

RECORD OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF ARGO

Date: 02-25-19  
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.

Councilperson Massey motioned to approve minutes from 01/28/2019. Councilperson Cowan seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call votes: Cowan-yea, Bowman-yea, Massey-yea, Alldredge-absent, Brown-abstained, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

Mayor Bradley asked to table the minutes for 2/11/2019 because the Clerk has been working on the figures for an upcoming budget meeting and will complete the second set of minutes for the next council meeting.

Speaker Monica Carmichael explained to the Council her background in grant writing for a non-profit organization. And expressed her desire to assist the City in researching funding opportunities for Argo if the council desired. She agreed any fees associated with her labor would be included with any earned grants.

Auditor David Cork presented the audit for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. He stated the City's numbers were much better this year, the revenue was up, and expenditures were down with only \$15,041 in expenses exceeding revenue. He further explained in detail of how he came to his figures for the city for the Council. A big improvement for the City that will hopefully continue the next year, he stated.

Councilperson Brown stated she had begun typing up the Teen Council's Ordinance and hope to get it to everyone that night. She and President Katie Whitfield, along with Councilperson Massey, will go over the ordinance to make sure they do not need to make any further changes.

Mayor Bradley stated the Teen Council's mission statement was excellent and would like to go ahead and approve it. Councilperson Massey motioned to approve the Argo Teen Council's Mission Statement. Councilperson Bowman seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call votes: Cowan-yea, Bowman-yea, Massey-yea, Alldredge-absent, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

Katie Whitfield asked the Council if they would allow the Teen Council to have their Sock Hop Dance on March 9<sup>th</sup> from 6pm – 8pm at City Hall. Councilperson Massey motioned to approve the Teen Council to use City Hall for a Sock Hop Dance, March 9th. Councilperson Brown seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call votes: Cowan-yea, Bowman-yea, Massey-yea, Alldredge-absent, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

Mayor Bradley thanked the Teen Council for hosting and attending the Mayor's Breakfast.

Mayor Bradley asked Councilperson Massey to discuss the alternates the Council needed to approve for the Storm Shelter. Mayor Bradley stated Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge was absent due to work; however, he is currently working on finding out what type of generator needed to run city hall and the storm shelter. There was general conversation regarding electrical information needed and who could assist in supplying one. Mayor Bradley asked if the council wanted to postpone until the next meeting when Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge has more information on the generator. Councilperson Brown stated she would like to go ahead and approve the alternates to give to Mr. Culpepper and the Architects. Everyone agreed. It was decided to go with Alternate #1 (the tile flooring) and the siding on the outside be a tan or beige smooth finish to match city hall, which is a part of the base bid at no extra cost to the city. Councilperson Massey motioned to take the beige color and tile options. Councilperson Brown seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call votes: Cowan-yea, Bowman-yea, Massey-yea, Alldredge-absent, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

The Council discussed the Animal Control Ordinance regarding permit fees and a date to enforce the ordinance. Attorney Brunson stated he could add any changes to the ordinance and make a final copy for the council. The Council inquired about the fines for court being in the ordinance. Attorney Brunson stated he could add a clause for fines up to \$500.00 depending on the severity of the offense. Councilperson Massey asked if the proposed ordinance was considered the first reading. Attorney Brunson stated it was just up for discussion purposes, but once the discussed changes have been made, it will be considered the first reading at the next meeting. It can be passed next meeting with unanimous consent. Further conversation was held on possibly setting up a contract for Tommy Johnson once the ordinance is passed and the equipment the police would use.

Mayor Bradley asked if the Council would like tonight to be considered the first reading for the Distracted Driving Ordinance? There was no objection from the Council. They will vote on it next meeting. Attorney Brunson read the ordinance aloud as the first reading and asked if the Council wanted to change any language to let him know. It was discussed about the state having similar laws the ordinance is based on. Councilperson Massey explained Senator McClendon said at the Mayor's Breakfast not to wait on the state, he was unsure if their bill would pass.

Councilperson Cowan asked if this was just smaller cities that were passing this type ordinance. Attorney Brunson stated it was pretty encompassing around the state. There was conversation on the pros and cons of this ordinance in place and the dangers of texting and driving.

Councilperson Brown went over the rules for the Park she thought should be listed on the sign. She stated this was just a first draft. The Council discussed a few in detail regarding age limits and handling dogs in the park. Councilperson Brown stated the ordinance she put together was given to the clerk and the clerk will work on getting it ready for the next meeting. Councilperson Massey thought the ordinance should be drafted by Attorney Brunson. The Attorney stated he could work on getting one together if need be. Mayor Bradley stated they were trying to get a draft together first and then let the attorney look it over to save on legal fees. Councilperson Massey disagreed with the way the ordinance was being handled. Councilperson Brown stated she was asked to create this ordinance by another councilmember. Councilperson Massey exclaimed that was fine as long as the Attorney looked it over first. Further conversation was held on the process of passing ordinances. Councilperson Massey stated the Council was passing more ordinances and did not believe the city was enforcing them. Mayor Bradley asked what the city was not enforcing, she would be glad to look into it. Councilperson Massey stated he would speak to her in private.

Mayor Bradley stated the League of Municipalities sent an email with a Resolution asking the city to support the new Motor Fuel Tax for the state. Mayor Bradley read the provided resolution aloud to the Council and public. She stated she was not in favor of this tax, but it was up to the council to enact this resolution. Councilperson Massey agreed he did not agree with it. Councilperson Cowan stated the citizens in St. Clair would be paying an estimated \$0.55 a gallon of gas tax if this is passed. Mayor Bradley stated the city would only get one penny of it. Councilperson Cowan exclaimed she did not think the city should pass this resolution put protest it in Montgomery. Further discussion was held on the taxes and how it affects city roads now. Argo citizens are paying like everyone else but getting less services from the county and state. No motion was made.

Mayor Bradley read aloud an email from Jim Hill regarding the city in support of authorizing St. Clair County to levy and collect a special school district ad valorem tax. Mayor Bradley had questions for Jim Hill about the proposed bill, but Senator Hill has not returned her call as of yet. The Council discussed the bill giving the county authority to rezone school districts whenever they wish and how the taxes for each student would be collected and in what district. There was further conversation on property taxes in the school district set at \$2.00 on every \$100.00 in the bill. Mayor Bradley stated she would call Senator Hill's office again and see if someone could attend a meeting to answer the Council's questions.

Mayor Bradley stated there is Clerk training at the May Convention 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> and asked for approval for both clerks to attend and close City Hall on that Monday and Tuesday. The total amount with hotel, convention and food included at \$2,667.74 paid out of the Court Education fund. Councilperson Brown asked if the funds are available after a budget review, if the council would consider paying the Mayor's way as well. Councilperson Massey had no issue with the

city paying for the convention for the Mayor. Councilperson Massey motioned to approve to close City Hall and send both Clerks to the Convention May 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>. Councilperson Brown seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call votes: Cowan-yea, Bowman-yea, Massey-yea, Alldredge-absent, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

Mayor Bradley stated John Songer asked to postpone the Defensive Driving School request for a laptop and equipment. He will be getting more information together first for the council before it's presented and speak to the Chief about other options.

Councilperson Bowman stated he is still working on getting estimates for the Briar Ridge tree cutting.

Councilperson Brown discussed grants to get swings for the park. One options she is looking into is a no match grant for the city. She is hoping to apply for the grants and possibly have swings for next summer. Councilperson Brown provided options of swings for the council to review. She also provided a list of different ideas for fundraisers to raise money for the park, like craft shows, games or car shows. She stated there may be a chance to get quotes on other equipment as well with these types of grants, but the main focus as of now is the swings. It was discussed that Judge Hervard would be willing to assist the city with some of these projects.

Attorney Brunson stated he has not heard back from the tenant of 8885 Gadsden Hwy yet regarding the lease agreement. Councilperson Massey stated he ran into the tenant and he stated he did not have a copy, did not receive it. Attorney Brunson assured he would get one to him asap tomorrow. Councilperson Massey also stated there was some pot holes as well that Darrell Glass could patch in front of his business that need to be fixed.

Attorney Brunson asked if the council would vote on a resolution to allow the Clerk to pay funds to businesses that have overpaid on state taxes varying in amounts up to \$3500.00. The resolution the Attorney provided had an incorrect amount and would correct that, but recommends the council go ahead and vote. Councilperson Massey motioned to approve the resolution with those corrections to the amount. Councilperson Bowman seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call votes: Cowan-yea, Bowman-yea, Massey-yea, Alldredge-absent, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried. Mayor Bradley clarified this was nothing the city has done wrong, it was merely the state amending taxes overpaid by businesses.

Attorney Brunson also stated he was asked by Officer Como to look over the safe streets ordinance that is currently in place and requested some changes to be made regarding impounding vehicles. There was discussion on the issues that could arise if changes were not made. Attorney Brunson wants to coordinate with the PD before presenting an ordinance to the council.

The Moses lawsuit case for the city is over on the criminal side. However, the civil case is ongoing, but there have been favorable developments for the city in that matter.

**Mayor Report:** Mayor Bradley announced that Norfolk has informed the city that some roads will be closed for them to work on the tracks beginning in March. She read aloud the details of

the email and listed the roads that will be affected: Micklewright Rd, Argo Park Dr, Argo Margaret Rd and Angus Street. She stated she has been broadcasting the issue everywhere, posting flyers and posted it online. Norfolk will be alerting the city before they begin working. The first responders are preparing for these closers.

Mayor Bradley announced the city has received \$7,903.98 in building permits this last week.

Mayor Bradley made sure the Council received copies of the dog catching equipment.

The credit card machine for the city side should be up and running next week.

The City is planning a Budget Meeting March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 6pm to review the budget.

The Argo City Cert team and Fire Department is putting on a CPR Certification class on February 28<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

**Council Comments:** Councilperson Massey stated he spoke to Dan Dahlke about some of the roads not being up to par. Mr. Dahlke will look at fixing one of them and is working on getting a figure for the city on what the bill is up until now. That way the council will know where they stand once the roads are worked on again.

Mayor Bradley stated the Public Works truck alternator messed up again and was taken to be fixed, no invoice as of yet. Also, the tractor tore up, but Darrell Glass was able to fix that himself.

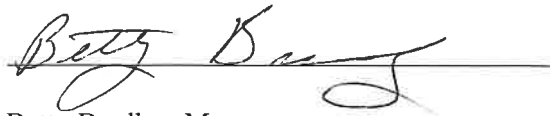
Councilperson Brown stated Keep Alabama Beautiful Campaign will have a meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup>. She discussed the federal money that comes to this program and they may furnish supplies, like gloves, bags, etc. for cities with planned clean ups quarterly. She stated she would attend this meeting and see if she could get anything for the city and set up some tentative clean up dates beginning March 16<sup>th</sup>. Councilperson Brown will get with Darrell to see which roads need it the most including the main roads through the city. Councilperson Brown asked for citizens help in keeping Argo clean. Councilperson Massey stated the Teen Council might could assist as well. He also stated he has extra gloves and would donate some. Mayor Bradley stated the food bank has extra bags to donate as well. Councilperson Brown stated anyone wants to help they will meet at the park on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 9am. They will have four clean ups a year.

**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:

ATTEST:



Betty Bradley, Mayor



Casie Bethune, City Clerk