future trip to THM and Tontitown for other lectures and learning. STEAMFEST, at Walker Elementary was a fun night, students and parents got to see some of the items that students from Helen Tyson created for the museum and ask questions about the museum and town.

B. Police

Tontitown Police Monthly Report Month: October 2025

Calls for Service – 920

Accident Reports – 17

Warrants Served – 82

Warrants Outstanding - 1375

Warrants Amount - \$ 1,717,716.66

Training Hours (YTD) – 4,127

Citation Total - 124

Speeding Citations -10

(Other) Traffic Citations - 75

Criminal Citations – 11

Improper Driving (City Ordinance) - 28

Warning Total - 557

Speeding Warnings – 211

(Other) Traffic Warnings – 346

C. Fire

Fire Department Report OCTOBER 2025

Total Calls: 38

EMS 17

FIRE 0

MVA 6

FALSE ALARM 6

SERVICE CALL 6 CANCELED IN ROUTE 3

Calls within city limits of Tontitown

October 2025: 528 calls for service

October 2024: 450 calls for service

Increase of 78 calls to date over 2024

Average response time (Alarm to en route) listed at: 1 minute 07 seconds.

Average on scene/arrival time (Alarm to on scene): 5 minutes 03 seconds.

D. **Public Works/Engineering-** Reference the city website for detailed report.

E. **Building Report-** Reference the city website for detailed report.

F. **Community Development**

November Report:

Building Report

Community Development Department

- Rezone Request – Applicant is requesting a rezone at 256 Tessaro St from R-3 & C2 to Agriculture.

- LSD – Casalini Phase 2

- Discussion of 412 overlay district

- **Street and Stormwater**

- 1) Mantegani street upgrade.

- 2) South Pianalto Stormwater

- 3) Street Improvements for 2025

- 4) Kelly Drainage Improvements

- 5) Ardemagni Sidewalks TAP Grant (Documents sent to ARDOT, waiting to go ahead with engineering contract)

- 6) Klenc Traffic Signal

- **Grants**

- 1) Waiting to hear something on the FEMA. Community Building, and Splash Pad.

- 2) Discussion on Hazardous Mitigation Grant for Sbanotto culvert. (2026 Project)

- **Other Projects**

- 1) Traffic Study on Klenc

9) **Comments from Citizens**

Scott Davis 14048 Hwy. 45 s., Lincoln, AR

- I'm the one that did the Tontitown Oral History Project. I've passed out a proposal here tonight for you to consider including a way to fund this project in your budget.

Project overview: To provide audio and video digital files, transcripts, photos, captions, summaries and other data and files requested by the University of Arkansas, David and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History to include in the Pryor's Center's archives and collection up to 28 Tontitown Oral History complete interviews produced in 2018 by Mr. Scott Davis.

The cost is \$100.00 x 28 videos plus tax.

Mick Wagner 409 Penzo Ave., Tontitown, Ar

- Is here to speak about on behalf of transparency and fiscal accountability in the 2026 proposed city budget. The agenda tonight shows this budget will be acted on by a resolution which requires a single vote and a simple majority. My question why rush? Arkansas Code Annotated 1458202. Adoption of budget by governing body. The governing body of a municipality shall adopt a budget for operations of the city or town on or before February 1st of each year. I have four main points of concern.

1. Lack of itemization in key accounts. The proposed budget includes over 1 million in combined appropriations for GO 5590 and 50/50, commonly referred to as contracts and fixed assets without itemized schedules, descriptions, and supporting documentation. This obscures the nature of expenditures and undermines informed decision making.

2. Insufficient material provided to the council. At the November 10 budget workshop, the only documentation presented was a nine-page PDF lacking any backup materials. I previously stated a link to the 2025 budget uh that Springdale occurred and a workbook as a model of transparency and completeness.

3. Statutory obligations. Under ACA 1458, 2011 and 202, the council has a fiduciary responsibility to adopt a budget is both complete and comprehensive. The current documentation fails to meet that standard.

4. Audit risk and public trust. Continued reliance upon vague Geo coding, especially the overuse of GO590, mirrors the practice that led to the prior audit findings. We all know what those were. Tontitown's residents deserve better than recycle layers and obscure appropriations.

In closing, with close to 9,000 residents now calling Tonny Town home, the stakes are higher than ever. I urge the council to delay budget appropriation until full documentation is provided. It's not that difficult, I don't think, if you're going to spend a million dollars to at least itemize it so you know what you're acting on.

Mark Calcagni 12642 Arbor Acres RD., Tontitown, AR

- I want to say thank you for allowing public comment again. I appreciate what you all do here and I want to say something. I wasn't planning on speaking, but Mark, what you brought up about DEQ and Waste Management, having conversations with them and, you know, hopefully getting a, you know, some type of arrangement to where we can live healthy and safely together. We did have another fire on Thursday and Saturday here, and I don't think anybody really knows what caused it or what kind of conditions it presented in the air. I know it smelled like burnt rubber, burnt plastic and then it occurred again on Saturday. So, it started on Thursday afternoon about 4:30 last week and then Saturday morning it rekindled, I

guess. So, when I burn trash, I get a violation or a ticket. When they burn trash what do they get? Nothing. So, you know I hopefully when you do speak with you know DEQ you know that should be something that should be brought up. You know, is that not a violation when there's a fire? So maybe when they do get a violation, maybe somebody will look at what's being put in there. That's all I have to say but thank you again for this time.

10) Approval by City Council Members to Waive the 3 Reading Rule for All Ordinances on Agenda

Amber Ibarra motioned to approve to Waive the 3 Reading Rule for All Ordinances on Agenda.

Second by Mike Washkowiak

Motion Passes Unanimously

11) Old Business: NONE

12) New Business:

A. An approval of an ordinance to amend Tontitown Codes 30.05 and 31.03. Presented by: Amber

Amber Ibarra motioned to approve the ordinance to amend Tontitown Codes 30.05 and 31.03.

Second by Larry Ardemagni

Motion Passes Unanimously

Amber Ibarra motioned to approve the Emergency Clause.

Second by Larry Ardemagni

Motion Passed Unanimously

B. An approval of a resolution amending the cities organizational chart. Presented by: Mike

Tim Burres motioned to approve the city's organizational chart.

Second by Amber Ibarra

Motion Passes Unanimously

C. An approval of a resolution accepting the 2026 Budget. Presented by: Mark

Mike Washkowiak motioned to **TABLE**.

Second by Daniel Montez

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

4 Votes- YES to 2 Votes- NO

Motion to Table Passes

- D. An approval 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**

Tom Burress motioned to approve the ordinance to rezone approximately 5 acres on Fletcher Ave from C-1 "Light Commercial" & A "Agriculture" to C-1 "Light Commercial".
Second by Misty Piazza

Motion Passes Unanimously

- E. An approval of an ordinance to implement adaptations to the Master Street Plan. Presented by: Brad**

Mike Washkowiak motioned to approve the ordinance to implement adaptations to the Master Street Plan.
Second by Tim Burress

Motion Passes Unanimously

- F. An approval of a resolution for the removal of fixed assets for the Fire Department. Presented by: Ryan**

Tim Burress motioned to approve the resolution for the removal of fixed assets for the Fire Department.
Second by Misty Piazza

Motion Passes Unanimously

- G. An approval of a resolution on the city's decision to not appeal the Waste Management Eco-Vista Expansion litigation suit. Presented by: Danny**

Daniel Montez motioned to approve the resolution on the city's decision to not appeal the Waste Management Eco-Vista Expansion litigation suit.

Second by Larry Ardemagni

Motion **Fails** Unanimously

H. Approval of a Resolution to waive the competitive bidding and authorize the purchase of 5 Motorola portable radios for the Fire Department.

Tim Burress motioned to approve the Resolution to waive the competitive bidding and authorize the purchase of 5 Motorola portable radios for the Fire Department.

Second by Larry Ardemagni

Motion Passes Unanimously

13) Comments from Alderman

Tim Burress

- Tonight was far more contentious than I expected. So, let me start by pointing out something really lovely, we've got new carpet and It looks fantastic.
- I am profoundly sorry for my role in causing any consternation to you, Mr. Latham or Mr. Pinalto. I do appreciate the hard work and the numerous hours that the two of you and numerous others have put into the 2026 budget. I look forward to sitting down with you guys to talk more about that. Thank you

Larry Ardemagni

- First and foremost, I didn't ever say anything about Halloween in the park, and I need to thank Amber Ibarra, she was tremendous and preparing for that.
- The Polenta Smear the other day, saw relatives and friends that I see once a year, and the food was good, the camaraderie was even better, and I appreciate that through the museum. As I say always, thanks for coming out.

Misty Piazza

- Thank you everyone for coming out.

Daniel Montez

- Thanks everybody for coming out tonight.
- I did want to mention that I did also throw in an ordinance that I guess was on the desks here tonight over the ward-based council election pursuant Act 283 of this year 2025. Little bit of light on that, it's basically the Arkansas State General Assembly enacted a new legislation that pretty much makes all municipalities

either choose to be at large or have ward-based elections. So, if you want to continue to have a ward-based election, we need to pass an ordinance. I think it's prior to the end of this year. So, I brought that forward to us to look over and see if you need to tweak anything on it. Again, this was made by me, it wasn't made by an attorney so there may be some errors that I could use a couple eyes on it, but basically it pretty much adopts that we recognize the general assembly passed the law and we elect to keep our elections kind of the same as we always do. The three wards that we have two representatives from each ward. And we just kind of adopt this into our legislation here on a city level. So again, if you'd look at that we can bring this to COW and discuss it there. Thanks. All right.

14) Comments from Mayor

- I would like to thank my assistant Megan. She came up here early and stayed late all last week. She even missed her holiday staying up here and helping organize all the carpet rooms, getting carpet. Chief Krug and crew are amazing, I greatly appreciate all the hard work, the guys came over here and helped move furniture, put furniture back. I really, really appreciate it. The same goes with Scott Ardemagni, I'm telling you, he is awesome, he has got a heart for this city, and he also came in with his crew. All the people up here do help and work together and I really appreciate that. Austin Bowen was also up here with Scott. Everyone else that helped if I did not name you. I appreciate your help moving furniture, all of the office supplies, and equipment. It was kind of a nightmare, but we got through it. All the carpets down in every room, and I really am appreciative of everybody that did come up here and help and work and made this happen. Thank you everyone. I appreciate you. Hope you all have a good evening.

15) Comments from City Attorney- NO City Attorney

16) Adjournment- All in Favor

PASSED AND APPROVED this ___ day of _____ 2025.

**APPROVED: _____
Angela Russell, Mayor**

**ATTEST: _____
Rhonda Ardemagni, City Clerk-Treasurer (SEAL)**