

JUNE 2026 MEETING MINUTES

OF THE ARLINGTON COUNTY TECH COMMISSION (ITAC)

June 24, 2026

The **TECH COMMISSION** convened its meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 24, 2026.

Commissioners in attendance:

Jim Smith
Gary Thayer
Laura Gross
Michael Cornfield
Chris DiMuro
Jaqueline Snelling
Biran Zhang
John Burke
Andrea Wingo
Jonathan Adlestein
Frank Jazzo
Prescott Burden

Staff members in attendance:

Holly Hartel, DTS

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- Meeting called to order at 7:30pm.
- No public comment.
- **Adoption of Minutes:** Mike led the adoption of the minutes from the May meeting.
 - Chris moved to adopt the minutes, and Andrea seconded. Twelve commissioners voted to adopt and one commissioner abstained due to not attending last month's meeting. The minutes were adopted.
- **Chair's Update on County Board Discussions:** Mike provided an update on the county board's capital improvement plan meeting.
 - **Technology Cost Concerns:** The County Board, County Manager, Director Hartell, and staff expressed concern about increasing costs in cybersecurity and software, emphasizing the need for ongoing vigilance.
 - **Annual Expert Review:** Mike reminded the group of the commission's practice of holding an annual meeting with a cybersecurity expert to review the state of the field, given its fast-changing nature.
- **Discussion on AI, Quantum Computing, and Cybersecurity:** Dr. J.P. Auffret from George Mason Center for Excellence in Government Cybersecurity Risk Management delivered a comprehensive presentation covering AI advancements, quantum computing, cybersecurity governance, risk management, and implications for local governments.

- **AI Evolution and Copyright Issues:** Dr. Auffret discussed the rapid evolution of AI, referencing the Colorado Digital Art Competition and ongoing legal debates about copyright for AI-generated works, highlighting the challenges AI poses to creative arts and intellectual property.
- **Expert Systems to Generative AI:** The presentation traced the history from expert systems in medicine and cybersecurity to generative and agentic AI, explaining how modern AI learns from vast data rather than codified human knowledge, and the implications for local context in government applications.
- **Governance and Leadership Shifts:** Dr. Auffret emphasized the changing roles of CIOs, CISOs, and county executives, who are now responsible not only for security but also for ensuring AI systems function correctly and remain relevant, with legal and compliance risks increasing.
- **AI and Quantum Computing Impact:** The presentation covered the importance of trialing and sandboxes for AI and quantum computing, FDA's risk-bounded approval process for AI in healthcare, and the convergence of CPUs, GPUs, and quantum computing, noting rapid industry developments.
- **Local Government Challenges:** Dr. Auffret outlined challenges for local governments, including separation of IT functions, legacy systems, digital citizen services, compliance issues, and evolving threats such as ransomware, social engineering, and deep fakes.
- **AI Agents and Budget Implications:** The shift from generative AI to autonomous AI agents was discussed, with examples like Uber's rapid budget depletion and Microsoft's consideration of DeepSeek, highlighting the need for oversight and budget management in AI adoption.
- **Post-Quantum Readiness:** Dr. Auffret explained NIST guidelines for post-quantum readiness, the risk of data theft for future decryption, and the importance of cryptographic assessments, asset management, and data classification for organizations.
- **Risk Management and Investment Strategies:** The presentation recommended risk assessments, benchmarking, gap analysis, and investment prioritization for AI and quantum computing, suggesting state-level support for local governments lacking resources.
- **Cybersecurity Capabilities and Vendor Assessment:** Key capabilities such as identity and access management, zero trust, micro-segmentation, and third-party vendor assessment were highlighted, with mention of proposed legislation for AI vetting and the role of state agencies in supporting local governments.
- **Ongoing Cybersecurity Monitoring:** Dr. Auffret stressed the need for ongoing monitoring, annual upgrades, unified threat management, and AI gateways to track staff AI usage, noting the shift to centralized AI development in larger organizations.
- **Q&A on Quantum Computing and AI Risks**
 - **Quantum Computing Timelines:** John asked about NIST's projection for quantum computing readiness versus company roadmaps, and Dr. Auffret explained differences in commercial viability and cryptographic requirements, noting ongoing research and the need for significant scaling.
 - **Compliance and Insurance Drivers:** Dr. Auffret predicted future compliance requirements for post-quantum readiness, driven by government and insurance companies, which may require organizations to be quantum-ready to maintain cyber insurance coverage.
 - **Data Center Energy Costs:** Chris raised concerns about rising energy costs from data centers, and Dr. Auffret discussed the potential of small modular reactors, learning curve benefits, and technology trends like small language models and quantum computing to mitigate energy usage.
 - **AI Investment Risks and Bubble Concerns:** Chris questioned the risk of an investment bubble in AI due to off-balance-sheet financing, and Dr. Auffret compared it to past industry crashes, noting the difficulty in forecasting demand and the need for regulatory oversight.

- **Frontier AI Models and Cybersecurity:** Members asked about the impact of frontier models like Mythos, and Dr. Auffret explained their influence on policy, rapid replication, and increased cybersecurity risks, especially for smaller organizations with limited IT staff.
- **Local Government Use of DeepSeek:** Members discussed the controversy and security challenges of using DeepSeek in local government, with Holly confirming that access to DeepSeek and other risky tools is blocked and listed on the public website.
- **Custom AI Solutions for Government:** Dr. Auffret provided an example of West Virginia's Secretary of State office choosing a custom IBM model for a chatbot to ensure guardrails and avoid legal risks, illustrating the careful consideration required for AI applications in government.
- **Legislative Update:** Frank presented the legislative update for June.
 - **FCC Rulemaking on Broadband:** Frank reported that the FCC is considering standards for preempting state and local laws that hinder wireless telecommunications buildout, potentially affecting broadband expansion.
 - **Emergency Alert Service Modernization:** The FCC is also considering steps to modernize emergency alert services and wireless emergency alerts, including cybersecurity improvements due to past concerns.
 - **Industry Initiatives:** AT&T, T-Mobile, and Verizon announced a joint venture to combine spectrum resources for satellite operators, aiming to reduce wireless dead zones, and AT&T introduced a discount for low-income households on its 5G broadband service.
- Mike discussed ongoing efforts to arrange a data center tour for commission members, noting legal constraints on public meetings and exploring alternatives such as staff briefings, with Takis coordinating with the county attorney's office.
- Mike confirmed the next virtual meeting date as July 22nd, noted no meeting in August, and asked for a motion to adjourn. John made the motion, and Frank seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

MOTIONS & ACTIONS/VOTES

- **Minutes Adoption:** Mike called for a motion to adopt the May meeting minutes. Chris moved to adopt the minutes, and Andrea seconded. The minutes were adopted with one abstaining vote.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.