

Pocahontas City Council Meeting

Pocahontas City Hall
January 13, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.

Let the record show the city council meeting was called to order by Mayor Futrell, City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Teel conducted a roll call.

Alderman: Tim Scott - present
Danny Swann - present
Jamey Sullinger – present

Nathan Camp - present
Rob Olvey - present
Kerri King – present

Public Comments: Rhonda Blevins (Elections)

Provided primary and election timelines. Early voting begins February 17; Election Day is March 3. Shared VoterView lookup process for polling locations and sample ballots.

Blake and Ashley Snow (Snowbird Coffee)

Discussed drive-through coffee business proposal utilizing a modified shipping container structure. Referred to Planning & Zoning for variance request and code review.

Approval of Financials and Minutes

Camp moved to approve the December 2025 financials, seconded by Olvey; all voted yes, motion carried

Olvey moved to approve the December 9th minutes, seconded by King; all voted yes, motion carried

Reports and Presentations

Chamber of Commerce – Ann Savage

- Transition to managed website with member self-service
- AG Expo scheduled for February 20
- Membership initiative: “250 for the 250th”

Department Heads

Police Department

- Captain Luffman's retirement reception is scheduled for February 21st, 6-8:00 p.m. at the Randolph County Chamber (Old County Courthouse).
- Service pistol award permissible by statute.
- Discussed shotgun disposition via fair-market valuation and public auction requirements. Shotgun valued at \$250 for purchase.

Parks & Recreation

- Pool heater shipment delayed; vendor timeline under monitoring.
- The city transferred one (1) Ford Explorer from the Police Dept. to the Airport as a courtesy car. One (1) additional for auction. Park & Recreation also has a 2002 Dodge 4WD and requests that the council allow it to be put out to bid. King moved to approve; seconded by Camp. All voted in favor, motion carried. Added a 2002 Dodge ¾-ton truck to the bid list with previously designated Ford Explorer.

Old Business

Annexation — 53 Acres (Industrial Park)

City Attorney to verify prior order and publication; process may be reset if needed. Michele Allgood/Tate Attorney state Tate requested to waive the first option to purchase. Allgood will prepare & present a formal document to waive the option. **No action taken**

Potential Land Sale — Small Parcel to Gage Glisson – Pyburn Ext.

Discussed brokers' opinions of value (\$5,000–\$7,000) and councils right to private-sale authority. The mayor is to negotiate. **No formal action**

Wireless Tower — Branch Communications

Application denied due to ordinance restrictions (height, style, and proximity to residential areas) and neighborhood concerns.

Camp moved to deny the tower in a residential area in town under the ordinance. Seconded by Swann, with all voting yes. **Motion carried**

Direction given to request model ordinance language from Garver from the standards.

Resolution to Purchase Asphalt for Camp Rd. & Aaron St – Reynolds

Asphalt – Camp moved to read the resolution; seconded by Sullinger; all voted in favor. Grider read the resolution. Olvey moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Sullinger; all voted in favor. Motion carried. This is **Resolution 01-2026.**

Resolution to Set Aside the Purchase of Asphalt for the Shooting Complex

– Camp moved to read the resolution; seconded by King. All voted in favor. Grider read the resolution. Olvey moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Camp; all voted in favor. Motion carried. This is **Resolution 02-2026.**

New Business

Water Commission Position Appointment - A water commission position currently held by Scott Trammel is about to expire. Mayor Futrell stated he

would like to reappoint Scott Trammel to the water board, subject to the council's approval. Olvey moved to reappoint Trammel to the Pocahontas Water Commission; the motion was seconded by Scott, and all voted in favor.

- **Jeffrey Duhl – Small Business Administration –**
- EIDL (Economic Injury Disaster Loan) deadlines:
 - February 9 (mid-March event)
 - February 20 (late-March/April disaster period)
- Outreach to affected businesses encouraged
- **Trammell Drive Right Of Way** — Garver suggest Acceptance as right-of-way only; paving to city standards required. Trammel is willing to gift it to the city. Trammel Dr was never accepted as a city street. Josh Bettis would be responsible for funding development to connect to Aaron St. If the city accepts it as a right-of-way, Scott Trammel wants to ensure Josh Cagle has no liability, and also stated that a condition is that it remain as “Trammel Drive”. Olvey moved to the table in February, seconded by Camp. All voted in favor. **Table to February.**

Grease Trap Ordinance — Scotty Jones with Pocahontas Water Dept. proposed a Grease Trap Ordinance specific to Pocahontas. Restaurants are discharging into the sewer system, causing drainage issues. Camp moved to prepare an ordinance for review in February; seconded by Olvey. All voted in favor. Draft forthcoming. **Tabled to February.**

Machine Shop Bldg. - 1806 Airport Rd. – Scentations — Scentations moved into the building in December and started operating. During a rainstorm, a leak was reported. The roof requires a repair estimated at \$12,075.00. If the city covers the roof repair from the Economic Development account, the airport will reimburse the city from rent collected as it repays the indebtedness.

Lease Committee Meeting – Meet on February 3, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall to review leases. Kerri King, Nathan Camp, Rob Olvey, Mayor Futrell, City Clerk.

Minimum Rental Habitability Standards — Grider suggests this may be worth reviewing. Landlords are not addressing repair issues in rental properties (e.g., heating, water/sewer). Olvey moves to the table for February, seconded by Camp; all vote in favor. **Tabled to February**

Transfer Riverfront Park Property to City from County – Mayor will bring this up before the Quorum Court at their next meeting.

Ordinance to Set Salaries for the Mayor, City Clerk & City Attorney –Camp moves to read the ordinance, seconded by King, with all voting in favor. Olvey moves to read the ordinance on 2nd & 3rd reading title only, seconded by Scott, all voting in favor. Grider reads the ordinance by title only. Camp moved to adopt the ordinance; seconded by Sullinger. All voted in favor of adopting the ordinance. Olvey moves to adopt the emergency clause; seconded by Scott. All voted in favor. This is **Ordinance 2026-01.**

Economic Development

Bigger provided an update on the NEA Intermodal Authority: Tate expansion, Tate recording a 2% hiring (~200 employees), active site visit, grant pursuit for the 53-acre site, and re-employment at the airport building (~15 jobs).

Ordinance and Agreement with NEA Regional Intermodal Authority – Olvey moved to read the ordinance on 1st-3rd readings, Title Only, seconded by Camp; all voted in favor. Grider read the ordinance only from the title. Olvey moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by King; all voted in favor. Olvey moved to approve the emergency clause, seconded by Scott; all voted in favor. This is **Ordinance 2026-02.**

Ordinance Approving Business with Nathan Camp/Historic Downtown Network – Olvey moved to read the ordinance; seconded by King. All voted in favor. Grider read the ordinance. Scott moved to read the ordinance on 2nd & 3rd readings; King seconded. All voted in favor. Olvey moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Sullinger. A roll call vote was taken. Nathan Camp abstained. All voting in favor. This is **Ordinance 2026-03.**

Ordinance and Agreement with Randolph Co. Chamber of Commerce – Camp moved to read the Ordinance on 1st-3rd readings, seconded by Olvey, all voted in favor. Grider read the ordinance. Camp moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Olvey; all voted in favor. Camp moved to adopt the emergency clause, seconded by Olvey; all voted in favor. This is **Ordinance 2026-04.**

Resolution to Purchase two (2) 2026 Ford Police Interceptors – Camp moved to read the resolution; seconded by Olvey. All voted in favor. Grider read the resolution. Olvey motioned to adopt the resolution. A roll call vote was taken with all voting yes. This is **Resolution 03-2026.**

Resolution to Approve the 2026 Operating Budget – Olvey moved to read the resolution; seconded by Camp. All voted in favor. Grider read the

resolution. King moves to adopt the resolution, seconded by Olvey, and all vote in favor. This is **Resolution 04-2026.**

Resolution to Establish the Agenda Format for City Council Meetings – Camp moves to read the resolution, seconded by Scott, all voting in favor. Grider reads the resolution. Camp moves to adopt the resolution, seconded by Olvey, all vote yes. This is **Resolution 05-2026**

Resolution: Establish 2026 Holiday Schedule – Camp moved to read the resolution; seconded by King. All voted in favor. Camp moves to adopt the resolution, seconded by King, and all vote in favor. This is **Resolution 06-2026.**

Resolution Revive State Federal Surplus Program – Olvey moved to read the resolution, seconded by King, all vote in favor. King moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Camp, and all voted in favor. This is **Resolution 07-2026.**

Resolution Approving MOU — East AR Area Agency on Aging EAAAA – Meals for the BRAD nutritional program. Scott moves to read the resolution, seconded by Sullinger, all voting in favor. Grider reads the resolution. Camp moves to adopt the resolution, seconded by King, and all vote in favor. This is **Resolution 08-2026.**

Resolution Approving a Contract Between Eddie Mae Herron Center and City of Pocahontas – Olvey moves to read the resolution, seconded by King, all voting in favor. Grider reads the resolution. King moves to adopt the resolution, seconded by Swann, all voting in favor. This is **Resolution 09-2026.**

Resolution Approving a Contract Between Pocahontas Downtown Network and City of Pocahontas – Olvey moves to read the resolution. Sullinger seconds, all vote in favor. Grider reads the resolution. King moves to adopt the resolution; Scott seconds. A roll-call vote is taken. Camp abstains, and all vote in favor. This is **Resolution 10-2026.**

Resolution Approving Contract Between Five Rivers Historic Preservation d/b/a Randolph Co. Museum and City of Pocahontas – King moves to read the resolution, seconded by Sullinger, all voting in favor. Grider reads the resolution. Scott moves to adopt the resolution, seconded by King, and all vote in favor. This is **Resolution 11-2026.**

Resolution Approving Agreement Between the University of Arkansas and the City of Pocahontas – Camp moves to read the resolution; seconded by

King; all voting in favor. Grider reads the resolution. Scott moves to adopt the resolution, seconded by Olvey, and all vote in favor. This is **Resolution 12-2026.**

Resolution Authorizing Purchase of Asphalt for Carter Street – Olvey moves to read the resolution, seconded by Camp. All voted in favor. Grider reads the resolution. Olvey moves to adopt the resolution, seconded by King. All voted in favor. This is **Resolution 13-2026.**

Firefighter Step Pay – Scott Baltz – It was brought to the budget committee and proposed to add step pay to full-time firefighters' pay. Baltz and Teel provided payout scenarios that included a transitional scale to decrease the cost impact. Teel proposed that everyone who qualified would move halfway toward their assigned new step this year and complete the remaining half in the following year. This would ensure the budget can support the increases. Several questions were raised about the total cost of the increases and the implementation dates. Camp moved to table the discussion until February to allow more time to prepare; seconded by Olvey. All voted in favor. **Tabled to February**

Mayor Comments: Mayor Futrell reported that the city recently hosted a site visit with two representatives from a site selection firm that works with companies seeking communities with industrial development sites ready for immediate use. The meeting was held at Black River Technical College, where lunch was provided.

Representatives delivered presentations on key aspects of the City's readiness for development. Topics included infrastructure, water and sewer services, and electrical utilities. Representatives from Clay County Electric and Arkansas Power, along with officials from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, were present. Following the presentations, a question-and-answer session was held. The group then toured the City's 53-acre industrial property, including access from Pace Road. The mayor stated that the visitors were pleased with the site and were especially encouraged by the City's ongoing water facility improvements and the City's willingness to invest in infrastructure to support future development.

The mayor reminded council members and the public that a Rotary Club luncheon would be held the following day at noon at Black River Technical College, followed by an industrial tour of Tate beginning at approximately 1:00 p.m. He encouraged attendance, noting that participants could attend either or both events.

Mayor Futrell asked the City Council to begin sharing ideas for the upcoming Fourth of July celebration. He noted that 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding and that the Governor has encouraged cities across the state to participate. The Fourth of July will fall on a Saturday, and the city plans to hold its annual fireworks display. Planning efforts are already underway.

The mayor announced that he will present a State of the City address at the February City Council meeting. He stated that many positive projects are underway, including extensive street resurfacing funded through bond proceeds, as well as several concrete projects planned for the spring and summer months. He thanked the Council for its responsible use of bond funds.

In response to questions regarding activity at the former Brown Shoe property, the mayor stated that there has been recent activity at the site, but the City has not received formal notice of any new business or development plans. He noted that City officials are continuing to pursue enforcement actions related to the property through the court system and that fines continue to accrue. The mayor also clarified that rumors circulating on social media regarding new retail or manufacturing businesses have not been confirmed, and no permits or official contacts have been made with the city at this time.

The mayor concluded by asking if there was any further business for the Council before adjournment.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Olvey, seconded by Camp, all voting in favor.

Approved by:

Keith Futrell
Mayor



Attest:

Michelle Teel
City Clerk / Treasurer

