

RECORD OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF ARGO

Date: 06-22-2020

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Municipal Complex

Regular Meeting

ROLL CALL

Councilperson Ann Cowan

Councilperson Corky Massey (late)

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.

Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge motioned approve the minutes from regular meeting 6-8-2020.

Councilperson Cowan seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Cowan-yea, Massey-late, Alldredge-yea, Brown-abstain, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

Chief Scott Payne brought before the council a proposal to hire Hunter Rich, he has volunteered with Argo for three years, he already has training and equipment, which would not cost the city more money. He would be filling one of the 2 vacant spots the Fire Department currently has.

Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge motioned to approve the hiring of Hunter Rich. Councilperson Brown seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Cowan-yea, Massey-late, Alldredge-yea, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

Attorney Brunson called to have an executive session. Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge motioned to adjourn to executive session. Councilperson Brown seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Cowan-yea, Massey-late, Alldredge-yea, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned to executive session.

Council returned; Mayor Bradley called meeting back order to at 6:30. Councilperson Massey came in during executive session.

Scott Henderson, with Advanced Disposal was in attendance for the meeting tonight, along with Justin Hunt. He apologized for the short comings of the company. There was a long discussion between the council and Mr. Henderson, he suggested maybe assigning one or two call center representatives to the City of Argo, instead of our citizens having to speak with multiple people. The council expressed their concern about our citizens dealing with the call center representatives, saying they have been rude and unhelpful, or not receiving a return call. There were 23 documented complaints from the month of April, of the roughly 800 customers in Argo.

Discussion was held about increasing RSA benefits for Tier I & II employees to the same earnable employee compensation. After a long discussion, the council decided to table this until the next council meeting to gather more information, before deciding.

Councilperson Massey motioned to table until next meeting the resolution to increase Tier II RSA benefits. 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.

Road Report: Councilperson Massey informed the council he was able to get the shoulders fixed at the deserted houses today, he thanked Darrell for getting him the bags of sakrete he needed quickly, saying he went “above and beyond.” Councilperson Massey also informed the council he and Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge were able to look at the roads and put together a plan regarding the measurements. Councilperson Massey’s figures for the road were \$325,763.19, he stated when paving the roads, you pay for actual tonnage used. Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge came up with roughly \$315,900.00, but states it is difficult to come up an actual figure. Councilperson Massey also said he would have Darrell onsite to ensure the county was “running on schedule with asphalt usage”. Massey talked to the council about the prices of the asphalt, the prices listed (\$63.76 ton) are good until December per Dan Dahlke. Councilperson Massey feels like if he gets the county to do all the roads then the price will be at the lowest possible price, instead of doing one or two roads at a time. The question was asked if these prices were for entire roads and not partial work or patchwork, Councilperson Massey ensured the council it was for the entire road except for Inthawoods Road.

Mayor Bradley went over the finances with the council including the Capital Improvement and 610 accounts with grand total \$794,005.88. Once all the obligations come out of these funds, this will leave a balance of \$355,232.70, for any emergencies, she also reminded the council that the Capital Improvement can only be used for the maintenance and upkeep of the City Hall building.

Mayor Pro-Tem added the road accounts totaling \$269,352.17, Councilperson Massey “that leaves us \$70k from having it, and the money from the 610 fund, \$110k that was earmarked when we borrowed it.”

Mayor Bradley reminded Councilperson Massey a large sum of money had already been borrowed from the 610 account, totaling \$146,214.88 last time the county fixed the roads. He continued to do calculations and got a final number of \$342k to pave the roads.

Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge asked Councilperson Massey where the \$250k earmark was coming from for clarification, as there is nowhere in the minutes that states this earmark, he is in agreement the roadwork needs to be done however is unsure if the funds are available to do so, as the driveway for City Hall is starting to wear and needs work.

For the record, Mayor Bradley read the from a previous meeting minutes, "Councilperson Phillips made motion to allow the Mayor to sign a General Obligation Loan with BB&T not to exceed \$625,000.00. Councilperson Rutledge seconded to motion. Mayor Jennings called for roll call votes: Bradley-yea, Como-yea, Rutledge-yea, Phillips-yea, Brown-yea, Jennings-yea. Motion carried. For the record Councilperson Bradley approves the loan as long as the money will first be spent on the City Hall building and for the roads to be repaired before anything else. Councilperson Rutledge is also on record of agreeing with Councilperson Bradley. Mayor Jennings and the rest of the council is in agreement with Councilperson Bradley."

Councilperson Massey motioned to suspend to the rules to add City Hall driveway to the agenda. 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 Pro-Tem Alldredge went into detail with the council about the information he found out from the engineer about the driveway. Councilperson Cowan inquired about a price, based on the information and the way the driveway is and the parking area, Alldredge says we either have to come up with a budget and give it to a contractor and have them design to it, or have a plan in place.

Councilperson Massey proposed to spend \$800 on asphalt to place temporary patchwork on the roads where the pipes blew out. Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge motioned approve up to \$900 for temporary patchwork. Councilperson Cowan 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.

Mayor Bradley also informed the council the City received a letter from FEMA, closing the account in Katie Lane.

Councilperson Massey motioned to spend up to \$325k on street paving. Councilperson Cowan seconded the motion. Councilperson Brown asked about exactly where the money would be coming from, Councilperson Massey stated the money has to be spent, Mayor Bradley tried to explain that if the road funds are emptied depending on how they are replenished monthly, there will be nothing left for road emergencies, Public Works salary, maintenance, etc. Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge spoke up saying he was in agreement the roads needed work, but until there are figures on money set aside for the driveway, road work emergencies, building maintenance, it wasn't a wise decision. Councilperson Massey rebutted with if the city spends enough money to at least fix Freeze Mtn Rd, and Masters Rd, that would be \$116k, he also proposed doing some of the repair list at a time. Councilperson Brown and Mayor Bradley asked about getting a new ballpark figure on the City Hall driveway. Councilperson Massey stated he did the City Hall at

Margaret for roughly \$60k, and it is working nicely, it was also brought up they do not have the same excavational issues Argo has, he stated we had “to get simpler” Mayor Bradley once again explained that with this proposal for the roads, it would completely drain all the road funds, leaving no money for road emergencies, for example when the roads caved in due to weather, Councilperson Massey said he fixed that, the city paid \$800 for materials, he did the rest on his time, as he has been doing all week. Mayor Bradley thanked him for this and said the city cannot expect him to do all of it for free. Councilperson Brown mentioned the issues with the pipes and roads, her concern is does this need to be fixed prior to paving, so the city is not throwing away money. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Cowan-yea, Massey-yea, Alldredge-nay, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-nay. Motion carried.

City Attorney Report: Attorney Brunson stated per discussion in the executive session, he asked the council for a motion to proceed accordingly with the discussion in the executive session, Mayor Pro-Tem Alldredge motioned to approved discussion from executive session for 8885 Gadsden Highway. Councilperson Cowan 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.

Attorney Brunson also spoke on Advanced Disposal. He would like to get a signed copy of the contract with them, it has been requested multiple times. He asked the council to make the motion to take necessary steps to enforce the contract with Advanced Disposal with the potential of recommending a rebid soon.

Councilperson Massey made the above stated motion. 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 Report: Mayor Bradley informed the council the city received a letter from our auditor, there will be a \$1,000-\$1,500 increase for the next fiscal year. She also informed the council she will post notice for qualifications for the upcoming Municipal Elections on Tuesday July 7, 2020. She updated the council on Officer Como, he has been released from the hospital and is doing well. Officer Hughes should be back to work Mid-July. The Capital Improvement storm shelter reimbursement amount was \$95,837.97. Chief Downing wanted the council updated; his conference was changed to Orange Beach in July.

Council Comments: Councilperson Massey mentioned he has seen roughly 30 children at the church park, playing basketball. Captain Wells says he has only ever seen a few children at a time. Councilperson Massey also added he wanted something added to tonight minutes for his reasoning for abstention from previous minutes was because “he couldn’t remember how all of it was supposed to be” he also wanted it put in the minutes that “that he was concerned about, the minutes being so long behind”, Councilperson Massey also wanted it put in tonight’s minutes “he doesn’t approve of the way things are done, the lag on the minutes, it’s just not good practice.” Attorney Brunson brought up the fact this had already been discussed as to why the minutes had gotten behind, the city clerk was acting in her role as well as the court clerk, until a

new clerk was hired, she was then responsible for training her.

Councilperson Massey continued to say the minutes have been “three or four months behind, we’re caught up now, I just want to say we need to stay caught up” Councilperson Brown expressed her concern with the employees, and the ongoing pandemic with the workload, Councilperson Massey again stated the minutes were behind before the pandemic. Mayor Bradley asked Attorney Brunson if an executive session needed to be called due to the slandering of city employees, Councilperson Massey stated he “wasn’t talking about employees”. Mayor Bradley asked who prepares the minutes, Councilperson Massey “I think you have a big hand in it, you’re in charge of running the town and you’re supposed to see that the minutes are done, you’re the administrator.” Councilperson Brown stated “I’m sure our clerks do their best too”, Massey also said if the clerk needed to “put something else off to keep the minutes up then that’s what we needed to do” he also offered to come and sit with the clerk while she does the minutes to ensure that they are done on time, stating “that’s legal, well just to see that they are done.” He also wants in added to the minutes he “detests the minutes always being four months behind” Councilperson Brown suggested Councilperson Massey bring a recorder and keep record of the minutes since they are behind, and compare the minutes, he stated he “shouldn’t have to spend all of his time taking ’em because we’re not doing what we’re supposed to be doing.”

Public Comments: Gary Elard, spoke on the issue of his car being towed multiple times, his common-law daughter-in-law whose license is suspended was driving the car, when it was towed and he feels the officer should have waited for his wife to arrive before towing the car, since the vehicle is in their name. Captain Wells spoke on this issue, stating that if the owner or license driver is in the vehicle at the time of the stop, they will allow that person to drive the vehicle away, but if someone shows up afterwards they will not be allowed to take the vehicle. Attorney Brunson stated this is the state law, and consistent with other jurisdictions. Mayor Bradley thanked Mr. Elard for coming and speaking in front of the council, but there was nothing the council could do for his issue, as they dont have the authority to tell an officer of the law how to do their job.


Councilperson Brown motioned to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:



Betty Bradley, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tiffany Westbrook, City Clerk

