

RECORD OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF ARGO

Date: 03-11-19

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Municipal Complex

Regular Meeting

ROLL CALL

Councilperson Ann Cowan

Councilperson Ronnie Bowman

Mayor Pro-Tem Tony Alldredge

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 Brown motioned to approve minutes from 02/11/2019. Councilperson Massey seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Cowan-yea, Bowman-yea, Massey-yea, Alldredge-abstain, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

Councilperson Brown motioned to approve minutes from 02/25/19 with a few corrections, one regarding the new gas tax. Councilperson Massey seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Cowan-yea, Bowman-yea, Massey-yea, Alldredge-abstain, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

Police Report: Chief James Downing gave the monthly report. He informed the council of the accident involving the 2013 Charger. Officer Mike Long was okay after being hit from behind by a distracted driver. Chief Downing also informed the council their department may be losing another officer and asked if the council would consider letting Argo send a new hire to the training academy for around \$2050.00 and requiring them to work for Argo for two years which is state law. Further discussion was held on the details of the training and \$1300 reimbursement for the City once the new hire graduates. Chief Downing stated it is hard to find full time officers currently. Mayor Bradley agreed many municipalities are having problems finding officers. Chief Downing stated the main thing the City doesn't offer is family coverage insurance for employees that have been here less than 79 months. Councilperson Bowman brought up employee insurance as well. Some officers were looking elsewhere because of that issue. The Council further spoke regarding the cost for the city to considering changing those

benefits once the Council reviews the budget to see where the city stands. Councilperson Bowman asked about possible grants to assist. Mayor Bradley stated that was a topic she wanted to speak on next meeting regarding getting a grant writer for all departments of the city.

Mayor Bradley reiterated the Chief was asking if the council would consider hiring an employee to be sent to the academy and stated it would be brought up again at the next meeting.

Fire Report: Lt. Andy Griffith gave the fire report for the month which was lower than normal. The next Chamber meeting is tomorrow evening at 6pm. They have been keeping businesses in Argo up to date on the Norfolk Railroad closings as information comes in. Also, he reported to the council that because of the grant, their volunteer roster is now full.

Road Report: Councilperson Bowman stated there needs to be some patching done on Cedar Creek. Councilperson Massey stated Dan Dahlke reported the remaining balance left to spend in the paving funds was \$9,500.00, but they were going to redo Cedar Creek Rd with more patching because of the condition the road is in now due to weather. He asked if the council agreed to allow the county to do more asphalt than tar and gravel since it seems to be holding up better. Councilperson Bowman agreed. Mayor Bradley stated the city had received complaints on what had been done so far to the roads from citizens. Councilperson Massey stated the rain had been against the County, but they will redo Cedar Creek on their dime. Councilperson Bowman stated Wolf looks as though it needs to be redone as well.

Mayor Bradley read aloud a letter from Dan Dahlke, with St. Clair County stating they will no longer be accepting contracts on any new projects with Cities. Cities will use different contractors but will get similar prices as they had with the County. Projects in process will still be completed.

Councilperson Bowman provided the council with two estimates for the tree cutting of eight trees on Briar Ridge. The Council agreed to go with the smaller estimate with Eastern Tree Service in the amount of \$1800.00. Mayor Bradley asked if Eastern Tree Service would specify on the invoice the number of trees to be cut for clarification. Councilperson Bowman would get him to add those details. Councilperson Bowman motioned to approve Eastern Tree Service to cut down the Briar Ridge trees for \$1800.00. 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.

Food Bank Report: President Jim Link was absent.

Teen Council Report: President Katie Whitfield was absent. The Council will postpone approving the ordinance and bylaws until the next meeting. Discussion was held on the location of the students stated in the ordinance. The council agreed to change it to any "High School students residing in the Argo area."

Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge gave an update on the Storm Shelter. The city still needs to sign the contract with Adams Stewart Architects, and it is ready to go. No changes need to be made. He is also looking at gathering information for a generator for electrical and for gas. Mayor Pro-

Tem Alldredge stated he did not believe there was enough gas to power the generator after speaking to Trussville Utilities. There is a four-inch-high pressure on Blackjack Rd, the City may need to run a new line just for that. Councilperson Massey stated he would speak with Brian Smith to see if he can assist the city with this. Further conversation occurred on getting specifications drawn up and sent out to get information on what size generator the city would need and cost.

Councilperson Brown stated the Clerk was working on typing the ordinance up for the Park. It should be tabled until the next meeting.

The 8885 Lease has been sent to the tenant, but no response has been received as of yet. The tenant has dropped off the first payment under the new contract stated the City Clerk. A few councilmembers inquired about typos seen in the contract. Attorney Brunson stated he would correct those. Councilperson Massey motioned to approve the 8885 lease with those few corrections. 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.

Councilperson Massey motioned to approve the Distracted Driving Ordinance. Councilperson Brown seconded the motion. Discussion was held on requiring probable cause to stop anyone in this ordinance and discussion on the texting while driving State Law. This ordinance covers more than just texting. A few Councilmembers did not completely agree the city should have an ordinance more elaborate than the state law. Others believed since Argo has so much traffic coming through the city, something should be in place to help protect the people. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Cowan-yea, Bowman-yea, Massey-yea, Alldredge-yea, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

The Council went over the Animal Control Ordinance that mirrors Emily's Law. Attorney Brunson made some changes that are specific to municipalities. The intent, regarding registering an animal, is if there has been a previous incident only. With the assistance of Councilperson Massey, Attorney Brunson read aloud the Regulating Dangerous Animals Ordinance and it was considered the 1st reading of the ordinance. There were questions asking for more clarification on specific details of the ordinance, such as adding a fee schedule. Also addressed was how the city would handle the dog issues once brought to the city's attention and this ordinance would be the course for that. Attorney Brunson stated he would address the fees and have it ready for the 2nd reading next council meeting, March 25th.

City Attorney Report: Attorney Brunson did not have much to report. He thanked the City for the Sympathy Card for his loss.

Mayor Report: Mayor Bradley reminded the council of the Budget meeting Wednesday the 13th.

Argo cleanup day is March 16th from 9am to 12pm, meeting at the pavilion.

Norfolk Railroad is planning to close roads starting March 18th but will notify the city two days

before any closures. Councilperson Massey stated Norfolk had just begun on Trussville's so it may be later than that before starting in Argo. The council discussed different routes the traffic could use through Argo.

Mayor Bradley stated she has already addressed Dan Dahlke's Letter letting everyone know the County will no longer be taking any new contracts.

The Mayor's Breakfast will be March 12th in Odenville located at Christ Church Branch Cove.

Mayor Bradley stated John Songer was still working with the Chief and getting information together for next council meeting regarding the Defensive Driving School.

She also reminded the council of the upcoming ALDOT regional meeting March 28, 2019.

Council Comments: Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge explained he was told by the Regional Planning Commission has contacted ALDOT about extending the ramp out on I-20. They are in the process of securing funds for this project if possible.

Mayor Bradley stated the city would also be contacting the state regarding the road in front of Jacks, Argo Parkway. The City and the County have never maintained it. The road does not belong to the city, but a letter can be sent asking the state to pave the road instead of continually patching it because it doesn't last. There have been many complaints concerning this road and it continually gets worse.

Public Comments: None

Councilperson Massey motioned to adjourn. 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.

APPROVED:



Betty Bradley, Mayor

ATTEST:



Casie Bethune, City Clerk