

RECORD OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF ARGO

Date: 10-14-19
Time: 6:00 PM
Place: Municipal Complex
Regular Meeting

ROLL CALL

Councilperson Ann Cowan
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.

Speaker Ethan Frazier spoke regarding the de-annexation of his property. He offered the city a ten-year buyout of property tax and any fees associated with the process. Further discussion was held on the problems the homeowner was having selling the property. Councilperson Massey motioned to de-annex the property of Ethan Frazier. Councilperson Cowan seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Cowan-yea, Massey-yea, Alldredge-nay, Brown-nay, and Mayor Bradley-nay. Motion failed.

Speaker John Sydney stated he ran off Roulain Road and coming back on the road dented his rim and that caused a flat tire. He stated it was \$165.00 worth of damage he believed was the city's responsibility. After the incident, he filed a road complaint with the city. He asked the council if there was anything they could do. Councilperson Massey stated all roads have issue on the sides in every city. Attorney Brunson stated there was no liability on behalf of the city, especially since the driver went off the side of the road. The council agreed the city should not have to pay for this incident. Mr. Sydney thanked the council for allowing him to speak.

Police Report: Capitan Glenn Wells gave the monthly report. He introduced the new full-time officer, Michel Blancher, to the council.

Mayor Bradley asked the council if they would confirm the hiring of two new officers, full-time Michael Blancher and part-time Lamar Lackey. Councilperson Massey motioned to confirm the hiring of the officers. Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Cowan-yea, Massey-yea, Alldredge-yea, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-

yea. Motion carried.

Fire Report: Interim Chief Scott Payne gave the monthly report. He reported they would be with the PD on Halloween at the Hardware Store passing out candy this year in a safer location for the children to trick-or-treat.

Road Report: Councilperson Massey asked the Attorney Brunson if he'd finished the contract for Katie Lane. The Attorney stated he needed to make a few small changes but would have one to the city clerk tomorrow.

Councilperson Massey exclaimed Darrell Glass was not in favor of purchasing the used tractor they went to look at. The air conditioner was not working, and it had to be jumped it off. Councilperson Massey discussed purchasing the tractor himself and possibly cutting back the limbs for the city with council approval. The Attorney discussed the possibility of liability issues for the city and asked he call him before moving forward with any work. There was general conversation on where the city could purchase another tractor and what pieces needed for the work.

Teen Council Report: President Isaiah Moore was not present due to other school functions.

Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge stated he had found a company to handle the sewer and water, Kris n Co Inc. for the storm shelter. The estimate was for \$4,875.00. He had called a couple other companies, but this was the only one to come out and give an estimate for the project.

Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge also spoke with several different people regarding the generator. Home Depot is supposed to come out on Wednesday. He encountered with speaking to these experts, a specific generator would have to be purchased to coordinate with the type of switch the storm shelter will have. Even with this issue, the council agreed a portable generator would not work. Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge stated a larger generator was not expensive, it was just finding the correct one. He would try to get a few prices from the companies for the generator.

There was discussion getting a contract drawn up for Kris n Co. Councilperson Massey motioned to accept the estimate from Kris n Co Inc. Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Cowan-yea, Massey-yea, Alldredge-yea, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge talked about getting Rex Harrison to price the concrete for the storm shelter as well. Councilperson Massey would try to speak with him the next day.

Mayor Bradley discussed the city's current failing Wi-Fi and how unsecure it is. Tony Mareno provided an estimate to update the Wi-Fi for \$1,196.00. He will also make sure the city is on a private Wi-Fi and the public has their own for security purposes. Councilperson Cowan motioned to update the Wi-Fi for \$1200.00 coming from the building maintenance fund. Councilperson Massey seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Cowan-yea, Massey-yea, Alldredge-yea, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

Attorney Brunson updated the council on the volume of cases in court increasing over the years and the attorneys try to have two present if possible, to move things along. He discussed court rates for the deferred program and driving school fees being lower than other municipalities. The Judge can adjust the court rates at the beginning of the new year at his discretion. Attorney Brunson suggested going up to \$150 for driving school. He further discussed the court costs and how these changes would affect the city. The City Clerk also elaborated on which checking accounts these costs come from. Attorney Brunson stated once the court fees are raised this would cover the cost of the attorney's fees if they are moved to an hourly rate. The attorney's fees and driving school should be implemented immediately and the Judge will adjust the court fees at the beginning of the calendar year.

Councilperson Massey motioned to accept the new rates and change the Attorney's Fee from a flat rate to hourly. Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge seconded the motion based on the Judge's review of these changes. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Cowan-yea, Massey-yea, Alldredge-yea, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

City Attorney Report: Attorney Brunson updated the council on the Opioid case. The first cases have been successful which is positive for the city. They are requesting details of calls for 1st responders and information.

Mayor Report: Mayor Bradley reiterated the police and fire will be passing out candy at the hardware store. It has become dangerous crossing the street to get to Misty Pines. Several kids were almost hit last year, and they will be moving the location for safety reasons. Also, they will be passing out Census information. Mayor Bradley went over again how important being counted for the Census is for the city and the grant funds they could possibly get in result of a more accurate count of the population. If not properly counted, there could be a potential loss of congressional seats. Councilperson Massey asked if the Teen Council would be able to help with Halloween event. Mayor Bradley stated they were welcome to assist if available.

Mayor Bradley updated everyone on the park grant. They will be conducting site visits soon on the 23rd and asked council members to make it if they can.

Mayor Bradley stated the city was not awarded the ATRIP II grant and would not be receiving any funds. She discussed the issues with the roads and the attempts made by the city trying to get assistance. The Mayor and City Clerk sent a letter in response to the denial letter for the grant, letting them know of the safety hazard these roads pose. Also, if there were any other grants or funds that could be obtained.

Council Comments: Councilperson Massey stated the Teen Council would be having another yard sale on Black Friday again this year. It will be from 8am to 1pm.

There will be a new Santa for the Christmas Parade. Mayor Bradley asked all participants for the parade fill out an application.

Councilperson Brown asked if the council would wear pink next meeting in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

She alerted the council there was a light out at the welcome sign. The lights were insured, and Lighting Concepts ordered a light to replace the old. A citizen and electrician, Bill McPherson, installed it as well as fixed the issues with the timer sensor.

Councilperson Brown also discussed having another book sale and possible bake sale with it. There was conversation having it the same day as the Teen Council yard sale on Nov. 29th.

Mayor Bradley thanked Councilperson Brown and Darrell Glass for decorating the Welcome Sign for the holiday season.

There was general discussion on the apple grant and the roads that need assistance. The Mayor and Council would continue working on this project, even though the ATRIP grant fell through.

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

APPROVED:



Betty Bradley, Mayor

ATTEST:



Casie Bethune, City Clerk