

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING
ARTESIA, NEW MEXICO
January 27, 2026**

The City Council of the City of Artesia, New Mexico met in the City Council Chambers at City Hall on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in regular session with Mayor Pro Tem Jeffrey Youtsey presiding, and the following present to wit:

Ignacio Mariscal	Michael Bunt
Raul Rodriguez	Jarrold Moreau
Goerge Mullen	Wade Nelson

Also present:
Fatima Salinas, Deputy City Clerk
Cas Tabor, City Attorney

Absent:
Mayor Jon Henry
Richard Townley
City Clerk/Treasurer Summer Valverde

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

Approval of Consent Agenda

Councilor Bunt moved to approve consent agenda pulling Item 7C for further discussion. Second by Councilor Rodriguez. Upon vote, the motion passed.

Councilor Bunt asks for clarification regarding Advanced Digital Tradecraft Course. Police Chief Kirk Roberts explained that the course is for investigative purposes in the digital environment and connects to a forensic tool currently used by the department.

Councilor Rodriguez moved to approve Item 7C. Second by Councilor Mullen. Upon vote, the motion passed.

**CONSENT AGENDA
January 27, 2026**

1. **Approval of Minutes** *January 13, 2026
2. **Consideration of Bids:**
 - A. *Approval of award of bid for S. 8th St. Water Line Replacement and Street Rehabilitation Project to Constructors, Inc of Carlsbad, NM.
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>Veronica Villa</u>	Waste Water	WW Lab Technician	\$2920.67 p/m

CA13

B. Ratification:

C. Promotion/Interim:

2. <u>Kevin Hartley</u>	Fire	Interim Assistant	\$7556.57 p/m
		Fire Marshal	CAF5

D. Demotion:

E. Transfer:

F. Resignation/Exits:

1. Accept the resignation of Joel Holleman Solid Waste, Equipment Operator I, effective January 31, 2026.

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

- A. Police – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the DWI Checkpoint Course in Albuquerque, NM.
- B. Police – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the NM Basic SRO Course in Albuquerque, NM.
- C. Police – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the Advanced Digital Tradecraft in Bedford, TX.
- D. Finance – Permission for (2) employees to attend the NMML 37th Annual Municipal Day in Santa Fe, NM.
- E. Police – Permission for (1) employee to attend the NMML Muni Day and NMACP Meetings in Santa Fe, NM.
- F. Solid Waste – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the 2026 Compost Facility Operator Certification Course in Santa Fe, NM.
- G. Solid Waste – Permission for one (1) employee to attend a Transfer Station 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****Committee Reports**

- A. Budget and Finance – None.
- B. Personnel – None.
- C. Police and Fire – None.
- D. Safety – None.
- E. Recreation – None.
- F. Infrastructure / Planning (*Streets, Garage, Cemetery, Parks, Water, Wastewater, Solid Waste, Facility Maintenance, Project Management, Code Enforcement, Permits and Inspections*) – Mayor Pro tem Youtsey stated they met last week. Discussion included Jaycee Park, Water Services, updates on Capital Funds, and ongoing ordinance revisions.
- G. Government – None.

Public Safety

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

Fire Chief Kevin Hope greeted Mayor Pro Tem and Council. Fire Chief Hope provided a brief update and stood for questions. Councilor Bunt asked about which fireworks are allowed within city limits. Fire Chief Hope provided clarification on permissible fireworks.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure Director Byron Landfair presented a donation of \$38,000 from HF Sinclair, which will go towards Recreation equipment for the softball and baseball fields. Councilor Rodriguez moved to approve. Seconded by Councilor Mullen. Upon vote, the motion passed.

Infrastructure Director Byron Landfair also provided updates on various projects and weekend snowstorm activity.

City Clerk

Deputy City Clerk Fatima Salinas presented the ratification of public celebration permit to NMRLD for the Dueling Pianos at the Ocotillo Theater on January 29, 2026, at 5:30 pm. Councilor Rodriguez moved to approve. Seconded by Councilor Mullen. Upon vote, the motion passed.

Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem Youtsey expressed his appreciation for all departments' working hard during the weekends snowstorm.

New or other business from Councilors

Councilor Moreau commended Streets Department, Police and Fire for their dedication and hard work during the recent snowstorm.

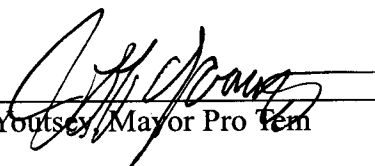
Councilor Rodriguez wished all Municipal Candidates the best of luck in this year's election.

Councilor Bunt stated he hopes to be more involved with Parks and Recreation during their budget process.

Councilor Mariscal thanked the departments for their snowstorm response and also wished the candidates good luck in the election.

Adjournment

There being no further business; the meeting was adjourned at 5:28 P.M. on February 27, 2026.


Jeff Youtsey, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:


Fatima Salinas, Deputy City Clerk

