

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING
ARTESIA, NEW MEXICO
MARCH 10, 2026**

The City Council of the City of Artesia, New Mexico met in the City Council Chambers at City Hall on Tuesday, March 10, 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
Jarod Moreau	

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

Absent
Wade Nelson

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:
None

City Departments and Employees
None

Special Reports
None

Period for Hearing Visitors
None.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA
March 10, 2026**

1. **Approval of Minutes** *February 24, 2026
2. **Consideration of Bids:**
3. **Contracts, Leases and Agreements:**
 - A. *Approval of MOU between New Mexico Mainstreet Program and City of Artesia and Artesia MainStreet Arts & Cultural District.
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>Landen Zamarron</u>	Police	CSO I	\$3050.67 p/m CAP1
2. <u>Taylor Price</u>	IT	Senior IT Technician	\$4886.27 p/m CA20
3. <u>Rito Perez</u>	Garage	Mechanic I	\$4144.40 p/m CA19
4. <u>Jesus Muniz</u>	Water	Water Technician	\$2920.67 p/m CA25

B. Ratification:

C. Promotion:

5. <u>Russel Najar</u>	Water	Water Supervisor	\$5877.73 p/m CA25
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D. Demotion:

E. Transfer:

F. Resignation:

6. Accept the resignation of Ashton Gomez, Water Technician, effective February 26, 2026.

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

- A. Police – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the SNM Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect in Mescalero, NM.
- B. Police – Ratification of Mayor Henry's approval for one (1) employee to attend the IAAI Arson Investigation Annual Conference in Albuquerque, NM.
- C. Police – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the Crimes Against Childre Conference in Dallas, TX.
- D. Police – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the AXON Week 2026 in Nashville, TN.
- E. Polic – Ratification of Mayor Henry's approval for one (1) employee to attend the FBI CJIS Working Group Meeting in Pittsburg, PA/Clarksburg , WV.
- F. Police – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the Advanced Homicide and Violent Crimes Investigations in Tucson, AZ.
- G. Police – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the SFST Instructor Update in Las Cruces, NM.
- H. Fire – Ratification of Mayor Henry's approval for one (1) employee to attend the Firefighter I and Firefighter II in Socorro, NM.
- I. Fire – Permission for three (3) employees to attend the FDIC Internation Fire Conference in Indianapolis, IN.
- J. HR – Consideration and approval of two (2) employees to attend the FMLA Masterclass online.

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.

None.

Comments from Public Officials and Contracted Services

None

Committee Reports

- A. Budget and Finance – Councilor Bunt noted the committee reviewed GRT and heard from REDA regarding a budget request.
- B. Personnel – None.
- C. Police and Fire – None.

- D. Safety – Mayor Pro Tem Youtsey reported on stats.
- E. Recreation – Councilor Rodriguez noted Basketball is doing well, and baseball opening day had a good turnout.
- F. Infrastructure / Planning (Streets, Garage, Cemetery, Parks, Water, Wastewater, Solid Waste, Facility Maintenance, *Project Management, Code Enactment, Permits and Inspections*) – Councilor Rodriguez noted committee reviewed budget adjustments, a water break, updates on 26th Street and Hermosa, properties under condemnations, Jaycee Park and Recreation.
- G. Government – None.

Personnel

Fernando Valdez presented the contract with Tyler Technologies. Councilor Rodriguez moved to approve. Second by Councilor Mullen. Upon vote, the motion passed.

Public Safety

A. Police Department:

Police Chief Kirk Roberts greeted Mayor and Council and presented stats. Chief Roberts introduced Landen Zamarron and then stood for questions. There were none.

B. Fire Department:

Deputy Fire Chief Josh Stites greeted Mayor and Council. Deputy Fire Chief Stites presented stats and provided updates on new hires. He then stood for questions. There were none.

Infrastructure

A. Community Development:

B. Infrastructure:

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

City Attorney

None

City Clerk

City Clerk/Treasurer Summer Valverde presented the Financial Statements.

Mayor

None.

New or other business from Councilors

Mayor Pro Tem Youtsey congratulated all newly elected officials and recognized those who did not make it into office.

Councilor Mullen also congratulated the newly elected officials and wished the Artesia Bowling Team well.

Councilor Mariscal thanked and congratulated the new officials.

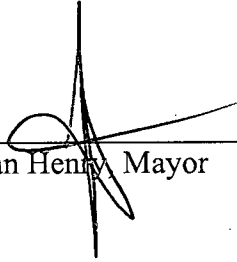
Councilor Rodriguez acknowledged all elected officials, recognized candidates who did not make it into office, and encouraged them to stay engaged.

Councilor Moreau recognized Charles Moreau of Troop 228 for accomplishing his Eagle Scout project, noting he is the 32nd Scout in 90 yrs to complete the achievement. Mr. Moreau also thanked everyone who helped make the project possible.

Mayor Henry thanked everyone, Mayor-elect Councilor Youtsey, all newly elected officials, and those who ran for office.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:44 P.M. on March 10, 2026.



Jonathan Henry Mayor

ATTEST:



Summer Valverde - City Clerk/Treasurer