

RECORD OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF ARGO

Date: 02-11-19  
Time: 6:00 PM  
Place: Municipal Complex  
**Regular Meeting**

ROLL CALL

Councilperson Ann Cowan  
Councilperson Ronnie Bowman  
Councilperson Corky Massey  
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.

Councilperson Brown gave the invocation.

Mayor Bradley opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Speaker Dona Bonnett with ADR Business & Marketing Strategies presented to the Council her proposal for the city website and how much her services would cost. For the design and setup, the cost would be \$2400.00 and then \$69 per month after that. She further discussed the details on improving the City website with the council.

Speaker Monica Carmichael was not present due to illness.

Court Clerk Tom Suggs reiterated the lack of information for the sub-contractors in the Building Permit Ordinance for new residences. There is no set up fee for sub-contractors. Mayor Bradley stated Mr. Barker, the Margaret Inspector, came out to assist the city with this issue and said that a fee needed to be included so all sub-contractors are charged and not just for existing residences. Councilperson Massey exclaimed it wasn't only for revenue purposes, but also to protect the homeowners as well. Councilperson Brown motioned to amend Ordinance No. 2018-10-00 to include new construction for all contractors and sub-contractors. Councilperson Massey seconded the motion. Councilperson Massey asked the Attorney if he could correct the line on the top of the sub-contractors list to not include "inspection department", since the City does not have one. Further discussion was held on whether the city should have an inspector. Currently the city is not releasing a certificate of occupancy until all businesses have purchased a Business License. Councilperson Bowman believes the city shouldn't do that without inspecting the property first. Councilperson Massey sees nothing wrong with the way the City has been managing it in the past. He stated from experience as a sub-contractor that is how other cities handle it as well. Mayor Bradley stated there was a motion and a second on the floor. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Cowan-nay, Bowman-nay, Massey-yea, Alldredge-absent,

Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

**Police Report:** Chief James Downing gave the monthly report. He also informed the Council the City may be losing Officer Kevin Stewart due to the lack of Family Insurance for new employees.

**Fire Report:** Lt. Chris Slavich gave the monthly report. Also, the Fire Department has 3 volunteers in training for EMT/Paramedics.

**Road Report:** Councilperson Massey wanted to thank Darrell Glass for picking up trash in his neighborhood. Mayor Bradley thanked Darrell for also going to Countryview Circle to cut back limbs. The police department also assisted getting a few cars moved off the roadway where they were sticking out in places. Mayor Bradley stated she hoped this will alleviate the issues for the bus drivers.

Councilperson Bowman stated there were trees that need to be cut as well in Briar Ridge. He is going to get estimates for that.

Mayor Bradley stated the Fire Department called to have a limb removed on Roulain as well.

**Food Bank Report:** President Jim Link reported it was the weekend give out on Saturday 10am-11am. Glenn and Shae Waldrop will be assisting with it this time.

**Teen Council Report:** President Katie Whitfield provided the council with a copy of the Teen Council's mission statement. Councilperson Brown suggested having a worksession to go over the Teen Council Ordinance with them to propose changes. Councilperson Massey asked if everyone would write down their suggestions and let the Teen Council go over them. Further discussion was held on changes that need to be made to the ordinance. Mayor Bradley asked if the Teen Council would get with Councilperson Brown and Massey to go over the suggested changes. Also, she would like to see a parent as an advisor as well as a Councilperson liaison.

The Teen Council will also be hosting the Mayor's Breakfast and three members will be able to attend. Katie Whitfield stated the Teen Council would like to also have a Community Dance at City Hall sometime in March. They will have more information soon. Councilperson Massey said they would like to have a yard sale soon as well to raise funds for Christmas for Kids.

Mayor Bradley stated Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge was unable to be at the meeting to give the Storm Shelter update due to his work. Mayor stated the County has finished the grading and Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> the Council can meet with Mr. Culpepper to view the alternates for the storm shelter and what they will look like.

Mayor Bradley discussed the Park rules and regulations. She suggested they include all rules in the ordinance, but not list all on the sign, only the main ones. And just reference the ordinance number on the sign like Springville does. Councilperson Brown discussed further in detail a few rules that might need to be addressed. Councilperson Bowman suggested letting Councilperson Brown rewrite the rules and ordinance to bring back at the next meeting. The Council agreed.

Attorney Brunson stated he had forwarded a copy of the new lease to 8885 Gadsden Hwy and it is not due until the 28<sup>th</sup> of February. He will reach out to the lessee for any questions or changes.

Speakers Michael Stanley and Michelle Coalson proclaimed their aversion to the Distracted Driving Ordinance. They discussed their opposition on the vagueness of the ordinance and how it would affect the citizens. They believe this ordinance would give police the authority to pull someone over for things like merely taking a sip of drink. Michelle Coalson also spoke on the Animal Control Ordinance and her disagreement with registering dogs unless they have done something.

Attorney Brunson explained the Animal Control Ordinance tracks Emily's Law with the state, and no one is required to register their animals without cause. Also, He discussed the Distracted Driving Ordinance was similar to what the state has in place and that of Trussville's. Police would have to have probable cause in order to pull someone over. Captain Glenn Wells verified they would need probably cause.

Council further discussed what Senator McClendon was trying to pass that was similar to the proposed Distracted Driving Ordinance. Attorney Brunson stated he would get with McClendon's office for a drafted copy. And send Argo's proposed ordinances to the clerk's office for the clerk to post around the city and at city hall.

Councilperson Bowman discussed allowing Alabama Power to replace current lights to LEDs to save money as well as adding more lights for the parking area and one pole. There was conversation regarding waiting for the Storm Shelter to be built. Councilperson Bowman stated AL Power would not charge to add another light fixture later or charge the city if they must move a pole. Currently the City is paying around \$151.00 for lighting around the building and with this agreement the estimated monthly charge would be \$355.06 for 60 months. Councilperson Bowman motioned to accept the AL Power contract for \$355.06. Councilperson Brown seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Cowan-yea, Bowman-yea, Massey-yea, Alldredge-absent, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried. Councilperson Bowman also stated the AL Power Engineer explained to him it would be better to pull the electricity from city hall and not install another meter to avoid that extra charge.

Mayor Bradley asked the Council if the city could purchase 5 gallons of paint and supplies for Darrell Glass to work on the walls in city hall when the weather is bad. The rental room in particular needs work due to people hanging signs and banners on the walls. Councilperson Massey motioned to allow Darrell Glass to purchase paint and supplies. Councilperson Brown seconded the motion. Further discussion was held on the price of paints and requiring Glass to get paint with primer. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Cowan-yea, Bowman-yea, Massey-yea, Alldredge-absent, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

**City Attorney Report:** Attorney Brunson stated he was still working with Advance Disposal getting the Solid Waste contract. The Youth Council guidelines were sent to the Attorney for the Teen Council. He stated he would be happy to review those if the Council wishes. Councilperson Brown stated the Council could work on it first and if they required assistance

from the Attorney, they would reach out to him.

**Mayor Report:** Mayor Bradley reminded the Council of the City Clerk's computer crashing as well as the problems the Court Clerk is having with his. In an emergency situation, the computers needed to be replaced for \$2099.96 purchased from Best Buy. IT service has been working with the City Clerk to get all the programs back up and running.

She announced the Alabama Power Business License came in at \$127,492.28, around seven thousand over the previous year.

The Mayor's Breakfast will be tomorrow at Benjammins Restaurant.

Mayor Bradley explained they were still waiting to get bids for the City Hall Roof back. One company came out to look at it today. Further discussion was held on finding other construction companies like Seay Construction, what they could do to the roof and if there currently is a warranty on the existing roof. So far, the Mayor and Clerk have not been able to find anything that states there is a warranty, except for a one year. The City has only received one bid as of right now for \$54,000.00.

The Mayor stated the Auditor would be at the next council meeting with a copy of the budget for the Council.

**Council Comments:** Councilperson Bowman stated the Fire Department was inquiring about the flag base that needs to be drilled when the power company comes out and if they could still put it on the corner of the building where it would not interfere with the storm shelter. The Council had no issues.

**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-absent, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

APPROVED:



Betty Bradley, Mayor

ATTEST:



Casie Bethune, City Clerk