

**TOWN OF ARGOS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President George Null called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present for the meeting: President George Null, Vice President Dave Walker, Members Linda Jones, Casie Rowe and Mark VanDerWeele, Clerk-Treasurer Patty Jones and Town Attorney Derek Jones.

MINUTES

Minutes from the September 3RD Regular Council Meeting were submitted for approval. Vice President Walker moved to accept the minutes as presented and Council Member VanDerWeele seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN INPUT

Resident Tom Nolin expressed that he did not feel that the police department needed a Humvee military vehicle. The issue will be discussed later on the agenda.

Owen Fluckey inquired about getting dirt added to his lawn where the plows dug in last winter. Jim Burroughs said that he would take care of it.

Terry Long asked about large item trash pickup and the "No Parking" signs. Clerk-Treasurer Jones stated that large item pickup would be in October and dates noted in the fall newsletter. Jim Burroughs said that the signs would be taken care of when Michiana Contracting starts their sign project in Argos.

OLD BUSINESS

Attorney Report:

Mr. Jones presented the Council with a draft of the farm lease for their consideration and discussion. Also, the 30 day extension requested from the property owners at 401 East Walnut Street for removing the dilapidated structure had expired the 9TH of September. The Council agreed to have Derek move forward with the next steps in the process.

Council Member Rowe moved to accept the attorney report and Council Member Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

BZA, Plan Commission & Cemetery Board Openings:

There were no letters of interest at this meeting.

Claim Minimums for Liability Issues:

Jim Burroughs was waiting on input from other municipalities on the matter.

Old Library Demo Quotes:

The demolition is budgeted in 2015 and the Council would like Mr. Burroughs to find out how long the quotes would be good for.

NEW BUSINESS

Debt Collection Services:

Clerk-Treasurer Jones talked about the problems her office was having with Martin Financial with debt collections for the town. Derek Jones offered the town the services of his office for handling debt collections and Clerk-Treasurer Jones recommended switching to Derek. Council Member VanDerWeele moved to use Derek for debt collection for the town on the contingency plan and Council Member Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Police Department Humvee:

Police Chief Rodney Rudd gave Patrolman Davis permission to apply for a federal program that was issuing Humvees to municipal law enforcement agencies at no cost other than shipping. Chief Rudd explained that he thought his department would not qualify then while on vacation Chief Rudd got a call from Officer Davis that they were eligible and needed an answer because it was scheduled to be shipped. Chief Rudd gave Davis the "go ahead". President Null was the only board member apprised about the Humvee and the other members felt that Chief Rudd had ample time to ask permission to apply. After an impassioned exchange between Council Member VanDerWeele and Chief Rudd the discussion turned to whether the town would actually utilize the vehicle in other departments and the ongoing cost of maintaining. After much debate Council Member VanDerWeele moved to cancel the delivery of the Humvee and Vice President Walker seconded. The motion carried three to two with President Null and Council Member Jones opposing.

2014 Halloween in Argos:

The Council agreed to keep trick or treating time from 5pm to 7pm on Friday, October 31ST.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Utilities- Utilities Superintendent Jim Burroughs discussed the water department boil order incident and electric pole replacement.

Police Department- Chief Rudd read the police stats.

Fire & EMS- Fire Chief Mark Dean and EMS Director Rich Miller were not at the meeting.

Council Member VanDerWeele moved to accept the Department Head Reports and Council Member Rowe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

CLAIMS

Clerk-Treasurer Jones read the top five claims totaling \$227,288.33 which represented 73% of the total docket and the claim docket totaled \$308,820.00. Council Member Jones moved to accept claims 834 through 917 and Council Member VanDerWeele seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

With no more business brought before the board, Council Member Rowe moved to adjourn the meeting and Council Member VanDerWeele seconded. The motion carried unanimously. President Null thanked everyone for coming. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM.

George Null, President

ATTEST:

Patty Jones, Clerk-Treasurer