

RECORD OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF ARGO

Date: 03-25-19

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Municipal Complex

**Regular Meeting**

ROLL CALL

Councilperson Ann Cowan

Councilperson Ronnie Bowman

Councilperson Corky Massey

Mayor Pro-Tem 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.

Councilperson Brown gave the invocation.

Mayor Bradley opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Teen Council President Katie Whitfield was absent. The Council discussed two small corrections to be made on the Teen Council Ordinance. Councilperson Massey motioned to adopt the Teen Council Ordinance with those 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. Further discussion was held on how to promote the Teen Council in schools.

Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge reported on the Storm Shelter. The City has received the first invoice in the amount of \$10,004.73.

The Council discussed details of the Park Ordinance. Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge did not agree with limiting areas for smokers outdoors. Councilperson Brown motioned to adopt the Park Rules and Regulations Ordinance as is. 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.

Attorney Johnny Brunson stated this would be considered the second reading for the Animal Control Ordinance. Council deliberated on several issues such as chaining animals, equipment for the police department once the ordinance is passed as well as providing a time frame when the ordinance will go into effect. Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge had some concerns with whether the ordinance pertained to just dangerous animals or animals considered being a nuisance.

Attorney Brunson reminded the council the purpose of this Ordinance is to regulate dangerous animals and it is inherently based off Emily's Law that is already in place by the State. It was also agreed upon to have the ordinance begin around 60 days out or June 1, 2019. Councilperson Brown motioned to adopt Regulating Dangerous Animals Ordinance with adding the effective date of June 1, 2019. Councilperson Massey seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Cowan-yea, Bowman-yea, Massey-yea, Alldredge-nay, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

Attorney Brunson also mentioned he would like to meet with the Police Chief regarding appealed cases as well as review new information that may assist in court for Argo.

The Council discussed using Grant Writer, Monica Carmichael, to obtain grants for all departments of the city and she also agreed to be paid through the grants if hired. There was general conversation on Mrs. Carmichael's background and resume. Councilperson Massey motioned to hire Monica Carmichael as the grant writer for the city. 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.

Police Chief Downing went over again with the council from last meeting the benefits of sending an officer to the academy and the costs for the city. Overall, the officer would be there 13 weeks and then stay on with Argo for two years required by the state. The officer would be hired on at \$14.25/hr. Total it would cost the city \$7,410.00 plus taxes and the schooling that the city would be reimbursed \$750.00 once the officer graduates. The Police Department has the funds in the budget since they have been down an officer that was not replaced. Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge motioned to approve sending a new hire to the academy that meet the city and state requirements. 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.

Discussion was held on allowing the Police Department to purchase a truck and this vehicle would also be used for the Regulating Dangerous Animals Ordinance. The total amount would be estimated at \$32,714.00 plus around \$15,000.00-\$20,000 to outfit it. This would not replace the wrecked vehicle; the city is still waiting to hear from the insurance company regarding the Charger. A covered cage would be purchased separately to put on the back of the truck for transporting any animals to Tommy Johnson's. Councilperson Massey suggested not replacing the wrecked Charger since this truck will be for calls as well as transporting animals. Further discussion was held on getting equipment from the wrecked charger and if not, a computer can be purchased from court funds if need be. It was discussed to only approve the vehicle since it takes three months to get and then approve outfitting it and the cage at a later date. Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge motioned to approve the PD to purchase a new vehicle in the amount of \$33,000 for use of patrol and dog catching. 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.

Chief Downing stated he had spoken with the Defensive Driving School instructor and agreed all that was needed for the class was a new computer and the Edition 10 Booklets with software. It

was decided a projector would not be needed. The booklets will cost \$449.00 and the new computer estimated around \$900.00 for a total of \$1349.00. The funds to cover these items will come from the police defensive driving school fund. Councilperson Massey motioned to allow the PD to purchase a new computer and the Edition 10 course supplies for Defensive Driving School. 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.

The Council deliberated on the next steps for the city hall roof estimates. So far, the city has received two. These estimates are above the bid law and the city would require getting specifications drawn up. Councilperson Massey stated he would contact Good Game to see if they would write them up for the city. Councilperson Bowman stated the roof should have been a standing seam and not have screws. Attorney Brunson would assist pulling resources as well. Mayor Bradley stated something needed to be done because of all the leaks throughout the building, plus the belief mold is growing from all the moisture coming in. Mayor Bradley asked if Councilpersons Massey and Bowman would report back at the next meeting.

**Mayor Report:** Mayor Bradley stated Alabama Power has put a new pole up for the city and extra lighting around the parking areas. Councilperson Brown believed it was better, but there were still a few dark areas that would be an issue during election times. Councilperson Bowman explained if the city would like to put up another pole it would be \$400 and then \$70 a month for extra lights. Also, if the city added a wall pack an electrician would need to be hired. Councilperson Massey suggested the council wait to do anything more until the storm shelter is completed. Councilperson Brown stated some lights may just need to be adjusted.

Mayor Bradley asked the council if they would object to the city sending a letter out to the businesses if they would be interested in paying for advertisements on the website to cut city costs. The council discussed a ballpark fee the city could charge and the benefits for the businesses to be advertised on the website. The Clerk will send an email to Dona Bonnett to get a rough estimate what would be feasible for businesses. The council agreed it was a good idea to see if businesses would be interested.

Mayor Bradley stated the city received a letter from the Alabama Kidney Foundation asking for donations. The form was provided to the council if they wished to donate.

Mayor Bradley reminded the council again of the regional ALDOT meeting coming up on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge read aloud the letters from Chief Downing and Sheriff Murray with the County thanking Officer Busler and Officer Tuttle for their assistance with the recent stolen vehicle that crashed in the pond on Blackjack Rd and Argo-Margaret.

Mayor Bradley informed the council the city has received the first invoice for the storm shelter for \$10,004.73. The invoices are submitted to FEMA once a month, therefore, it will take some time to get the reimbursements back. The storm shelter should be finished around the end of May or beginning of June.

Mayor Bradley stated she spoke with Mr. Butler regarding specifications for the storm shelter. He came and looked at city hall and the storm shelter area to see where the best place for the generator would be. Mayor Bradley stated he would contact Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge to get more information. Mr. Butler would also be getting those specifications to the city sometime next week.

**Council Comments:** Councilperson Brown stated March 16<sup>th</sup> clean up day had five volunteers show up and they collected 37 bags of trash from some of the main roads. Tomorrow from 10am – 2pm, Keep Alabama Beautiful will have another meeting. Councilperson Brown will attempt to get more supplies for the clean up days that the city must have quarterly. The next one is tentatively scheduled for June 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Public Comments:** None

Councilperson Massey motioned to adjourn. 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.

APPROVED:



Betty Bradley, Mayor

ATTEST:



Casie Bethune, City Clerk