

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING
ARTESIA, NEW MEXICO
MARCH 24, 2026**

The City Council of the City of Artesia, New Mexico met in the City Council Chambers at City Hall on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in regular session, with Mayor Jonathan Henry presiding, and the following present to wit:

Ignacio Mariscal	George Mullen
Jeff Youtsey	Michael Bunt
Richard Townley	Raul Rodriguez
Wade Nelson	Jarod Moreau (left meeting at 6:20 p.m.)

Also present:

City Attorney Cas Tabor
City Clerk/Treasurer Summer Valverde
Deputy City Clerk Fatima Salinas

A quorum was determined to be present. The invocation was given by Councilor Rodriguez, and all joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

New Requests for City Facilities:

City Clerk Summer Valverde presented the request from Eddie Fernandez for July 25, 2026, at MLK Park. Councilor Rodriguez moved to approve. Second by Councilor Mariscal. Upon vote, the motion passed.

City Clerk Valverde presented the request from AGSA/USSSA for August 1-3, 2026, at Jaycee Park Softball Fields. Councilor Rodriguez moved to approve. Second by Councilor Mariscal and Councilor Mullen. Upon vote, the motion passed.

City Departments and Employees

None

Special Reports

None

Period for Hearing Visitors

Morgan Fox thanked the outgoing council for their service to the community.

Jessica Bollema and Kamili Burnett, with Artesia Chamber of Commerce also thanked the outgoing councilors for their service.

Consent Agenda

Councilor Rodriguez moved to approve the consent as written. Second by Councilor Mullen. Upon vote, the motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

March 24, 2026

*March 10, 2026

1. **Approval of Minutes**
2. **Consideration of Bids:**

3. Contracts, Leases and Agreements:**4. Appointments:****5. Personnel Resignations, Hirings, Promotions, and Transfers:**

Upon recommendation of the Mayor, subject to successful completion of required pre-employment testing, permission to:

A. *Hire:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Rate of Pay</u>
1. <u>Gabriel Chavez</u>	Water	Water Technician	\$2920.67 p/m CA13
2. <u>Ray Amaya</u>	Solid Waste	Equipment Operator I	\$2920.67 p/m CA13

B. Rehire:

3. <u>Nason, Marc</u>	Fire	Division Fire Chief	\$8694.68 p/m F6 Step11
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C. Ratification:**D. Promotion:****E. Demotion:****F. Transfer:****G. Resignation:**

1. Accept the resignation of Veronica Villa, Wastewater, Lab Technician, effective March 20, 2026.

6. Dates of Hearing:**7. *Travel and Training:**

- A. Police – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the Public/Open Records for Law Enforcement online training/webinar.
- B. Police – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the Redacting and Releasing Law Enforcement Reports online training/webinar.
- C. Police – Permission for two (2) employees to attend the Crime Scene Reconstruction 1 in Albuquerque, NM.
- D. Fire – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the Ambulance Billing in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- E. Finance – Permission for two (2) employees to attend the NMML CFOA Annual Spring Certification Meeting in Las Vegas, NM
- F. Police – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the In Person Chief's Association Meeting in Santa Fe, NM.
- G. Solid Waste – Ratification of Mayor Henry's approval for one (1) employee to attend the Transfer Station Certification in Santa Fe, NM.
- H. Solid Waste – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the 2026 Compost Facility Operator Certification Course in Santa Fe, NM.

8. Routine Requests for City Facilities:**9. Routine Resolutions (to be assigned a number by staff):****10. Budgeted Items:****11. Quarterly Journal Entries:****12. Non-budgeted Items:****13. *Payment of Bills**

Public Hearings – including consideration of final passage of any ordinance as to which proper notice has been published.

Councilor Rodriguez moved to go into public hearing. Second by Councilor Mullen. Upon roll call, with the following votes recorded:

Aye: Nelson, Townley, Youtsey, Mullen, Moreau, Rodriguez, Bunt, Mariscal

Nay: None.

The motion passed.

Mayor Henry

- A. *Consideration and approval of an Ordinance 1147 for Case No. 26-04, Zone Change from "R1-B" Single Family District to "C" Commercial. Location: 2 lots W Of 1206 W Hermosa Dr and 1 lot W of 1209 W Sears. Legal: Lots 22, 23 & 24 of Block

6, Fairacres (Blocks 1 Thru 6), Quarter: SW S: 17 T: 17S R: 26E. Owners: Brad Young.

- a. Staff comments – Infrastructure Director Byron Landfair presented Ordinance 1147.
- b. Public comments – None.
- c. City Attorney comments/questions. – None.
- d. Council comments/questions – Councilor Bunt asked if any they received any response letters from the neighborhood. Mr. Landfair responded with no. Mayor Pro tem Youtsey asked if there is a plan to combine the properties and is there any intention to vacate the alley. Mr. Landfair responded with at this time there has been no request for such.
- e. Entertain a motion and second from Council – Councilor Rodriguez moved to approve Ordinance 1147. Second by Councilor Mariscal. Upon roll call, with the following votes recorded:
Aye: Mariscal, Bunt, Rodriguez, Moreau, Mullen, Youtsey, Townley, Nelson
Nay: None.
- f. Council action
 - i. Approve/Disapprove Ordinance 1147 for Zone Change, Case No. 26-04.

ORDINANCE 1147

Councilor Rodriguez moved to adjourn public hearing. Second by Councilor Mullen. Upon vote, with the following votes recorded:

Aye: Moreau, Rodriguez, Bunt, Mariscal, Mullen, Youtsey, Townley, Nelson

Nay: None.

The motion passed.

Comments from Public Officials and Contracted Services

None

Committee Reports

- A. Budget and Finance – None.
- B. Personnel – None.
- C. Police and Fire – Meeting scheduled for Thursday at 4 p.m. at PSC.
- D. Safety – None.
- E. Recreation – Councilor Rodriguez noted basketball has ended, baseball has begun and summer hires is opening soon.
- F. Infrastructure / Planning (Streets, Garage, Cemetery, Parks, Water, Wastewater, Solid Waste, Facility Maintenance, Project Management, Code Enforcement, Permits and Inspections) – None.
- G. Government – Mayor Pro Tem Youtsey reported the committee reviewed a proposal for cameras Senior Center buses, and receive Museum updates.

Personnel

None.

Public Safety

A. Police Department:

Police Chief Kirk Roberts greeted Mayor and Council and stood for questions. There were none.

B. Fire Department:

Fire Chief Kevin Hope greeted Mayor and Council. Chief Hope presented the renewal of the grant agreement between the City of Artesia and PY Foundation. Councilor Moreau moved to approve. Second by Councilor Rodriguez. Upon vote, the motion passed.

Fire Chief Hope provided updates on the five new hires and hanger project.

Infrastructure

A. Community Development:

Infrastructure Director Byron Landfair presented a request for a public hearing for Case No. 26-01, Final Plat for Legends and Annexation to be set for April 14, 2026. Councilor Rodriguez moved to approve. Second by Councilor Mullen. Upon vote, the motion passed.

Infrastructure Director Byron Landfair presented a request for a public hearing for Case No. 26-05, Zone Change, to be set for April 14, 2026. Councilor Rodriguez moved to approve. Second by Councilor Mariscal. Upon vote the motion passed.

B. Infrastructure:

Infrastructure Director Byron Landfair presented the NMRLD Permit for Walmart Supercenter #3427 for Permanent Change of Floor Plan or Expansion of a Liquor-License Premise. Councilor Bunt moved to approve. Second by Councilor Moreau. Upon vote, the motion passed.

Infrastructure Director Byron Landfair reported stats and provided updates on city projects.

City Attorney

None

City Clerk

City Clerk/Treasurer Summer Valverde greeted mayor and council and updated council on recalculation of the sewer rate that went out were incorrect and the city issued a post on this matter on social media. City Clerk Valverde also announced an automatic recount for the MOE Election, District 4, scheduled for March 31, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in Carlsbad at the Eddy County Office, 326 S Canyon Street.

City Clerk Valverde presented the Head Start Lease Agreement between the City of Artesia and Youth Development Inc. Discussion took place over the properties and lease agreement. Councilor Bunt moved to approve and to keep lease at \$10.00 per year. Second by Councilor Moreau. Upon vote, the motion passed.

City Administrator

City Administrator Hayley Klein recognized outgoing officials: Mayor Jon Henry, Wade Nelson, Richard Townley, and George Mullen with a plaque. Each gave remarks.

Mayor requests to move item 18 up. Councilor Rodriguez moved to move item 18 up. Second by Councilor Mullen. Upon vote, the motion passed.

New or other business from Councilors

Councilor Nelson thanked the community for the opportunity to serve.

Councilor Townley also thanked the community for the opportunity to serve.

Mayor Pro Tem Youtsey expressed appreciation and with intent to continue serving.

Councilor Mullen thanked the community for eight years of service.

Councilor Mariscal congratulated incoming officials and thanked outgoing members.

Councilor Bunt and Councilor Moreau welcomed incoming members.
Councilor Rodriguez thanked Mayor Henry and outgoing members.

Mayor

Mayor Henry sought a motion in accordance with the State of New Mexico Open Meetings Act, Section 10-15-1-(H)(7)(2), to go into executive session. Councilor Rodriguez moved to go into executive session. Second by Councilor Mullen. Upon roll call, with the following votes recorded:

Aye: Nelson, Townley, Youtsey, Mullen, Moreau, Rodriguez, Bunt, Mariscal

Nay: None.

The Motion passed.

Council recessed to executive session at 6:08 p.m.

Council reconvened at 6:40 p.m.

Councilor Moreau left meeting at 6:20p.m.

Councilor Rodriguez moved to reconvene, stating that only threatened litigation and limited personnel discussed, and no action was taken. Second by Councilor Mullen. Upon roll call, with the following votes recorded:

Aye: Nelson, Townley, Youtsey, Mullen, Rodriguez, Bunt, Mariscal

Nay: None

The motion passed.

Councilor Rodriguez moved to uphold the Infrastructure Director's disciplinary decision. Second by Mayor Pro tem Youtsey. Upon roll call vote, with the following votes recorded:

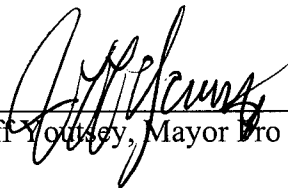
Aye: Mariscal, Bunt, Rodriguez, Mullen, Youtsey, Townley, Nelson

Nay: None.

The motion passed.

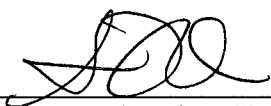
Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:41 P.M. on March 24, 2026.



Jeff Youtsey, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Summer Valverde - City Clerk/Treasurer

