Mayor – Angela Russell
Recorder – Rhonda Ardemagni
City Attorney – Tyler R Farrar
Law Firm— Tyler R Farrar Law
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
April 21st, 2026
Minutes

The Tontitown City Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21st, 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
Download Teams | Join on the web
Learn More | Meeting options

City Council

1) **Prayer-** Pastor Bart Hodgson
2) **Meeting Call to Order**
3) **Roll Call-** All in attendance
4) **Pledge of Allegiance**
5) **Approval of Agenda**

Add to Department Reports Item G- The mayor requested that the City Attorney present the Arkansas Ethics Commission's report concerning a complaint filed by a Tontitown citizen.

Daniel Montez requested that Item J under New Business be removed.

Mike Washkowiak motioned to approve the agenda with requested changes.
Second by Amber Ibarra

Motion Passes Unanimously

6) **Approval of March 17th, 2026, City Council Minutes.**

Tim Burress motioned to approve the March 17th, 2026, minutes.
Second by Mike Washkowiak

Motion Passes Unanimously

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, April 21, 2026

The THM Board of Directors met on April 6, 2026, at City Hall at 6p.m.

1. **Heritage Day:** Save the date for Tontitown Heritage Day, May 31st, Noon-2p.m.; Red Door will be providing pulled pork sandwiches, Tontitown Winery is bringing their Grape Ice Cream again. We will have crafts for kids; the museum will be open for guests to view the new exhibits. There will be a Silent Baked Goods Auction and a Raffle Basket Giveaway. And live music from one of our Tontitown local bands!

2. **Summer Camp**: We are happy to announce we will be hosting a 3-day summer camp this June, from the 8th-10th. Students will get a chance to learn about Tontitown history through crafts, games, food and get a chance to explore their own history through a guided ancestry activity. Please see our social media or email museum@tontitownar.gov for more details.

3. **Digitization Project**: Staff are working on textile photographing, this includes wedding
dresses, Queen Concordia dresses, vestments, early settler clothing, blankets, flags and banners.

4. **Visitors**: 33 (21: 2025)

5. **AMA Conference**: Staff traveled to Newport, AR for the annual Arkansas Museum Association Conference, they attended classes and had the opportunity to visit local historic sites and museum during the week.

6. **Translations:** Staff are working on translating an Italian cookbook that was written by Rosa Martinelli Bersi. The University of Arkansas Italian program has some professors interested in utilizing this document in their classes this fall.

7. **New to the collection:** New donations have been brought to the museum including some rare World War II photos taken by Woodie Stockton, one of our Tontitown Veterans, these photos show his units movement from Africa up through Italy and finally his entrance into Germany. Some striking shots are of downed German planes and disabled tanks. As well as a "Buy War Bonds" poster which experts from Jacksonville Military Museum have referenced as rare and one they have never seen before. These items will be available to view online later this spring/summer.

THM Board will meet on May 4th Chambers at City Hall at 6p.m.

B. Police

Tontitown Police Monthly Report
Month: March 2026

Calls for Service – 1171
Accident Reports – 24
Warrants Served – 87
Warrants Outstanding - 1436
Warrants Amount - $ 1,779,091.68
Training Hours (YTD) – 985
Citation Total - 215
Speeding Citations -19
(Other) Traffic Citations - 156
Criminal Citations – 20
Improper Driving (City Ordinance) - 20
Warning Total - 648
Speeding Warnings – 162
(Other) Traffic Warnings – 486

C. **Fire**

Fire Department Report
MARCH 2026

Total Calls: 45
EMS 23
FIRE 2
MVA 9
FIRE ALARM 7
SERVICE CALL 3
MUTUAL AID 1
CANCELED IN ROUTE 0

Calls within city limits of Tontitown
March 2026: 138 calls for service March 2025: 145 calls for service
Decrease of 7 calls to date over 2025
Average response time (Alarm to en route) listed at: 1 minute 14 seconds.
Average on scene/arrival time (Alarm to on scene): 4 minutes 02 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**

March Report:
Building Report
Community Development Department

- **Planning**

Variance Request – Applicant is requesting a variance at 529 Renley St, located within the Renley Ray subdivision. The request is for an encroachment on setback requirements.

- **Street and Stormwater**

412/Barrington
2nd phase of Fletcher
Mantegani
South Pianalto Drainage
2025 Street Improvements

- **Grants**

Corridor Study
Park, parking, and drainage improvements TAP grant

- **Other Projects**

CPA Contract
HR Consultant Contract
Employee Handbook Update
Community Building
Landfill Odor Control Ordinance

G. City Attorney Report-

The City Attorney reported on the Arkansas Ethics Commission's review of multiple complaints filed against Mayor Angela Russell. Two citizens submitted a total of 19 allegations involving zoning, permitting, business licensing, the city's use of Zan Automotive, and a payment authorized to the Richard Mays Law Firm. Most allegations were dismissed because they were outside the Commission's jurisdiction, not violations of law, or unsupported by evidence.

The Commission ultimately consolidated the matters into two cases.
Case 117 (Tammy Graham): One allegation regarding Zan Automotive was dismissed. The remaining issue involved a mistaken payment authorized by the Mayor to the Mays Law Firm for work performed for private citizen plaintiffs, including her husband. The mayor acknowledged the error, the funds were reimbursed to the city, and she personally covered related legal fees. The Commission found the mistake unintentional, with no personal gain or misuse of influence, and resolved the matter with a public letter of caution.

Case 134 (Mick Wagner): Thirteen allegations were reviewed, narrowed to five within the Commission's authority, and ultimately dismissed unanimously. The investigation found no evidence that the mayor used her position to benefit family, influence decisions, or misuse confidential information. Staff interviews confirmed she had not directed any improper actions.

The City Attorney concluded that the Ethics Commission's process was thorough and is now fully resolved, with no remaining allegations pending. He encouraged the city to move forward and refocus on serving the community.

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

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

Motion Passes Unanimously

10) **Old Business:** NONE

11) **New Business:**

A. **An approval of a resolution for a Letter of Support for Forgotten Paws NWA. Sponsored by: Mayor**

Tim Burress motioned to approve a resolution for a Letter of Support for Forgotten Paws NWA.
Second by Misty Piazza

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

5 Votes- YES to 1 Voted- NO

Motion Passes

B. **An approval of an ordinance addressing animal dumping. Sponsored by: Mayor**

Tim Burress motioned to approve an ordinance addressing animal dumping.
Second by Misty Piazza

Motion Passes Unanimously

C. **An approval of an Ordinance to amend section 155 of the Tontitown Municipal code regarding Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Impact Fees. Sponsored by: Mayor/Brad**

Tim Burress motioned to approve an Ordinance to amend section 155 of the Tontitown Municipal code regarding Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Impact Fees.
Second by Larry Ardemagni

Motion Passes Unanimously

D. **An approval of a Resolution for Final Plat Acceptance. Sponsored by: Mayor/Brad**

Tim Burress motioned to approve a Resolution for Final Plat Acceptance.
Second by Daniel Montez

Motion Passes Unanimously

E. **An approval of an Ordinance Imposing a Cost Recovery Fee for Road Access to the Landfill. Sponsored by: Mike/Mark**

Tim Burress motioned to approve an Ordinance Imposing a Cost Recovery Fee for Road Access to the Landfill.
Second by Daniel Montez

Motion Passes Unanimously

F. **An approval of a Resolution regarding an application for Tap Funding. Sponsored by: Mayor/Mark**

Mike Washkowiak motioned to approve of a Resolution regarding an application for Tap Funding.
Second by Daniel Montez

Motion Passes Unanimously

G. **An approval of a Resolution for a change order for APAC Contract. Sponsored by: Mike/Mark**

Larry Ardemagni motioned to approve a Resolution for a change order for APAC Contract.
Second Daniel Montez

Motion Passes Unanimously

H. **An approval of a resolution authorizing Park Funding in the amount of $30,000. Sponsored by: Mayor/Mark**

Tim Burress motioned to approve a resolution authorizing Park Funding in the amount of $30,000.
Second by Mike Washkowiak

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

5 Votes- YES to 1 Voted- ABSTAINED

Motion Passes

I. **An approval of a Resolution for a task order with Karstetter Johnston Engineering to design water line improvements on Wildcat Creek Blvd and Harmon Road. Sponsored by: Mayor/James**

Amber Ibarra motioned to approve a Resolution for a task order with Karstetter Johnston Engineering to design water line improvements on Wildcat Creek Blvd and Harmon Road.
Second by Misty Piazza

Motion Passes Unanimously

12) **Public Comments**

Kenneth Lovett- Hwy. 71, Springdale, AR

- Mr. Lovett read a Facebook post claiming the City Council has worked hard to address issues with Waste Management, including hiring lawyers, experts, and pursuing legislation, but cannot simply make the landfill disappear. The post also stated that council members dislike the dump, receive many complaints, and that state-level failures—not the council—have allowed the landfill to continue operating. Mr. Lovett disagreed with parts of the post, arguing that the City Council could be doing more. He expressed concern that some council members say they don't know what to do and noted past conflicts of interest involving former legal representatives. He stated that relying on citizens to take legal action is a failure of the council's responsibility to protect residents.
Mr. Lovett emphasized that citizens currently have a nuisance case, but the city should pursue its own case focused on vapors, not odors. They argued that the city

should hire an environmental consultant to review air testing and recommend next steps and urged the council to take stronger action since Tontitown is the host city and has the resources to do so.

Anna Watkins with Forgotten Paws NWA

- Thanked the council for listening to residents, including those who haven't been able to speak up themselves. She expressed appreciation for the council's efforts and hard work.

13) **Comments from Alderman**

Mike Washkowiak

- Thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

Tim Burress

- Thanked colleagues for approving funding for the park and expressed excitement about future progress. He also thanked the residents who attended the meeting and offered appreciation to the city's police, fire, and staff, noting the high quality of their work.

Misty Piazza

- Thanked everyone for attending the meeting and noted that, unusually, they would be getting much of their evening back. She expressed appreciation again for the community's participation.

Amber Ibarra

- Mrs. Ibarra submitted her resignation, effective at the end of the April 21, 2026, meeting. She expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve since 2019, noting it had been an honor to help make decisions shaping the community. She explained that a new opportunity will prevent them from completing their term and thanked the mayor, council, and residents for their trust and support.

14) **Comments from Mayor**

- The mayor expressed sadness about Mrs. Ibarra's resignation but was also excited about her new opportunity. The mayor thanked everyone for attending,

appreciated those who shared concerns, and emphasized the importance of hearing from the community so the council can help where possible.

Note: The mayor explained that the upcoming council vacancy will be publicly announced in the newspaper and must be filled by someone who lives in Ward 1. They discussed the ward's boundary area and referenced a map to clarify it. The mayor noted that there is typically a 30-day waiting period, but State Law may require the seat to be filled by the next council meeting, so that detail will need to be verified.

15) **Comments from City Attorney**

- Mr. Farrar clarified that Arkansas Law requires the council to act on a vacancy at the first regular meeting after it occurs.
- He thanked everyone for listening to the lengthy Ethics Commission report, emphasizing the importance of transparency.
- Mr. Farrar noted that this date—April 21—would have been their late father's 69th birthday and wished him a happy birthday, mentioning he once served as the town's fire chief.

16) **Adjournment-** All in Favor

PASSED AND APPROVED this 19 day of May 2025.

APPROVED: Angela Russell
Angela Russell, Mayor

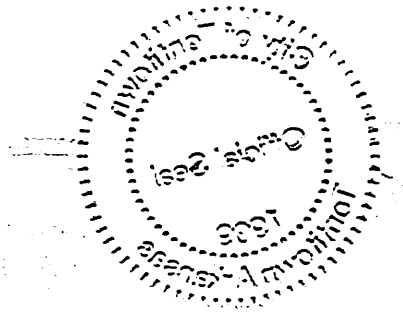
ATTEST: Rhonda Ardemagni
Rhonda Ardemagni, City Clerk-Treasurer
(SEAL)

Sponsor (Initiated By): N/A

Motion to Introduce Made By: Mike Washkowiak

Seconded By: Lacey Ardemagni

Adopted / Passed: Passed

Vote: Ayes 4 Nays _____ Abstain _____ Absent 1 Vacant Seat 1

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