

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

The City Council of the City of Artesia, New Mexico met in the City Council Chambers at City Hall on Tuesday, February 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 (joined at 5:02 pm)	

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

Absent
Jarrod Moreau

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

Robert Chavez, CEO of Youth Development, Inc. (YDI) greeted the Mayor and Council and introduced Debra Baca, VP of Early Childhood Education; Jack Siamu VP Preventions, Intervention & Behavioral Health; and Sandy Trujillo-Medina, CEO. Mr. Chavez stated that they are the new grantee of Head Start, which opened up on December 1, 2025, to provide early childhood services in our area. Mr. Chavez and Mrs. Baca presented their mission for the HeadStart program.

Consent Agenda

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

CONSENT AGENDA

February 24, 2026

1. **Approval of Minutes** *February 13, 2026
2. **Consideration of Bids:**
 - A. *Approval of award of bid for On-Call Mechanical Equipment Maintenance & Repair Services to Advance Airflow Technology.

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>
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B. Ratification:**C. Promotion:****D. Demotion:****E. Transfer:****F. Resignation:**

1. Accept the resignation of Nicholas Villalobos Firefighter Certified effective February 25, 2026.

6. Dates of Hearing:**7. Travel and Training:****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 – City Clerk Summer Valverde stated the committee reviewed a game plan to start the budget. They will meet up again next week with REDA in attendance.
- B. Personnel – None.
- C. Police and Fire – None.
- D. Safety – None.
- E. Recreation – Councilor Rodriguez stated the committee met last night and discussed current activities. Girls softball begins March 31 through May 14. A briefing of the Aquatic Center was provided. The next meeting is May 5, 2026, at 6pm.
- F. Infrastructure / Planning (Streets, Garage, Cemetery, Parks, Water, Wastewater, Solid Waste, Facility Maintenance, Project Management, Code Enforcement, Permits and Inspections) – Meeting scheduled for Thursday.
- G. Government – None.

Personnel

None

Public Safety**A. Police Department:**

Police Chief Kirk Roberts greeted Mayor and Council stated he had nothing on the agenda and stood for questions. There were none.

B. Fire Department:

Fire Chief Kevin Hope greeted Mayor and Council stated he had nothing on the agenda and stood for questions. There were none.

Infrastructure

A. Community Development:

Infrastructure Director Byron Landfair greeted Mayor and Council and presented the award of bid for The Legends Subdivision – Unit One Project to Constructors, Inc of Carlsbad, NM. Councilor Rodriguez moved to approve. Second by Councilor Mullen. Upon vote, the motion passed.

Mr. Landfair presented next item to consider and approve setting a public hearing for Case No. 26-04, Zone Change from “R1-B” Single Family District to “C” Commercial. Councilor Rodriguez moved to set the hearing for March 24, 2026. Seconded by Councilor Mariscal. Upon vote, the motion passed.

B. Infrastructure:

Mr. Landfair reported on updates on projects around the city.

City Attorney

None

City Clerk

City Clerk/Treasurer Summer Valverde presented Resolution 1939, Budget Adjustment for FY25-26 Budget. Discussion took place regarding the budget. Councilor Rodriguez moved to approve Resolution 1939. Seconded by Councilor Mariscal. Upon vote, the motion passed.

City Clerk Valverde updated Mayor and Council on early voting election for the Municipal Officers Election.

Mayor

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

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

Nay: None.

The motion passed.

Council recessed to executive session at 5:44 p.m.

Council reconvened at 6:19 p.m.

Councilor Rodriguez moved to reconvene from executive session, stating that pending or threatening litigations were discussed and no action was taken. Seconded by Councilor Mullen. Upon roll call, with the following votes recorded:

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

Nay: None

The motion passed.

New or other business from Councilors

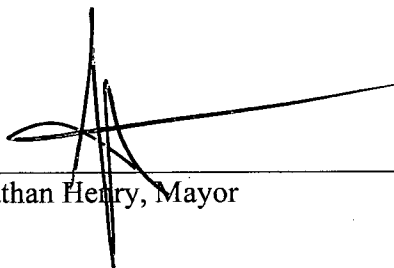
Councilor Mariscal encouraged all to go out and vote.

Councilor Rodriguez reminded the public this is the last week for early voting and encouraged everyone to vote.

Mayor Henry thanked the Mayor Pro Tem and Council for continuing to hold the meeting while he was away for the 30-day session in Santa Fe, and thanked staff as well. He reminded all to vote-early voting ends Saturday and March 3rd is Election day.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:21 P.M. on February 24, 2026.



Jonathan Henry, Mayor

ATTEST:



Summer Valverde - City Clerk/Treasurer