REGULAR CALLED MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Boardroom **September 1, 2026** **5:30 p.m.**

1. Call to Order - Mayor Scott Byrd
2. Invocation
3. Approval of Board Minutes from August 15, 2026 - Mayor Byrd
4. Approval of Board Minutes from August 18,2026 – Mayor Byrd
5. Third Reading of Ordinance to Set 5 Mill Tax 2026 – Gary Brinkley
6. Consideration of Resolution Retiring Officer – Chief Jackson
7. Consideration of Resolution to 2026 Budget – Gary Brinkley/Chief Jackson
8. Reappointment of Commissioner William J. Colgate – Gary Brinkley/Bobbi Partain
9. Executive Session to Discuss CM Annual Review – Mayor Byrd
10. Action Regarding CM Annual Review – Mayor Byrd
11. City Managers Report – Gary Brinkley
12. Routine Business – Mayor Byrd
13. Adjournment – Mayor Byrd

Regular Meeting: Citizens speaking to the Board of Directors shall have a speaking time limit of **10 minutes.** The Board of Directors may ask follow up questions which may extend the time limit.

Open Session Forum: Speaking time limit is **5 minutes** a speaker may not yield his or her time to another speaker

BUDGET BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dawson Co-op
Meeting Room #3 **August 15, 2026** **9:00 A.M.**

MEMBERS:
Emily Merryman, *Ward 1Director*
Chris Porter, *Ward 2 Director*
Vacant *Ward 3 Director*
Vacant, *Ward 4 Director*
Jason Jones, *Ward 5 Director*
Roland Gosey, *Assistant Mayor*
Scott Byrd, *Mayor*

OTHERS:
Gary Brinkley, *City Manager*
Chama Tidwell, *City Clerk*
Full list on last page

CALL TO ORDER
The Mayor called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

INVOCATION
Director Jones

Welcome – Mayor Byrd welcomed everyone to the 2026 Board of Directors Budget Retreat and thanked everyone for taking the time out of their Saturday to participate.

Opening Comments – City Manager Brinkley discussed the upcoming agenda.

2026 Dept. Discussions Mr. Brinkley, along with the Department Heads, provided the Board with an update on the City's current capital projects. Each Department Head discussed the status of ongoing projects, anticipated projects to be completed by the end of the year, and priorities and needs being considered for the 2027 budget.

11:45 pm Broke for working lunch.

Lunch was served. Mr. Jon Merryman updated the Board on the Alliance and Chamber programs for 2025 and 2026.

12:30 pm Reconvened into regular session and finished the department presentations and to discuss future capital expenditure needs and how best to address them.

MID-YEAR BUDGET RESOLUTION
No mid-year budget adjustments were requested, no action required.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CITY MANAGERS ANNUAL REVIEW
Mayor Byrd adjourned the meeting to enter into Executive Session at 2:10 p.m.

A motion was made by Director Merryman seconded by Director Porter to adjourn into executive session.

The motion passed on a roll call vote, and the vote was as follows:

Emily Merryman	**"Aye"**	**Roland Gosey**	**"Aye"**
Chris Porter	**"Aye"**	**Jason Jones**	**"Aye"**
Vacant		**Mayor Byrd**	**"Aye"**
Vacant			

The Mayor called the meeting back into regular session at 2:42p.m

No Action was taken. Mayor requested an executive session at the next board meeting.

SANITATION RATE INCREASE

There was a discussion to cease the distribution of trash bags to residents of Arkadelphia as a cost saving measure. Following a discussion, the Board of Directors decided to continue the trash bag distribution program but reduce the distribution from two events per year to one event annually, to be held in July. This change will require an amendment to the existing ordinance to reflect the revised terms and frequency of the City's trash bag distribution program. In January the Sanitation Dept. implemented the first-rate increase since 2011, which was well received with no significant public comment.

The department looks to purchase two (2) new rear-load garbage trucks during the third quarter of 2026 as part of the standard replacement cycle. The proposed vehicles will not require CDL drivers.

Additionally, the ordering of a new aluminum trailer for transporting compacted trash to the landfill during the fourth quarter of 2026 is planned. Staff has lost one of their 5 units this year as it was no longer repairable.

FIREWORKS IN TOWN

Discussion was held. No action was taken. Additional discussions and will occur at a future board meeting in relation to setting/updating timeframes, clean-up and curfew.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

The Board discussed several ongoing concerns, including unmaintained grass, inoperable vehicles located on residents' properties, and the unresolved issue on Logan Street. They also reviewed the overall maintenance and appearance of the city's streets and parks.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Mr. Brinkley stated that during the 2024 Board Retreat, the Board of Directors approved borrowing $750,000 to advance the development of the MLK Park. However, based on the bank's recommendation, the loan process was delayed in anticipation of lower interest rates, which are expected to decline in the fourth quarter of 2025.

In response to the bank recommendation, an open line of credit loan was approved in late 2025 for $1 million as additional funding source as well as cash reserves and community donations raised through the Community Foundation. The combined total of these funding sources is projected to reach approximately $1.1 million.

Bids earlier in the year came in at $1.73MM and $2.62MM.

Halff and Associates, the project's design firm, is comfortable that Phase I of the development can be value engineer and built for closer to $1.5 million. Phase I excludes the amphitheater, splash pad, and related amenities, which will be included in Phase II at a future date.

In this discussion a $3 million bond 2026 Series bond was introduced to the Board of Directors for consideration to complete the MLK park as a different option as well as repairing the Air Condition at Town Hall, repairing the windows in Town Hall and also the 12th Street rehab. The Board was not comfortable moving forward with a $3MM bond. They instructed Mr. Brinkley to seek quotes on a $2MM quote for the MLK Park and repairs on Town Hall. He is to seek other funding for the 12th Street project.

Other Items – Approval of two-year extension for AR Early Learning at CFEC – Gary Brinkley

APPROVAL OF SUBLEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN COMMUNITY FAMILY CENTER, INC AND ARKANSAS EARLY LEARNING

Mr. Brinkley stated pursuant to the lease agreement with the Community Family Enrichment Center, Inc. The Board of Directors is required to approve any sublease the occurs within the building. The Community Family Enrichment Center wishes to renew their sublease with the Arkansas Early Learning, Inc. who is providing the Head Start programming.

Staff recommended that the Board of Directors approve the sublease between the Community Family Enrichment Center, Inc. and Arkansas Early Learning, Inc.

A motion was made by Asst. Mayor Gosey and seconded by Director Merryman to approve the sublease agreement between the Community Family Enrichment Center and Arkansas Early Learning.

The motion passed on a roll call vote, and the vote was as follows:

Emily Merryman	**"Aye"**	**Roland Gosey**	**"Aye"**
Chris Porter	**"Aye"**	**Jason Jones**	**"Aye"**
Vacant		**Mayor Byrd**	**"Aye"**
Vacant			

ROUTINE BUSINESS

Asst. Mayor Gosey enjoyed the interaction and suggested that the Board Retreat be held twice a year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Director Jones made the motion, seconded by Asst. Mayor Gosey to adjourn. **The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 3:49 p.m.**

____
Scott Byrd, Mayor

____
Chama Tidwell, City Clerk

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

Daymond House
Stuart Tapson
Chief Jason Jackson
Chief Andy Neel
Wes Lemons

Caroline Gables
Scott Doll
Robert Davis
Robin Jones
Mickey Bivens

Halle Mann
Michael Jensen
Shacresha Wilson
Brandi Lingo

REGULAR CALLED MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Room **August 18, 2026** **5:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS:
Emily Merryman, *Ward 1Director*
Chris Porter, *Ward 2 Director*
Vacant, *Ward 3 Director*
Vacant, *Ward 4 Director*
Jason Jones, *Ward 5 Director*
Roland Gosey, *Assistant Mayor*
Scott Byrd, *Mayor*

OTHERS:
Gary Brinkley, *City Manager*
Chama Williams, *City Clerk*

CALL TO ORDER
The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

The Mayor announced that a quorum was present.

INVOCATION
Asst Mayor Gosey

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM AUGUST 4, 2026
A motion was made by Director Merryman, seconded by Asst. Mayor Gosey to approve the minutes from the August 4, 2026 Board Meeting.

The motion passed on a roll call vote, and the vote was as follows:

Emily Merryman	**"Aye"**	**Roland Gosey**	**"Aye"**
Chris Porter	**"Aye"**	**Jason Jones**	**"Absent"**
Vacant		**Mayor Byrd**	**"Aye"**
Vacant			

ORDINANCE ASSESSING A FIVE MILL TAX FOR NEXT PROPERTY TAX YEAR 2026
Mr. Brinkley stated an annual ordinance is adopted and given to the Clark County Quorum Court before the first meeting in November. The ordinance ensures that the City receives its portion of the real and personal property taxes.

This is not a new tax.

Following the reading, staff recommends putting the ordinance on its third reading, title only at the next meeting.

The Mayor called for the Clerk to read the Ordinance, title only.

The Clerk read the Ordinance as requested.

The Mayor called for a motion to place the Ordinance on its third reading, title only, at the next scheduled Board meeting.

A motion was made by Director Merryman, seconded by Director Porter to place ordinance to set 5 Mill Tax on its first reading in its entirety

The motion passed on a roll call vote, and the vote was as follows:

Emily Merryman	**"Aye"**	**Roland Gosey**	**"Aye"**
Chris Porter	**"Aye"**	**Jason Jones**	**"Absent"**
Vacant		**Mayor Byrd**	**"Aye"**
Vacant			

RENEWAL FOR PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Brinkley states that the current members have done well and all agreed to continue their services on this committee. He stated that we have representation from different area businesses, and the community. The members current term will expire June 30, 2027.

These Committee Members have provided exemplary serves to these committee and staff recommended the Board of Directors approve the renewal of these members:

POS	NAME	TERMS EXPIRE	TERM BEGAN
1	Sandy Henry	6/30/2027	2026
2	Vacant	06/30/2027	2026
3	Johnny Conine	06/30/2027	2026
4	Avi Leeper	06/30/2027	2026
5	Allie Harris	06/30/2027	2026

A motion was made by Director Porter, seconded by Director Merryman to accept the renewals of the Parks Committee members.

The motion passed on a roll call vote, and the vote was as follows:

Emily Merryman	**"Aye"**	**Roland Gosey**	**"Aye"**
Chris Porter	**"Aye"**	**Jason Jones**	**"Absent"**
Vacant		**Mayor Byrd**	**"Aye"**
Vacant			

RESOLUTION FOR GROUP 6 NEU REIMBURSEMENT

Chief Jackson requested that the Board of Directors consider a resolution amending the reimbursement provided for the City of Arkadelphia's participation in the 9th East Judicial District Drug Task Force, Group 6 Narcotics Enforcement Unit.

Staff recommend that fund list Scott Byrd, Roland Gosey, Shacresha Wilson, Gary Brinkley and Wes Lemons as signatories.

A motion was made by Director Merryman, seconded by Asst. Mayor Gosey to accept the bids for each of the Arkadelphia Water Department CD's.

The motion passed on a roll call vote, and the vote was as follows:

Emily Merryman	**"Aye"**	**Roland Gosey**	**"Aye"**
Chris Porter	**"Aye"**	**Jason Jones**	**"Absent"**
Vacant		**Mayor Byrd**	**"Aye"**
Vacant			

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CITY MANAGERS ANNUAL REVIEW

Mayor Byrd adjourned the meeting to enter into Executive Session at 5:43 p.m. for City Manager Review.

A motion was made by Director Merryman seconded by Asst. Mayor Gosey to adjourn into executive session.

The motion passed on a roll call vote, and the vote was as follows:

Emily Merryman	**"Aye"**	**Roland Gosey**	**"Aye"**
Chris Porter	**"Aye"**	**Jason Jones**	**"Absent"**
Vacant		**Mayor Byrd**	**"Aye"**
Vacant			

The Mayor called the meeting back into regular session at 6:53p.m

No Action was taken. The mayor requested another executive session at next board meeting.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

August 18, 2026

- Thanks to the Board and Staff for a really great Board Retreat.
- Our thanks to Jon Merryman for the Chamber update.

Dates to Remember:

- August 21st is the move in date for OBU freshmen
- September 7th, offices will be closed in honor of Labor Day
- September 12th, Doggie Dip at the Aquatic Park from 9a-Noon
- October 1st from 6-8 pm will be Paint the Night Pink 5K run for Breast Cancer awareness and honor the survivors
- October 16-17 Mid-South Music Festival in Downtown

ROUTINE BUSINESS

Emily Merryman, Ward 1 – Thanks to the city staff and department heads.

Chris Porter, Ward 2 – His thoughts were that everyone enjoyed the Board Retreat.

Ward 3 – Vacant.

Ward 4 – Vacant

Jason Jones, Ward 5 – Absent

Roland Gosey, Assistant Mayor – He stated he was grateful for the Board Retreat.

Scott Byrd, Mayor – He stated he was grateful for the Board Retreat and enjoyed everything. He also welcomed the College freshmen back to town and suggested we be careful of new residents.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Director J. Jones , seconded by Director Merryman, to adjourn. **The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:03 P.M.**

Scott Byrd, Mayor

Chama Tidwell, City Clerk

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

Karen McClanahan
Brandon Beene
Jason Jackson
Joel Phelps
Stuart Tapson
Robert Davis

Memorandum

To:	Arkadelphia Board of Directors
CC:	Ed McCorkle, City Attorney
From:	Gary Brinkley, City Manager
Date:	August 27, 2026
Re:	Ordinance for Five Mill Tax

This is an annual ordinance that is adopted and given to the Clark County Quorum Court before the first meeting in November each year. This is done to ensure the City receives its maximum portion of the real and personal property taxes due.

THIS IS NOT A NEW TAX

Following this third reading title only, staff recommends you adopt the ordinance.

Thank you.

ORDINANCE O-26-____

AN ORDINANCE ASSESSING A FIVE MILL TAX AGAINST THE REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF ARKADELPHIA, ARKANSAS, FOR THE TAXABLE YEAR 2026 COLLECTIBLE IN 2027 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF ARKADELPHIA, ARKANSAS:

Section 1. That a tax of five (5) mills on the dollar is hereby levied by the City Board of Directors of the City of Arkadelphia, Arkansas on all the real and personal property within the corporate limits of the City of Arkadelphia, for the taxable year 2026, collectible in 2027.

Section 2. That a certified copy of this ordinance be delivered by the City Clerk to the County Clerk of Clark County, Arkansas to be certified to the Quorum Court.

PASSED ON THE_____DAY OF _______, 2026.

APPROVED:

____
Scott Byrd, Mayor

ATTEST:

____
Chama Williams, City Clerk

Arkadelphia

Memorandum

To:	Arkadelphia Board of Directors
CC:	Ed McCorkle, City Attorney
From:	Gary Brinkley, City Manager
Date:	August 27, 2026
Re:	Retiring Police Officer Resolution

Sgt. James Shearin is retiring from the Arkadelphia Police Department on March 1, 2027.

As is customary upon the retirement of a police officer, the city may grant the officer his badge and pistol or revolver. You have this authority under ACA §14-52-112 of Arkansas law. Sgt. Shearin has formally request the pistol be retired with him.

Chief Jackson and I request you present Sgt. Shearin with his service pistol in accordance with Arkansas Law and wish Jimmy the best in retirement.

There will be a retirement ceremony prior to the City Board meeting on September 15, 2026, at 5:00 PM at Town Hall.

Thank you.

RESOLUTION R-25-

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF ARKADELPHIA, ARKANSAS, AUTHORIZING THE PRESENTATION TO RETIRING POLICE OFFICER OF THEIR BADGE AND SERVICE PISTOL OR REVOLVER.

WHEREAS, Under Arkansas Law, Act 365 of 2007, §14-52-112 a city of the First Class may award a retiring municipal police officer his or her duty pistol, and;

WHEREAS, Sergeant James Monroe Shearin has efficiently and effectively served the citizens of the State of Arkansas, the City of Arkadelphia, and the Arkadelphia Police Department for a total period of eighteen - years, four months and two days, and;

WHEREAS, Sergeant James Monroe Shearin will retire from the Arkadelphia Police Department on September 19, 2026, and;

WHEREAS, Sergeant James Monroe Shearin has made a formal request that his pistol be retired with him and remain in his possession;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF ARKADELPHIA, ARKANSAS THAT:

In accordance with Act 365 of 2007, the City of Arkadelphia does hereby award Sergeant James Monroe Shearin, his pistol as a token of our esteem and appreciation for service devoted to the Arkadelphia Police Department and the citizens of Arkansas.

PASSED: September 1, 2026.

APPROVED:

____

Mayor Scott Byrd

____

Chama Tidwell, City Clerk

Arkadelphia

Memorandum

To:	Arkadelphia Board of Directors
CC:	Ed McCorkle, City Attorney
From:	Gary Brinkley, City Manager
Date:	August 27, 2026
Re:	Resolution to Amend 2026 Budget

At the 2025 Budget Retreat you were presented and agreed to the restructuring of the Police Dept command structure.

This included the addition of a Captain. Although the personnel were considered in the 2026 Budget, the position of Captain and the associated rank pay were excluded.

We will recall hosted the promotional ceremony on May 2, 2026 in Town Hall.

This exclusion was recently brought to our attention.

The attached Resolution addresses this omission.

Your approval of the Resolution is requested.

Thank you.

RESOLUTION NO. R-26-____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A MID-YEAR ADJUSTMENT TO THE CITY OF ARKADELPHIA POLICE DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORIZED POSITIONS AND COMPENSATION SCHEDULE; ADDING THE POSITION OF POLICE CAPTAIN; PROVIDING FOR A SALARY INCREASE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Arkadelphia recognizes the importance of maintaining an effective organizational structure within the Police Department to promote public safety, accountability, and efficient administration; and

WHEREAS, the City Board of Directors has determined that the addition of the position of Police Captain is necessary to support the operational and supervisory needs of the Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the proposed adjustment constitutes a mid-year amendment to the City's authorized positions and compensation schedule and shall be incorporated into the applicable fiscal-year budget; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds are available, and shall be reappropriated within the departmental budget to implement the adjustment authorized by this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARKADELPHIA, ARKANSAS:

Section 1. The City of Arkadelphia's authorized Police Department positions are hereby amended to include the position of Police Captain.

Section 2. The annual salary for the Police Captain position is hereby increased by Four Thousand, Forty Dollars ($4,040) annually effective April 1, 2026.

Section 3. The City's fiscal-year budget and applicable compensation schedule are hereby amended to reflect the addition of the Police Captain position and the associated salary adjustment.

Section 4. The additional annual salary expense authorized by this Resolution shall be charged to the appropriate Police Department operating account and shall be prorated for the remainder of the current fiscal year, as applicable.

RESOLVED this ____ day of ______________, 20.

Mayor______________________________

Scott Byrd

ATTEST:

City Clerk______________________________

Chama Tidwell

Arkadelphia

Memorandum

To: Arkadelphia Board of Directors
CC: Ed McCorkle, City Attorney
From: Gary Brinkley, City Manager
Date: August 27, 2026
Re: Reappointment – Arkadelphia Housing Authority

Attached please find a memorandum from Ms. Bobbi Partain of the Arkadelphia Housing Authority requesting the reappointment of Mr. William J. Colgate to the Housing Authority Board.

Staff has no objections to the recommendation.

Thank you.

Housing Authority of the City of Arkadelphia

670 South 6th Street
Arkadelphia, AR 71923
870-246-4632
Bobbi Partain, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Members of the Arkadelphia City Board of Directors

From: Bobbi Partain, Executive Director
Arkadelphia Housing Authority

Date: August 26, 2026

Subject: Confirmation of Reappointment of Housing Authority Directly Assisted Commissioner

At the Annual meeting of the Arkadelphia Housing Authority Board of Commissioners held on August 20, 2026, the Board voted to recommend the reappointment of Mr. William J. Colgate to continue to fill the Directly Assisted Commissioner position.

Pursuant to Arkansas law and the Housing Authority's bylaws, we respectfully request confirmation of this appointment by the Arkadelphia City Board of Directors.

Upon confirmation, Mr. Colgate will serve a term of 5 years ending August 2031.

Please let us know if any additional information is needed to facilitate this appointment.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of the Arkadelphia Housing Authority.

Respectfully,

Bobbi Partain
Executive Director
Arkadelphia Housing Authority

Memorandum

To: Arkadelphia Board of Directors
CC: Ed McCorkle, City Attorney
From: Gary Brinkley, City Manager
Date: August 27, 2026
Re: Executive Session – City Manager's Review

Mayor requested an Executive Session to discuss the City Manager's Annual Review with the City Manager.

Action.

Thank you.