

RECORD OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF ARGO

Date: 01-14-19
Time: 6:00 PM
Place: Municipal Complex
Regular Meeting

ROLL CALL

Councilperson Ann Cowan
Councilperson Ronnie Bowman
Councilperson Corky Massey
Mayor Pro-Tem Tony Alldredge
Councilperson Ann Brown
Mayor Betty Bradley

Mayor Bradley called the meeting to order and asked the clerk for a roll call. The clerk called the roll and the above listed persons were present.

Pastor Jerry Mahner gave the invocation.

Mayor Bradley opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilperson Brown motioned to approve the council meeting minutes from 11/26/2018. Councilperson Massey seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Cowan-yea, Bowman-yea, Massey-yea, Alldredge-yea, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

Councilperson Brown motioned to approve the council meeting minutes from 12/10/2018 with correction to the adjourning vote on page 3. Councilperson Massey seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Cowan-abstain, Bowman-yea, Massey-yea, Alldredge-yea, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

Pastor Mahner with the Argo Christian Fellowship presented the City of Argo with a donation to the Argo Park in the amount of \$2050.00 for swings. The Mayor and Council thanked him on behalf of the City and young citizens who will benefit from its use.

Teen Council Report: Teen Council was absent. Councilperson Massey stated most of the Teen Council are in band and have gone to the Inaugural Parade in Montgomery.

Police Report: Captain Glenn Wells gave the monthly report. Councilperson Brown inquired about speeders around the school buses. Captain Wells stated it was better now. The City Clerk reminded the council of the Police Chief Conference coming up in February. Councilperson Massey motioned to approve Chief Downing to attend the Chief Conference Feb. 18-21, 2019 in

Montgomery, AL, including a four night stay at \$122.00/per night. Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Cowan-yea, Bowman-yea, Massey-yea, Alldredge-yea, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

Fire Report: Interim Chief Scott Payne gave the monthly report. He stated the volunteer roster is now full. The Chamber of Commerce meeting will be held the following night, Jan. 15th, at 6pm. Also, fire alarms would be installed into Benjammins Restaurant.

Road Report: Councilperson Bowman stated citizens and bus drivers were having trouble turning out of Briar Ridge due to trees blocking their view. The city would need to contract out to have the trees cut down. Mayor Bradley exclaimed they could look to businesses that have licenses with the City and get bids.

Councilperson Bowman stated bus drivers were also having an issue with oncoming traffic on Countryview Circle. It was suggested to change the loop to a one-way street. This issue will be placed on the next council meeting agenda to be voted on. Attorney Johnny Brunson advised the Council to send a letter to the residents letting them know of the proposed change in order to give them a chance to voice their concerns and questions at the next council meeting as well. Mayor Bradley said they would check into getting signs for that street as well as send out the letters to the residents it would affect.

It was asked whether the City can assist with roads through Mountain Oaks Subdivision. Mayor Bradley stated neither the County nor the City could legally do anything. It is not owned by either entity and there was no bond put up when initially built. Councilperson Bowman spoke to some of the residents about options to fix it up to road speculations themselves. Discussion was held on costs for fixing the roads and how they could handle the situation. There is a large sink hole currently that is a major issue. Mayor Bradley stated the previous administration told the residents to come to city hall to get coal patch, but no one has retrieved any. Councilperson Brown stated they need to create an HOA to assist with this matter.

Councilperson Massey stated he spoke to Dan Dahlke about removing a few roads from the list to be tar and graveled like Narrow Lane. He stated $\frac{3}{4}$ is already covered with asphalt and in better shape than others. It would be cheaper to hold off for now and just fill in any spots between instead of tar and gravelling the whole road.

Food Bank Report: President Jim Link was not present for this meeting.

City Attorney Report: Attorney Brunson stated he is working with Advanced Disposal to get a finalized, signed copy of the agreement with the changes that was previously approved by the Council.

Also, the lease for 8885 Hwy 11 is up February of 2019 and needs to be renewed with a couple changes. For example, late fees, the dates corrected, etc. Attorney Brunson explained he will draft a letter notifying the tenet of these changes and it should be mailed by January 28th, 2019. Councilperson Massey stated the tenet is aware of the \$300.00 monthly increase as well.

Attorney Brunson discussed Emily's Law or the Dog Bite Law with the council. He advised the city to implement this law; however, the city would need a place to house the animals once obtained as well as a control officer designated to the job. He stated he would look into it for the city. There is potential liability for the city without it. Also, charges could be placed on the dog owner to cover the city's cost for this service. Mayor Bradley explained she had received several calls in regard to animals at the park, children being knocked down, etc.

Mayor Bradley also spoke on the topic of dogs being let loose in the park and the owners not cleaning up after them. She stated a sign with rules and regulations needed to once again be posted up at the park. The old one has been vandalized and will need to be replaced. She asked the council to review other municipalities' park rules and report back next council with suggestions for Argo's.

Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge asked the attorney about the Advanced Disposal Contract, if it would reflect the negotiations made that was voted on. Attorney Brunson stated he had the documentation of negotiations via email and they could hold Advanced Disposal to the contract. The right figures would be on the document.

Councilperson Brown questioned about Emily's Law and where the animals would be housed. Discussion was held on either the County or the vet, Tommy Johnson, if possible. Attorney Brunson would find out and report back.

Councilperson Cowan inquired about the 8885 lease being up in February. There was a typo in the original lease that needs to be changed regarding dates. The tenet is paid up until February 2019, which is five years, the max of the lease.

Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge discussed the Storm Shelter. The County has begun excavating the site. Last week the City received the bids for the project. Mayor Bradley stated since the City has to pay for this project up front and then get reimbursed, she asked if it would be feasible to take the funds from the 610 account initially instead of depleting the General Fund. Also, it was agreed the city should wave the permit fee, since it would be charged right back to the city for the project anyways. Attorney Brunson stated he would put all of these items in a resolution for the next council meeting, along with accepting the bid. Further discussion was held on utilities for the site and a time line for the project. Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge also explained the base bid and each alternate for the council. The Architect, Todd Stewart, would send a recommendation in the next couple days. There was general conversation on seeing the storm shelter before deciding on alternates, as well as, adding a portable generator for the shelter. The council discussed looking into other grants to help cover these additional costs. Mayor Bradley asked Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge to find out from Mr. Culpepper if receiving a reimbursement for a generator was feasible under this grant.

Mayor Bradley talked about the concrete barriers the city received for free when the local concrete plant shut down. The County has to move them for the Storm Shelter and asked if they could have them if the city was not using them. Mayor Bradley asked since the city is not and has no way to move them as well, could the County take them? Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge motioned to allow the City to give the concrete barriers to St. Clair County. Councilperson

Massey seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Cowan-yea, Bowman-yea, Massey-yea, Alldredge-yea, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

Mayor Bradley discussed about obtaining a grant writer for the City paid on commission only. She believed it would be beneficial for the City and all departments within. She asked the council if they knew of anyone that has the training and knowledge to do this for the City. Councilperson Brown and Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge stated they may know some that would be interested. Councilperson Massey asked if other cities use local grant writers and if we can obtain them. Councilperson Brown stated the person she knows is local. Councilperson Massey requested the grant writers interested come and speak at the next council meeting. The council members would ask.

Mayor Bradley informed the council of the Worker's Comp invoice of \$18,337.00, which was down from last year. Further discussion was held on claims and how this affects insurance. Also, how funds are recovered from other insurances.

Mayor Bradley asked if the council would like to participate in the Severe Weather Preparedness Tax Holiday coming up in February. Councilperson Massey motioned to approve the resolution and participate in the Severe Weather Preparedness Tax Holiday February 22-24, 2019. Councilperson Brown seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Cowan-yea, Bowman-yea, Massey-yea, Alldredge-yea, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

Mayor Report: Mayor Bradley reminded the Council of the Chambers meeting tomorrow at 6pm.

The Council discussed the Distracted While Driving Ordinance Trussville has in place and whether or not it would be beneficial for Argo. Attorney Brunson states the ordinance would broaden what constitutes as a distraction from just texting to also eating, putting on make-up, animals, etc. The Attorney will bring a proposed Ordinance to the next council meeting on January 28th.

Mayor Bradley informed the Council that Argo is scheduled to host the Mayor's Breakfast in February. She asked if it would be better to change the date of the breakfast because of all the Storm Shelter Construction. Other Council members thought it would be better for everyone to witness the construction. Councilperson Massey stated they should keep the date and use Benjammins as the place to host the meeting. Councilperson Brown agreed to leave it.

Council Comments: Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge asked about the Storm Shelter decision. Attorney Brunson reiterated the drafted resolution for the Storm Shelter would be ready for next council with discussed information.

Councilperson Brown inquired about the lighting around the building outside for voters. It was decided it would be best to wait until the Storm Shelter is in place. Further discussion was held on lighting for it.

Mayor Bradley reminded the council to look over the example Park Rules and Regulations they received in their packets.

Public Comments: None

Councilperson Brown motioned to adjourn. Councilperson Massey seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Cowan-yea, Bowman-yea, Massey-yea, Alldredge-yea, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

APPROVED:



Betty Bradley, Mayor

ATTEST:



Casie Bethune, City Clerk