



Minutes of the Arlington City Council Retreat and Orientation

Council Chambers
110 East 3rd Street
Friday, January 23, 2026

Councilmembers Present: Heather Watland, Rob Toyer, Yvonne Gallardo-Van Ornam, Michele Blythe, Nathan Senff, Tim Abrahamson, and Leisha Nobach.

Council Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Mayor Don Vanney, Paul Ellis, Sarah Lopez, Shawn Friang, Bryan Terry, Shelby Burke, Josh Grindy, Jonathan Ventura, Jim Kelly, Amy Rusko, Marty Wray, and Wendy Van Der Meersche.

Also Known to be Present: Ann Bennett.

City Administrator Paul Ellis welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda.

Council Do's and Don'ts Training

Mr. Ellis introduced WCIA Executive Director Ann Bennett, who led the training.

Department Orientation

A PowerPoint presentation was conducted as follows:

Legal – Oskar Rey, City Attorney (who joined virtually with Teams)

Airport – Marty Wray, Director

Community and Economic Development – Amy Rusko, Director

City Clerk – Wendy Van Der Meersche, City Clerk

Community Engagement – Sarah Lopez, Community Engagement Director

Finance – Shelby Burke, Director

Human Resources – Shawn Friang, Director

Information Technology – Bryan Terry, Director

Police – Jonathan Ventura, Police Chief

Public Works, Utilities and Transportation – Jim Kelly, Director

Maintenance and Operations – Josh Grindy, Manager

Administration – Paul Ellis, City Administrator

Dignity video

Mayor Vanney introduced a video with Tim Shriver who discussed speaking with dignity.

City Council Rules of Procedures

City Administrator Paul Ellis led a review and discussion of the current City Council Rules of Procedure.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further, the retreat was adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don E. Vanney', written over a horizontal line.

Don E. Vanney, Mayor