

RECORD OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF ARGO

Date: 08/09/2021

Time: 5:00 PM

Place: Municipal Complex

Work Session

The City Council for the City of Argo met on Monday, August 9th, 2021, for a work session. The meeting was held at the Municipal Complex located at 100 Blackjack Road Argo, AL 35173.

The following members were present:

Mayor Pro-Tem Dusty Stinson

Councilperson Danny McCarley

Councilperson Ann Brown

Mayor Betty Bradley

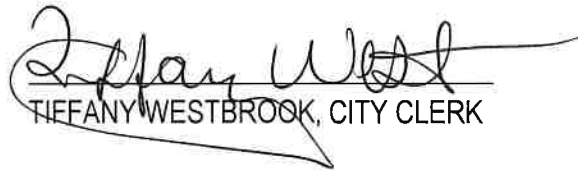
The work session consisted of discussion on the August 9th, 2021, regular council meeting agenda. Items not on the agenda included Mayor Pro-Tem Stinson discussing the quotes he received for new equipment and purchasing said equipment with the ARPA funds. Also talked about was the possibility of hiring Jonathan Ray, salary was discussed, Mayor Pro-Tem Stinson has been in contact with Mr. Ray and stated he would accept \$25 per/hr with full insurance paid, \$27 per/hr we don't pay insurance, or a salary of \$58k also without insurance. Mayor Bradley informed the council there was another candidate she interviewed, she asked Mayor Pro-Tem Stinson to sit in on the second interview and was not able to attend the interview. She would like to have him re-interviewed, if any of the council would like to sit in this, she will contact the candidate and let the council know when he is available. Mayor Bradley also gave the council a handout with the surrounding municipalities maintenance departments current pay scales and how many workers, (attached). Mayor Pro-Tem Stinson asked why they were involved in the hiring process if its ultimately left up to the mayor, Mayor Bradley explained that the council is involved in this process, she can hire all day, but the council are the ones in charge of the money. Mayor Pro-Tem Stinson stated, "you're not really interested in Jonathan", Mayor Bradley said she is, but is afraid they city cannot afford him, and explained the expenditures from the 2cent account and how much was in it, his question then was "anything can be paid from the general fund though right?", Councilperson Brown remarked that money is being deposited monthly and sales tax are at an all time high. Mayor Bradley continued to try to explain the expenditures to the council, it was stated by Councilperson Brown that we are coming up on a new budget. Mayor Bradley continued back and forth with the council regarding the money from various accounts and how it was spent and how the city needed to try to keep it within the allotted budget during these uncertain times. Councilperson Brown said, "well, my point is this, like I sent the text message to everyone this morning, on my way to work, our maintenance guy was sitting in an air conditioned truck, while three community service workers were out working, he's sitting in the truck, so we are paying him \$15 dollars an

hour to sit in a truck, and if we hire somebody else at \$14 dollars an hour then we are practically right at the money Jonathan Ray wants."

Mayor Bradley commented on Councilperson Browns remark, that she doesn't harass the employees daily by following them around to ensure they are doing their job. The city clerk asked the city attorney if this was something that should be discussed in an open meeting, Councilperson Brown rebuked with "well you're a clerk", the city attorney stated if it was determined that it was tarnishing the good character and reputation of the employee then yes, an executive session should be called.

Councilperson Hicks asked if Mayor Bradley brought them a candidate to hire, and they set the salary amount, this would take care of all this? He also suggested laying out ground rules and a list of expectations for the candidate. The council were all in agreement that this was a good idea.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:


TIFFANY WESTBROOK, CITY CLERK

APPROVED:


BETTY BRADLEY, MAYOR