

Mayor – Angela Russell
Recorder – Rhonda Ardemagni
City Attorney – Tyler Farrar
Law Firm— Law Office of Tyler R.
Farrar
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
January 20th, 2026
Minutes

The Tontitown City Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20th, 2026, 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**
- 2) **Meeting Call to Order**
- 3) **Roll Call**
All in Attendance
- 4) **Pledge of Allegiance**
- 5) **Approval of Agenda**

Daniel Montez requested to-Add 11C- Discuss statement of qualifications for a CPA Firm.

Amber Ibarra motioned to approve the request and agenda.

Second by Daniel Montez

Motion Passes Unanimously

- 6) **Approval of December 16th, 2025, City Council Minutes and January 6th, 2026, Special City Council Minutes.**

Mike Washkowiak motioned to approve both December 16th, 2025, City Council Minutes and January 6th, 2026, Special City Council Minutes.

Second by Misty Piazza

Misty Piazza Voted- YES

Mike Washkowiak Voted- YES

Daniel Montez Voted- YES

Amber Ibarra Voted- YES

Tim Burress Voted- YES

Larry Ardemagni Voted- ABSTAIN

5 Votes- YES to 1 Vote- ABSTAIN

Motion Passes

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

8) **Department Reports**

A. Museum

Tontitown Historical Museum (THM) Report for the COW Meeting Tuesday, January 20, 2026

The THM Board of Directors met January 5, 2026 at City Hall at 6p.m.

1. Springdale Schools Collaboration: Helen Tyson Middle School E.A.S.T students have been working on a Time Traveler to Tontitown game, we are excited to hear more from them in the next few weeks when they stop by the museum. Students will be visiting the Veterans of Tontitown to learn more about those who served and the research process staff used while putting the exhibit together. Haas Hall Academy in Springdale started an Italian studies class, students visited the museum and learned about the Italians who settled this area and how the town got started.

2. Digitization Project: Goals for 2026 are set to photograph all our artifacts (objects), we aim to have all physical objects cataloged and to continue improving our tagging and notes of items already in the database.

3. Visitors: 14 visitors including Haas Hall Academy Springdale.

4. New Exhibits 2026: The Veterans of Tontitown Exhibit will officially be open later this week. We are aiming to publish on social media the opening once repairs on the museum are complete. This exhibit will stay up through 2026, we invite the public to come learn about our Tontitown Veterans and what the community experienced through during war time through newspapers, the words of our veterans and the photos they took during their service. We now are preparing our America 250 exhibit celebrating Tontitown becoming incorporated and its mark within American history.

5. New to the Museum: Walmart Museum generously donated 8 large touchscreen monitors to local small museums to use within their spaces. Tontitown was lucky enough to get one, we plan on utilizing this technology to allow guests to explore our collection, genealogy site and are forming plans to use this technology in future exhibits to expand how our guests interact with Tontitown history.

6. Updates to Officers: The January meeting officers were voted on and updated, please see the list below for new updates to officers and committees.

Regular Museum Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 9am-1pm, Friday & Saturday 1pm-4pm

THM Board will meet on February 2nd Chambers at City Hall at 6p.m.

B. Police

Tontitown Police Monthly Report

Month: December 2025

Calls for Service – 1085

Accident Reports – 21

Warrants Served – 57

Warrants Outstanding - 1429

Warrants Amount - \$ 1,768,114.91

Training Hours (YTD) – 5,423

Citation Total - 155

Speeding Citations -25

(Other) Traffic Citations - 109

Criminal Citations – 7

Improper Driving (City Ordinance) – 39

Warning Total - 736

Speeding Warnings – 257

(Other) Traffic Warnings – 479

C. Fire

Fire Department Report DECEMBER 2025

Total Calls: 51

EMS 24

FIRE 3

MVA 10

FALSE ALARM 2

SERVICE CALL 6

CANCELED IN ROUTE 6

Calls within city limits of Tontitown

December 2025: 635 calls for service December 2024: 541 calls for service

Increase of 94 calls to date over 2024

Average response time (Alarm to en route) listed at: 1 minute 12 seconds.

Average on scene/arrival time (Alarm to on scene): 4 minutes 18 seconds.

D. Public Works/Engineering

Reference the city website for detailed report.

Mr. Clark introduced Kamyar Sardari and expert with Garver that is going to help Tontitown with the leachate and the pretreatment for the landfill and their new discharge permit and more.

E. Building Report

Reference the city website for detailed report.

F. Community Development

January Report:

Building Report

Community Development Department

- **Rezone request** – Applicant is requesting a rezone of 5.02 acres from A (Agriculture) to R-E (Residential Estate) located at 1580 Theresa Ln. Parcel #: 830-37981-000.
- **Rezone request** - Applicant is requesting a rezone of 2.77 acres from R-3 (Single Family Residential) to C-T (Commercial Trades & Services) located at 630 S Klenc Rd. Parcel #: 830-37773-010.

- **Public Hearing of 412 overlay district to move to City Council**

- **Public Hearing of EU-L Landfill Codes to move to City Council**

- **Street and Stormwater**

- Washington County Road department completed road improvements for Wildcat. Our commitment was \$80,000.

- Timely progress has been made on Mantegani and Fletcher due to good weather conditions.

- A Community Engagement meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3, at 5:00 p.m. for public comments on the design for the BUILD grant application on South Barrington.

- I spoke with the engineer and Tim Conklin on the cost for Corridor Study on the southern corridor road. Together, he will assist in finding funding for the study.

- A preconstruction meeting was held on Monday, January 12 for South Pinalto drainage project.

- **Grants**

The 2026 Tap grant was awarded for the pedestrian traffic signals at Fletcher and Barrington. Next step is SOQ for engineering.

- **Other Projects**

- The contractor completed the new roof for the city hall, and we are also preparing the final bid document for the remaining city buildings. I am hopeful we will be advertising this month.

- I will be meeting with Central States concerning the new metal building work on the Community Building. This meeting will be held on January 20.

- I completed a job description for the part time event and recreation coordinator's position. Will be advertising by the end of the month.
- I am also working on the development of a Business Entrepreneurship Program for new businesses.

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

Mike Waskowiak motioned to approve to Waive the 3 Reading Rule for All Ordinances on Agenda.

Second by Larry Ardemagni

Motion Passes Unanimously

10) Old Business:

A. An approval of a resolution to appeal resolution #2015-01-505R regarding attorney contract. Presented by: Danny/Mayor

The mayor welcomed Tontitown's new City Attorney Tyler Farrar.

Tim Burress motioned to approve resolution to appeal resolution #2015-01-505R regarding attorney contract with discussed changes.

Second by Misty Piazza

Motion Passes Unanimously

11) New Business:

A. An approval of a ordinance for water rate increase for 2026. Presented by: James

Daniel Montez motioned to approve the ordinance for water rate increase for 2026.
Second by Larry Ardemagni

Amber Ibarra Voted- YES

Daniel Montez Voted- YES

Tim Burress Voted- NO

Mike Washkowiak Voted- YES

Larry Ardemagni Voted- YES

Misty Piazza Voted- YES

5 Votes- YES to 1 Vote- NO

Motion Passes

B. An approval of a resolution to add the Arkansas DFA Tax Remitter report to the city financial report quarterly. Presented by: Danny/Mike

Daniel Montez motioned to approve the resolution to add the Arkansas DFA Tax Remitter report to the city financial report quarterly.

Second by Tim Burress

Motion Passes Unanimously

C. Discussion-Requesting statement of qualifications to hire a CPA Firm. Danny

This is to ensure that Tontitown is taking the right steps and considering any necessary changes that will set us up for long-term success.

Mayor Russell said she has already put it on the next Committee of the Whole Agenda.

12) Public Comments

Mick Wagner, 49 Penso Avenue, Tontitown, AR

- Question and I realize you're not going to answer it, but did I understand you are going to receive the sales tax remittance reports that's been discussed for years 23 and 24? Is that correct? I'll take that as yes.
- I really appreciate the verbose discussion that y'all just had about accounting and records and such. I'm sure everybody here is probably aware of the neighbor to the north that was in the headlines and news articles about \$100,000 of missing payroll deductions for remittance of sales tax. I would note that it was discussed that those go back as far as 2018. The records of the DFA or the legislative audits website show that Cave Springs was audited as late as 23. Therefore, I restate my previous discussions about the fact that a legislative audits a 30,000-foot view and normally they miss some things. So, I point back to our recent 2023 audit and make note of that. I want to make a record again for the public that GL account 5590 is being vastly overused. I have conferred with a 40-year veteran that's done numerous public audits for both municipalities and reviewed the records. He agrees. And I note in the December records, you're trending was over \$300,000 last year and you're trending. If you don't change, go back. I put an earlier email out to all of y'all that you can reclassify this before the next audit comes in, and I strongly suggest you do. I also note that the changing of a name of a GL account is very dangerous, three or four years ago, you change 5590 from contract labor to just contracts. Now, last year that included everything from pest control contracts to contract labor to lease payments. So, that is way out of line. Also notice in the December statements, jail account 5575 has been added. I would like to know if there's a protocol who has the authority to add GL accounts and consequently hopefully these CPAs that y'all hire can help you make those determinations properly. Thank you.

Tammy Graham 1984 S. Pinalto RD., Tontitown, AR

- I want to speak to the lift station. There's a lot of talk of hydrogen sulfide that smells like rotten eggs, it's a different chemical than what we were smelling. We were smelling ammonia. We had symptoms of toxic ammonia exposure, burning eyes, etc. I brought that to the attention of the gentleman that was here, Kam, whatever his name is and I also brought it to his attention that the engineering firm Zach when they did the lie testing of the water, not the air, but the water, they had super high levels of ammonia, which correlated with what Nina and I were experiencing. So, I would encourage you all as you interact with this gentleman to make sure that they are paying close attention to ammonia as well as hydrogen sulfide. Personally, I smell rotten eggs when I go by the landfill. I smell ammonia at the lift station. Two different things. Lastly, I don't know if it's been fixed cuz I haven't been down there in about 2 and half to 3 weeks. The line that you cleaned runs just west of the Truelove's place. The manhole covers were taken off, and the manhole covers were put back on, but they weren't bolted back on. Do you know that? There were several just right in that general area and my concern is if we ever get rain again and if it is a 500-year flood or a thousand-year flood or whatever, it comes right through that drainage. It'll lift those manhole covers up just like it does asphalt, flood water will go in. It'll pull leachate out and it'll go into the little Wildcat, and it'll go into the Illinois. Think about that. But do not forget we smell ammonia as well as hydrogen sulfide. Thank you.

Kenneth Lovett, 18702 Clearwater Rd., Fayetteville, AR

- I'm glad to hear and I don't know if it's James I need to appreciate or what but I'm glad to hear the technical discussion going on. I don't believe it's enough yet because of this PC and EC agenda including the links to various documents associated with the agenda items will be available online on their thing but there is a petition to initiate rule making for 8 CPT60-1304 formerly the solid waste management rule 22 ADQ is doing that Friday at 10:00 am. I don't know how you get on that committee. I don't know who decides what needs to be in that document. I'll find that out Friday. I'd love to be and I'd love to have some of y'all in there if possible, talking about ammonia and stuff. People that don't understand chemicals completely don't word their stuff properly, ammonia if it was there they would have collected it on the air test, it's acrolein it's benzene it's the things that problems that we have continually and the problems that James is trying to fix is symptoms, the problem is at the landfill and that's where it needs to be fixed it needs to be fixed by ADQ and it needs to be fixed soon as long as you're still trying to doctor the symptoms, you're not going to fix the problem.
- And just some things that I've kind of watching. You know, you got citizens here that's trying to run your business, but you have council people that are feeding that information, and I think you all know to that person, and I don't understand why. There was a email that went out at 12:48 p.m. It was forwarded to Mick Wagner at 12:54 p.m. That's just one. There's some more. Bunch of them here, here's one that went out at 12 o'clock 13 seconds p.m. and it went to from one of your council members to another council member. That

was originally in the stuff, but it's just forwarded to them, I guess, so they can talk about it later. Is that correct? I don't understand. The council is here to run the city. Mick Wagner is not. How does that play out? Thank y'all.

Nina Brown 1851 S. Pianalto Rd., Tontitown, AR

- I want to thank you for the attention that South Pianalto has gotten. I think all of you council members realize we are dealing with two problem odors. The landfill being the base. The lift station is what's catching the leachate from the landfill, we're getting help, we've got an expert coming on, but we need to know the chemical compounds of all this stuff. Some of us are sick from it. It depends on which way the wind blows. As you can detest, it's coming out of the north and Tim smells it, it comes out of the south, I can smell it and it's like day and night, the odor that comes from the landfill and what comes from the lift. And we have improved the lift, and I appreciate the cleaning and all that's gone on. And I hope we can continue to keep that cleaned out. But back to the point, something's got to be done with Waste Management. So, therefore this code 22 and all this, please any input that we can have in that please get our expert the lawyer whoever that can help us get that where we can make them clean up their act some we all know this is karsted and the water test has shown that that goes into the Illinois River watershed and we enjoy the little creeks and the rivers around here and want to continue those for our children and our grandchildren. So, please keep all that in mind and thank you all for your service. Thank you

13) Comments from Alderman

Mike Waskowiak

- James, thank you for bringing Kam in to explain that to us, it was very informative, pretty impressive pedigree that he's got and I'm hoping that we get a little bit more information on what system that he plans to put in.
- I want to thank Chief Jenison for the detailed report, obviously the officers have gotten a lot of extra training and I'm not trying to leave you out of this, Chief Krug. I know you're back there, so I know you guys do all your training as well, but the detailed report that we got was pretty informative. And that's all I've got. Thank you.

Tim Burress

- I'm thankful for a lot of things, Mr. Farrar, it is so nice to have an attorney and it's nice that you are that attorney. Thank you so much for the work you've already done and welcome aboard.
- I appreciate all the input, James, I especially appreciate it when you do show and tell. Always helpful. Thank you.
- Do appreciate the report from Chief Jenison as well and I appreciate the citizen input, obviously everybody has their own view and that's good. It's good that you see it from your particular perspective, from your particular role. And we're trying

to do the same thing. We're trying to fill in from a particular perspective, a particular role. I was a little taken back by your comments, especially regarding emails being forwarded and I don't necessarily have a problem with it because I know that any person at the city could do it and they do, you know we've seen FOIA's that come up and things go out. I understand that people get counseled from lots of different places, many of us have been counseled by you. We listen to you. We want to hear what you have to say and we'll take that. So, I don't entirely know how to take that, but I also know that any person can FOIA and those things can end up in that position anyway. But with all that said, I know that there is and has been a lot of corruption in Tontitown and it's not just from days of old. It's been around and I think it's important that we all do our part from our unique perspectives to point that out. And I think sometimes things are going to get pointed out that maybe we don't particularly want to know or want to hear, but I appreciate it. I appreciate that we have these comments and that people point those things out. So, in a perfect world, every single one of us are doing our best to root out corruption and do what's best for the taxpaying citizens of Tontitown. But it starts here. It starts in this room and I appreciate your input. Thank you.

Larry Ardemangi

- Thank you, James, for bringing Cam on, that was really informative. I appreciate it.
- Thanks for everybody's input. As I say, without everybody's input, it'd be sure boring up here. So, I do appreciate it and just thanks for putting up with me another month.

Amber Ibarra

- I'm just thankful to everyone that came out tonight as well as citizen comments.
- Really thankful to Mr. Farrar for being on board and being our help. So, thank you for being here. Thank you for being a part of Tontitown.

Misty Piazza

- Thank you everyone for coming out tonight.
- I just want to say thank you for the opportunity to go down to the Municipal League Conference last week. I learned a lot and am excited to put some of my new knowledge to work.
- Welcome aboard Tyler. We're excited to have you.
- Everybody have a safe, it's supposed to be some bad weather later this week, so please be safe out there.

Daniel Montez

- I'd like to piggyback off everybody. I want to thank everybody that came up and presented tonight.

- Our staff is great at informing us of the day-to-day operations that have happened here in the city halls walls while we're not here.
- I want to thank Mr. Farrar for coming on board and best of luck. I'm here beside you through and through.
- I thank the mayor for her comments on the statements of qualifications for the CPA firm. So, I'm looking forward to seeing that with Mr. Laam and how we proceed with that.
- Everybody be safe as this weather comes in and hopefully it either blows through, or we all make it through in one piece. We should have made some snow predictions just for fun. OH, it's Well, all right.

14) Comments from Mayor

- Mr. Ardemagni just wanted to say you are now the chair for another year, that's what happens whenever you miss a meeting.
- Attorney Farrar, thank you so much I'm super excited for you to be on board and thank you.
- I would also like to thank my council members that attended the Municipal League last week, it was very informative and Mr. Latham attended as well, and I think that we did get some good information.
- We are going to have Rollins School coming for a field trip later this month. I'm looking forward to that.
- I would like to say that Tontitown received an award today for the generosity of our community. The Tontitown citizens donated 2.5 tons of clothing, shoes, and toys for the year 2025.

Billy with the American Textile Recycling Company attended tonight's meeting and personally wanted to thank the citizens of Tontitown.

We are a part of Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault. These bins that are sitting in your town, one sitting right back here by the park. Those bins are there to collect shoes, clothes, stuffed toys. The citizens have been very generous in Tontitown and as I said two 2.5 million that's no small feat. I promise you. 2.5 million tons not pounds, but tons. So, all of that is going to a good cause, again we appreciate everybody.

- Mr. Lovett said, this Friday is the PC and EC meeting, and it will be at 10:00 in Little Rock, if you need any direction or information about that, please contact the city or you can look it up on the PCNC website, Pollution Control and Ecology Commission.

15) Comments from City Attorney

- I just want to thank you all, the mayor and the city council for appointing me and putting me in this position. I was hesitant about doing this, not for the reasons you think I'm going to say, just because I have a full-time job. And I kind of thought, well,

they're going to say they're just going to hire one of the law firms to do municipal work. And I really didn't think that you guys would give me a fair shake at this to be honest, but then you did and you looked at my qualifications, and I think you rightfully said like this guy has a lot of comparable skills that we're looking for and I appreciate that. So, I just want to thank you for thinking outside the box. I've spent the past six years as general counsel for a medical school. So, I know I'm not sort of the atypical city attorney, but you know, I've answered this question more times than I think I ever have about any job ever. Why do I want to do this? The reason I want to do this is simple. I think that I have the ability to give good legal advice to the city, and I think you deserve good legal advice. I mean, it's straightforward to me. This is just something that is interesting to me. And I hope now that I'm up here, you guys realize I'm your attorney and you should utilize me as such. You should trust me as such, and we should have a good relationship. So, I'm very excited about it. The staff in the city have been great. The mayor's been great. And I've reached out to all of you individually so far. I am looking forward to working with you more and being up here and getting to know you, other than that, I just wanted to thank the staff in the city. Justin Eichman, your former city attorney, so far, he's donated to me like four hours of his time just to try to help understand some stuff, as far as I'm aware, you guys were in great hands with him. He's a really good lawyer. So again, I just want to thank him. He'll probably never hear listen to this, but if he is, I appreciate Justin. And again, I just look forward to working with you all. I really do appreciate it. I'm very, very excited. So, thank you all.

16) **Adjournment**- All in Favor

PASSED AND APPROVED this ___ day of _____ 2025.

APPROVED: _____
Angela Russell, Mayor

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