

RECORD OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF ARGO

Date: 07-19-2021
Time: 5:00 PM
Place: Municipal Complex
Special Called Meeting

ROLL CALL

Councilperson Dennis Griffin
Councilperson Michael Hicks
Mayor Pro-Tem Dusty Stinson
Councilperson Danny McCarley
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.

Invocation was given by Councilperson Hicks, and the pledge of allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

Mayor Bradley opened the meeting with discussion on how to spend the American Rescue Act Funds. There was a long discussion held on how and where the funds could and should be spent. The mayor and council agreed to spend a portion of the funds on a John Deere tractor in the amount of \$45,289.43. Attorney Brymer provided the city with a resolution stating such. Councilperson Griffin motioned to approve Resolution 2021-07-19. Councilperson Hicks seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Griffin-yea, Hicks, yea, Stinson-yea, McCarley-yea, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

Mayor Pro-Tem Stinson motioned to make Jason Harris full time at \$15/hr. with benefits. Councilperson Brown seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Griffin-yea, Hicks, yea, Stinson-yea, McCarley-yea, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

Councilperson Brown suggested that the city make a proposal to Jonathan Ray and see if he would be interested in working for the city full time, as the city needs a full department. There was a long discussion on what to offer him. There was a possible suggestion of proposing the city pay his family coverage in its entirety or add that amount of money to his salary as to not make anyone else in any other department upset that the city was paying for family coverage. The question was also asked to the attorney if each department could have salary/budget meetings in private. The attorney informed the council that this is a matter of public record, and meetings are open.

The council continued to further discuss how to expend the ARAF, Mayor Pro-Tem Stinson suggested pay increases, until the money is expended, Attorney Brymer informed him this would not work, once the pay increases are set you would have to continue to pay the employees even after the money is gone, plus there are not very clear guidelines on this at the moment.

It was also suggested that a bonus be given as a one-time gift to each of its paid employees. The council were provided with a spreadsheet of suggested amounts totaling roughly \$21k.

Although not on the agenda, discussion was brought up in regard to hiring a company to cut the grass around city hall, Mayor Pro-Tem Stinson talked about the quote he received, as did Councilpersons Brown and Griffin.

Mayor Pro-Tem Stinson made the motion to hire Bobby Knight as interim, six-month contract, grass cutter. Councilperson Griffin seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Griffin-yea, Hicks, yea, Stinson-yea, McCarley-yea, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-abstain. Motion carried.

The question was asked if this needed to be bid out, since it would be a contract and potentially over the amount allotted for competitive bids, as Mayor Pro-Tem Stinson had stated he wanted the grass to be cut at a minimum, weekly.

Mayor Pro-Tem Stinson suggested offering Jonathan Ray \$24/hr. paying \$200 towards family coverage and review terms at budget cycle.

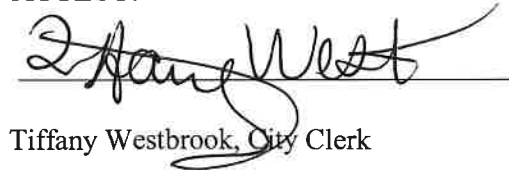
A motion was made to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:



Betty Bradley, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tiffany Westbrook, City Clerk