

RECORD OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF ARGO

Date: 03/13/2023

Time: 5:33 PM

Place: Municipal Complex

Regular Meeting

ROLL CALL

Councilperson Dennis Griffin

Councilperson Thomas Suggs

Mayor Pro-Tem Dusty Stinson-Absent

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 Mr. Bob Carter, and the pledge of allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

FIRE REPORT – Chief Scott Payne gave the monthly fire report. The fire department had a total of 32 calls for the month of February, issued 15 burn permits, 20 medical calls, 9 assists, 1 woods fire.

POLICE REPORT – Chief Busler gave the monthly police report for the month of February, gave the monthly police report, they had 239 dispatched calls, 7 felony arrests, 12 misdemeanor arrests, 17 response calls on I-59. Councilperson Brown did ask if there had been an increase in the number of animal complaints, but Chief Busler told her no more than normal.

Councilperson Suggs motioned to approve the Regular meeting minutes and Work Session minutes as presented from 2/27/2023. Councilperson McCarley seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Griffin-yea, Suggs-yea, McCarley-yea, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

Joe Chapman, with Cork, Hill, & Co presented the mayor and council with the 2022 fiscal year audit. Overall, the budget was a good audit, the city's net position increased by \$779k, and decreased the city's debt by \$180k. Overall the city is in a good position, better than it has been.

Councilperson Brown motioned to table the Simple Grants workplan until future notice. Councilperson McCarley seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Griffin-yea, Suggs-yea, McCarley-yea, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

Councilperson Brown motioned to approve Knightworks Lawn Service for the extension of this cutting season. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Griffin-yea, Suggs-yea, McCarley-yea, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

Councilperson Griffin did ask to clarify if the rate would remain the same, Mayor Bradley said when she spoke to him earlier today, he didn't mention anything about increasing the price.

MAYOR REPORT –Mayor Bradley reminded everyone that City Hall will be closed on Thursday April 6th, 2023, for mandatory magistrate training. If anyone is planning to attend the Convention, please let the clerk know so she can register everyone. Mayor Bradley let everyone know the city has hired a part time city clerk. She will start next week. She is still interviewing for the maintenance position.

CITY ATTORNEY –No new business.

Ms. Kim Quick expressed concerns about the deteriorating conditions of the road she lives on, Roulain Road. Ms. Quick stated had a neighbor not posted it on social media it would have never gotten seen to be fixed. She stated that she was at the last meeting and the road still isn't fixed. The mayor asked Ms. Quick if she had followed the proper protocol to report an issue with a city road? Which is to fill out a form which can be found on the city website and turn it in to the city clerk. Mayor Bradley also informed Ms. Quick the pipe had to be ordered for the road, which was approved at the last meeting, to be fixed as an emergency, which was discussed and decided to go with a larger pipe to help with drainage and flow, all of which was discussed at the last meeting, the pipe was ordered and came in this past Friday 3/10/2023, and the contractor, weather permitting would be out to prep the road tomorrow (Tuesday 3/14/23) and fix the area Wednesday (3/15/23) morning at 9AM, they are planning to have the road closed as to not interfere with school traffic. Mayor Bradley also stated Mr. Arwine the contractor had spoken to most all of the residents that the area would be impacting. Ms. Quick stated she was not notified by anyone. Mayor Bradley informed her the city would send out notifications to everyone in the area.

Ms. Quick also expressed concerns about the moratorium that is in place and does not feel the zoning information was posted appropriately, or informatively for the citizens. Mayor Bradley informed Ms. Quick that there had been several notifications about the zoning meetings, and issues regarding such, these items were posted online on the city's website, the city's Facebook page, throughout several local store, and many times posted in local newspapers. Ms. Quick quickly came back to say that not everyone has social media. Ms. Quick also asked hypothetically if her mobile home were to burn down, would she not be able to bring in another mobile home? The city attorney spoke to Ms. Quick on this matter. He talked to her at length about what the moratorium was in place for. He also reiterated that zoning is not to tell what you can and can't do with your property, it's to help the city to understand and control the future development of the city, as the citizens are grandfathered in, no matter the current use of the land is, as long as you continue to use it for that purpose. When the nature of that use at some point changes, at that point the resident would be required to come before the zoning board to request a zoning change.

Ms. Quick also asked if the city received funds from the ARPA funds and if so was it all spent and it not can that money be used to pave roads. The city attorney answered her let her know the only infrastructure the ARPA funds are approved to be spent on were water, sewer and broadband. The city attorney also informed Ms. Quick that the city is constantly looking for ways to get money to help with these issues, and the fact that the city was able to get someone out to fix the issue this quickly is a job well done. Ms. Quick stated she would continue to come be at every meeting and continue to be a thorn in someone's side until her road was fixed.

Mr. Steve Hutton also spoke up about the same road. He was upset the road was not fixed as of yet. Mayor Bradley reiterated that the road would be prepped tomorrow weather permitting Tuesday 3/14/23 and fix the area Wednesday (3/15/23) morning at 9AM, they are planning to have the road closed as to not interfere with school traffic. Mr. Hutton was also not happy with how the previous administration handled the paving of the roads; he didn't understand the "foot traffic" part. Mayor Bradley explained to him there are certain monies that can be spent on roads, and the previous administration decided it would benefit more citizens on the roads more traveled, with the most "foot traffic" so this is how they proceeded to pave the roads.

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

APPROVED:



Betty Bradley, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tiffany Westbrook, City Clerk