

RECORD OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF ARGO

Date: 5/22/2023
Time: 5:19 PM
Place: Municipal Complex
Regular Meeting

ROLL CALL

Councilperson Dennis Griffin
Councilperson Thomas Suggs
Councilperson Danny McCarley
Mayor Pro-Tem 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 roll call is listed above.

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

Councilperson McCarley motioned to approve the Regular meeting minutes and Work Session minutes with correction from 5/8/2023 and the Budget Work Session Minutes from 5/15/23. Councilperson Griffin seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Griffin-yea, Suggs-yea, McCarley-yea, Brown-abstain, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown motioned approve Resolution 2023-05-22-ALDOT Intersection Improvements at US-11 and CR-6. 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.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ann Brown made a motion to approve the Charter Wi-fi Upgrade Estimate for 200Mbs for City Hall. Councilperson Griffin 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.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ann Brown made a motion to table the vote on the Cyber Security Insurance Quote for the city until the council members have had more time to review it. 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 Griffin made a motion to allow the Argo Police Department to open a new bank account for the express purpose of holding monies seized as police evidence – as a more secure

way of doing this versus the current method of having bags of money in the police evidence room. Councilperson Suggs 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 Griffin made a motion to approve the Supplemental Agreement for Utility Relocation Cost. The city attorney explained that this is what the money put up by the city and the county will be used for as part of the ATRIP Grant road improvements. ATRIP Grant money can't be used for relocating utilities during the road construction. Mayor Pro-Tem Brown seconded. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes: Griffin-yea, Suggs-yea, McCarley-yea, Brown-yea, and Mayor Bradley-yea. Motion carried.

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown, with much regret, made a motion to accept the resignation letter of City Clerk, Tiffany Westbrook. Mayor Bradley read Ms. Westbrook's resignation letter. Councilperson McCarley reluctantly 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. Ms. Westbrook was thanked for the job well done during her time here.

Mayor Pro-Tem Brown made a motion to replace the City Clerk's seat on the Zoning Board with the Court Clerk, Casie Bethune. 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 McCarley made a motion to approve the Certification for the Council, the Zoning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustments. Councilperson Griffin 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.

RESOLUTION 2023-05-22A Appointment of Place Three (3) on City Council - Each candidate for the council seat was given time to take the floor and speak to their qualifications. The mayor made a note that Randy Hettich withdrew his letter before the meeting. Here are the final five candidates:

Paul Jennings
Luke Price
Bob Carter
Gordon (Corky) Massey
Rick Hopkins

Bob Carter was not in attendance at the meeting. The other four were given their time to speak. Mayor Bradley thanked all the candidates for their willingness to serve. Before the vote, Corky Massey opted to withdraw himself from consideration.

Councilperson Griffin made a motion to appoint Rick Hopkins to City Council Place Three. Councilperson McCarley seconded the motion. Mayor Bradley called for roll call of votes:

Griffin - yea, Suggs - NO, McCarley - yea, Brown -yea, and Mayor Bradley - NO. Motion carried, 3-2. Rick Hopkins will be sworn in as councilman for City Council Place Three at the next meeting on Monday, June 12, 2023.

MAYOR REPORT – Mayor Bradley reminded everyone that City Hall will be closed on Monday, May 29th in observance of Memorial Day. The city is still working on the Hometown Grant for the park.

The next zoning meeting will be June 20, 2023, at 6pm. Notifications will be in the local newspapers, signs and banners will be placed around the city, it will be posted on the city website and Facebook page and email notifications will be sent out to the city email list.

The vacant city clerk position has been posted on the city website and in the local newspapers. City Hall is already accepting applications.

Mayor Bradley will be attending the county mayor’s breakfast on 5/23 in Steele.

The county has extended their First Step program to the municipalities and Argo chose to participate. The county will be grading roads in Argo at the county’s expense and providing a list and information to the city so that repairs can be made.

CITY COUNCIL – No new business.

CITY ATTORNEY – No new business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Corky Massey said that the council made a good decision with the vacant council seat.

Paul Jennings extended his congratulations to Rick Hopkins. He then asked about the property need to complete the ATRIP Grant road repairs – his concern was for seizure of Misty Pines property for road expansion. It was clarified that the engineers have already said that they’re confident there is enough right of way there to use for the construction.

Arlene Smith asked when the turn lanes on Hwy 11 will be put in. The Mayor explained that they are already working on it and they have 24 months to complete the work. Mrs. Smith asked for an update on Interstate work and Mayor Bradley said that she has not received an update on when that should start.

James Swatzell wanted to bring up the subpar roads in the subdivisions in the city. People are still paying their taxes, but their roads are not being fixed.

Kimberly Quick asked about a tractor update since the last meeting. Mayor Bradley said the city is waiting on John Deere to come out and make repairs to the tractor because something is wrong with the gears. Mrs. Quick asked if the city had a pickup truck or something they could use to bring something to the end of Roulain to fix the holes. Mayor Bradley said Roulain is on the list to start this week with repairs but until it stops raining and everything dries out, it’s just a waste of time and materials to try to fill the holes. Mrs. Quick also asked about community service workers within the city, but the judge has done away with that. Mayor Pro-Tem Brown mentioned the Keep Alabama Beautiful Campaign and possibly doing a community clean-up.

Mrs. Quick asked about a speed limit sign for the end of Roulain for the one lane portion. Paul Jennings asked about having the dumpsters again. Mayor Bradley said the city had to discontinue that because people were dumping illegal things in the dumpster.

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

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Betty Bradley", is written over a horizontal line.

Betty Bradley, Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tabitha Hanner", is written over a horizontal line.

Tabitha Hanner, City Clerk