

RECORD OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF ARGO

Date: 5/08/2023

Time: 5:08 PM

Place: Municipal Complex

**Regular Meeting**

ROLL CALL

Councilperson Dennis Griffin

Councilperson Thomas Suggs

Councilperson Danny McCarley

Mayor Pro-Tem Ann Brown - Absent

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 roll call is listed above.

The invocation was given by Rev. Rick Hobson, and the pledge of allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

Councilperson Suggs motioned to approve the Regular meeting minutes and Work Session minutes from 4/24/2023. Councilperson Griffin seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Griffin-yea, Suggs-yea, McCarley-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

**FIRE REPORT** – Fire Chief Payne gave the monthly Fire Report for April. There were a total of 46 calls including 28 medical calls, 5 assists, 2 woods fire, 5 car fires and 1 structure fire. The FD also issued 10 burn permits. Chief Payne was asked about the fire at Dollar General and he stated that it was a simple electrical short that sparked up, an electrician was called and once he fixed the issue, Dollar General reopened.

**POLICE REPORT** – Police Chief Alan Busler gave the monthly Police Report. There were a total of 246 calls including 8 motor vehicle accidents, 6 DV calls, 2 animal complaints, and 24 response calls on I-59. APD had 1 Felony I/O report, made 6 felony arrests, and served 3 misdemeanor warrants.

Fire Chief Payne presented an estimate for fire engine repairs. The head gaskets blew on the engine and caused a lot of damage. It needs a complete engine rebuild at an estimated cost of \$29,78.10. This money will need to be taken from the General Fund because these are emergency repairs and exceed what the Fire Department has in its budget for general repairs. Chief Payne stated that if approved, the work would begin the following morning (May 9<sup>th</sup>).

Councilperson Griffin made a motion to accept the estimate for the repairs and give Chief Payne the authority to have the repairs made and have the money come from the City's General Fund.

Councilperson Suggs seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Griffin-yea, Suggs-yea, McCarley-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried. Engine repairs will start immediately.

Mayor Bradley called for a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and public hearing of Ordinance 2023-04-24-Creation & Establishing Zoning Board of Adjustment. The City Attorney read the Ordinance to all those present. The floor was opened to those in attendance for the public hearing expressly for the purpose of making comments about the ordinance. No one in attendance chose to comment.

Mayor Bradley asked for a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-04-24-Creation & Establishing Zoning Board of Adjustment as read by the City Attorney. Councilperson McCarley made a motion to accept, and Councilperson Griffin seconded. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Griffin-yea, Suggs-yea, McCarley-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

The City Attorney read Resolution 2023-05-08-Appointing the Initial Members to the Board of Zoning Adjustment of the City of Argo. Councilperson McCarley made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-05-08-Appointing the Initial Members to the Board of Zoning Adjustment of the City of Argo. Those members appointed are as follows: Myron Rusty Allen (1 year term), Heather Gober (1 year term), James Hyatt (2 year term), Michelle Coalson (2 year term) and James King (3 year term). Howard Hartley has been appointed as a supernumerary member with a second supernumerary to be appointed at a later date. Councilperson Griffin seconded. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Griffin-yea, Suggs-yea, McCarley-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

The City Attorney read Resolution 2023-05-08A-Declaring a Vacancy in a Place on the City Council. Councilperson Griffin made a motion to accept the Resolution 2023-05-08A with noted corrections made to names and dates. Letters of consideration for the Council Seat need to be received by the City Clerk's office no later than NOON on Thursday, May 18, 2023. Councilperson McCarley seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Griffin-yea, Suggs-yea, McCarley-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

The City Attorney read Ordinance 2023-05-08B-Establishing a Policy for Off Duty Police Officers Employed by the City of Argo Police Department. Councilperson McCarley made a motion to accept Ordinance No 2023-05-08B. Councilperson Griffin seconded. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Griffin-yea, Suggs-yea, McCarley-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

**MAYOR REPORT** – Mayor Bradley gave a reminder that City Hall will be closed on Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup> in observance of Memorial Day.

Mayor Bradley let those in attendance know that the city has applied for the Alabama Tourism Grant again, the Alabama Hometown Grant and that the Police and Fire department have successfully submitted their grants for new radios because St. Clair County is changing their radio system and it will require the departments to get new systems.

Mayor Bradley asked the council members if they would drive around the city and make a list of roads that could be repaired this year.

The Mayor and Council set Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm as the time for the mid-year budget review meeting.

The Mayor made a final reminder that letters of consideration for the vacant council position need to be submitted to the City Clerk's office by noon on Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.

**CITY COUNCIL** – No new business.

**CITY ATTORNEY** – No new business.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** –

Attorney Erskine Funderburg spoke as a representative of Argo citizens who have complaints about zoning. He asked for clarification of the process and the plan. It was clarified to Mr. Funderburg that the zoning board has not had a meeting yet and the plan proposed by Goodwin Mills and Cahill is merely a proposal. Mr. Funderburg asked for a timeline on the passage of zoning and Mayor Bradley stated that it would depend on the Zoning Board.

Kimberly Quick asked if the city had hired a city maintenance worker. Mayor Bradley confirmed that the city has. Ms. Quick asked if he knew how to drive a tractor. Mayor Bradley said the city has had some issues with the tractor and are trying to get it in working order. Ms. Quick says the sides roads are getting bad on Roulain. She also explained that the patches on Cedar Creek Road are washing out into Roulain. Ms. Quick said she's filled out requests and Mayor Bradley said the maintenance worker will get them patched as soon as the weather allows. Ms. Quick complained that the paving on Roulain stops at Cedar Creek and never comes down to the dead end. Ms. Quick accused Mayor Bradley of having her road paved and Mayor Bradley corrected her by pointing out that the roads in her neighborhood were the same ones the developer brought up to code and have never been paved by the City. Ms. Quick accused Mayor Bradley of getting Cedar Creek paved because the mayor's son lives there. Mayor Bradley pointed out that all of that was paved before she was in office. Ms. Quick asked when the council would make a decision on which roads to pave. Mayor Bradley said there is not a timeline. Ms. Quick stated that there is "never an answer."

Paul Jennings spoke again about the traffic light at the railroad crossing on Argo-Margaret/HWY 11. Mayor Bradley says that Stone & Sons has come out again and charged the City another \$500. Stone & Son's & Chief Busler sat at the light during traffic and timed it. Chief Busler said the camera is working and the timing is right. Mr. Jennings says something is different than it used to be. Chief Busler explained that the light has a limit on how long it can stay green and it's running out the max limit during peak traffic times. The issue is that there is just more traffic than there used to be. Mr. Jennings asked if there is someone else besides Stone & Son's that can be used for the issue. Mayor Bradley mentioned that the City has used Stone & Son's since

Mr. Jennings was in office. Chief Busler stated again that the camera is working. Mr. Jennings said it used to clear the traffic up faster than it is now.

Corky Massey stated he wants to put his name in for council seat. He stated he's the best choice if the council is fair about it. It was his seat for four years. Mr. Massey was advised that he needs to submit his letter to be officially considered. Mr. Massey stated he was told he'd be on the zoning board but wasn't placed on it because "someone pitched a fit".

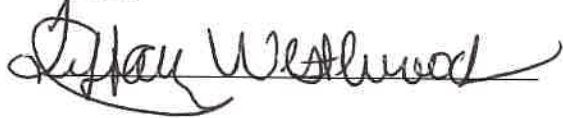
A motion was made to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:



Betty Bradley, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tiffany Westbrook, City Clerk