

RECORD OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF ARGO

Date: 09-23-19  
Time: 6:00 PM  
Place: Municipal Complex  
**Regular Meeting**

ROLL CALL

Councilperson Ann Cowan  
Councilperson Corky Massey  
Mayor Pro-Tem Tony 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.

Attorney Johnny Brunson opened the bids for Katie Lane project. There was a total of two bids each with 2 options, one for repairs and two for replacing the whole bridge. Harrison Builders: Option 1 - \$29,687.00 and Option 2 - \$55,175.00. Goodgame: Option 1 - \$29,871.00 and Option 2 - \$45,505.00.

Councilperson Massey stated he spoke with Dan Dahlke from the county and his suggestion was to pour concrete on existing areas. Attorney Brunson read through the details of each bid and their options. There was further deliberation of the work to be done and which would be the better choice. Councilperson Massey motioned to go with Option 1 of the bids for Katie Lane and only repair what is there. 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.

Councilperson Massey motioned to accept the lower bid with Harrison Builders for \$29,687.00. 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 asked to change his attendance for the adjourning vote. He was present. Councilperson Massey motioned to approve minutes from 08/12/2019 with the small correction. 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.

Councilperson Massey motioned to approve budget meeting minutes from 08/13/2019, 09/03/2019 and 09/11/2019. 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.

Speaker Jonathan Bozeman with Alabama Power presented to the Council cameras for license plate recognition. The City would pay a monthly fee of \$833.35 for five cameras. There would be no fees for any maintenance. The cameras only take pictures, no videos and they are not for catching speeders or giving out tickets. The images are checked against NCIC for warrants and only the police would have access. The images would roll off after 30 days. Neighborhoods (HOAs) could also acquire cameras with AL Power for more protection for their area. Mayor Bradley asked if the Attorney Brunson could have a contract to review for the city.

Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge updated the council on the storm shelter. He stated the storm shelter may be delivered by Thursday. Two low boys will be needed to get it in and the 1<sup>st</sup> responders may need to assist with traffic. Also, Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge has had no responses from the three plumbers he contacted that have business licenses with the city. Mayor Bradley stated Councilperson Massey mentioned Moody Gusc uses certain people to do maintenance on shelters like these and may be able to assist with this. Councilperson Massey stated he would call and get a list of people who handle plumbing for them. Lastly, Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge discussed the generator for the shelter. He verified with the Attorney if there were any issues going back to the contractor to accept the alternate for a generator if need be. The Attorney stated they could do a change order back to the contractor. Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge also discussed finding a free-standing generator themselves and the best place to find one. There was general conversation regarding the gas and water hook ups for the generator.

Mayor Bradley stated Katie Lane had already been discussed with the bid opening.

Attorney Brunson read aloud the proposed amendment for Employee's Health Insurance. The City will pay 100% of single coverage and a maximum of \$200.00 for family coverage. The employee is responsible for the rest if elect to have family coverage. Councilperson Brown asked if it was immediate upon hiring. Councilperson Massey stated yes that does away with the waiting period. Councilperson Massey motioned to accept the employee health insurance amendment having the city cover 100% of single coverage and up to \$200.00 max for family coverage. Councilperson Brown 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 Bradley read aloud the totals for the fiscal year 2019 – 2020 budget.

| <b>Expense Totals</b>    |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| City Operating Budget    | 428,424.50          |
| City Payroll Expenses    | 201,487.44          |
| Police Department Budget | 448,595.58          |
| Fire Department Budget   | 459,934.04          |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>1,538,441.56</b> |

Councilperson Massey motioned to approve the Fiscal Year 2019 – 2020 Budget. Councilperson Brown 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.

There was general conversation regarding the city website. Councilperson Cowan agreed the current one was obsolete and needs to be redone. Dona Bonnett with ADR Business Marketing Strategies was discussed being used. Attorney Brunson recommended her work to the Council. The implementation for the website would be \$2499.00 and then \$69/mo. after that to maintain it. Councilperson Brown motioned to go into contract with ADR to replace the city website. Councilperson Cowan 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 Bradley informed the Council the County will be applying for a grant with the state regarding the 2020 Census to pay for literature, signs, banners, etc. to help the cities out. St. Clair County cities will be umbrellaed under this grant. Mayor Bradley asked the council if they would approve \$1000.00 to cover expenses for the Census until the grant is approved. Councilperson Massey motioned to allow the expenditure up to \$1,000.00 for Census materials. Councilperson Brown 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 Bradley discussed several events upcoming to promote the Census, including Halloween, Christmas and more. Also, how to encourage areas that were lacking last time and what can be done. Councilperson Brown stated also putting it on bulletins at churches would be beneficial. Mayor Bradley stated if the grant comes through, any hours documented and funds spent for the Census, the city will be reimbursed for those expenses.

**City Attorney Report:** Attorney Brunson updated the council on the opioid litigation. There have been positive steps in this case. The result of high call volumes for city's 1<sup>st</sup> responders have been a huge expense to the city due to the high addiction problems in the area. He is working on figures currently on how the city suffered and losses from these calls.

Attorney Brunson stated he was aware of an insurance company that could look at the City's insurance with the council's approval. They could potentially save the city money and assess the city's coverage.

Attorney Brunson also suggested he could speak with Judge Chamblee, Chief Downing and Court Clerk Suggs regarding changing the rates for the Deferred Prosecution Program. His research has shown Argo is estimated \$350.00 lower than the surrounding cities and needs to be increased. After discussing it with Judge, he would like to up Argo's rate from \$650.00 to a

minimum of \$850.00 with flexibility to go to \$1,000.00. As well, he discussed increasing Defensive Driving School fees to a flat fee of \$150.00 for example and no court costs, which would benefit the city more. Also, the course booklet prices have increased which can no longer be reused. These changes could also help with paying for safety issues such as the cameras with Alabama Power.

Attorney Brunson explained how court has become very large, lasting between 4 and 5 hours and sometimes requiring two attorneys. Since the beginning they have been charging a flat fee of \$300.00 per court and Attorney Brunson asked if the fee could be changed to an hourly basis due to the heavy courts. The funds do not come from the general fund and would be paid for out of the court system. Further discussion was held on how changing the deferred program rates would assist with increasing the city's revenue and the court procedures for these types of charges.

Councilperson Massey motioned to increase the recommended rates with approval from Judge Chamblee and Chief Downing, Councilperson Brown 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 Report:** The invoice with Central Dispatch, Juvenile Detention and EMA came in. The fees are the same as the previous year. Dispatch - \$41,010.00. Juvenile - \$4,399.00. EMA - \$232.50.

Mayor Bradley discussed fixing the Wi-Fi system for the city. The equipment for the Wi-Fi is outdated. Tony Mareno would like to change the system so the public will be separate from the city for security purposes. The estimate for the equipment and labor will be around \$1,196.00. Mayor Bradley will bring it back to the next meeting.

Councilperson Massey reported on a tractor for Darrell Glass in Snead. It would be \$12,900.00 with an arm, but no bush hog. He would like to get Darrell to go look at it to get his opinion. Councilperson Massey found an F150 truck on the state bid list for \$18,800.00 from a dealer in Montgomery to be considered for the next meeting.

Councilperson Brown motioned to allow Darrell Glass to go see the used tractor with Councilperson Massey. Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Cowan-yea, Massey-abstain, Alldredge-yea, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

The city has received the invoice from Goodgame for \$35,415.00 for roof repairs. The council discussed Darrell replacing the stained tiles with old pieces upstairs or from another room.

The Council discussed holding off on getting the county to cut back anymore roads. Councilperson Massey stated once the city gets a tractor, Darrell can cut them back. Dan Dahlke can cut the roads that were already turned in previously.

Mayor Bradley read aloud the resignation of Officer Carlos DeRomano, his last day being

10/09/2019. Councilperson Massey motioned to accept the resignation. 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.

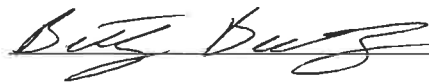
**Council Comments:** Councilperson Cowan inquired about the bond money for the roads. Attorney Brunson stated he was looking into the status of that and would recommend something soon.

Mayor Bradley read the grant acceptance for the Park and alerted the council the city was moving to phase two for the park grant. Discussion was held on leveling up the pavilion and making the walking track more convenient and possibly all handicap accessible.

**Public Comments:** None.

Councilperson Massey motioned to adjourn. Councilperson Brown 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:



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Betty Bradley, Mayor

ATTEST:



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Casie Bethune, City Clerk