

Public Hearing for 2020 Budget @ 7:30 pm

President Null called for a motion to open the public hearing for the 2020 Budget. Member Harley motioned to open the public hearing at 7:32pm. Member Umbaugh seconded.

President Null asked for any comments. None were received.

Vice President Snead then motioned to close the public hearing at 7:33 pm. Member Harley seconded.

Public hearing closed at 7:33 pm.

**TOWN OF ARGOS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, September 4, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER:

Council President George Null called the meeting to order at 7:34PM.

ROLL CALL:

Present for the meeting: President George Null, Vice President Charles R. Snead, Members Suzanne Umbaugh, Shawn Harley, Robert Byers, Clerk -Treasurer Lisa Mullaney and Attorney Derek Jones.

MINUTES:

Minutes from the August 21, 2019 Regular Session were submitted for approval. Member Byers moved to accept the minutes as written. Vice President Snead seconded; motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN INPUT

Citizen Deb Sherwood spoke on behalf of the Plymouth Adult Education. She explained to the Council about the classes being held at the at the Argos Public Library every Thursday from 1 – 4 pm.

OLD BUSINESS:

Attorney Report:

Attorney Jones informed the Council that he had emailed Mr. Voreis regarding the 12.11 acres according to the farm lease. Mr. Voreis emailed that the compensation for that seemed fair. Other compensation will be provided after the crops are harvested.

Attorney Jones will be filing the case against Asif Kunwar this month.

Attorney Jones contacted Mike Reese about the stellar contract. After a discussion Member Harley motioned to table the discussion until more information was provided. Member Umbaugh seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Snead motioned to accept the Attorney Report. Member Byers seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 2019-18 Economic Bonds-

After a brief explanation from Baker-Tilley and Barns & Thornburg, President Null presented Ordinance 2019-18 for the first reading. Member Harley motioned to accept Ordinance 2019-18 as written for the first reading. Member Umbaugh seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2019-14 Bond Resolution-

Member Umbaugh motioned to accept Resolution 2019-14 as written. Vice President Snead seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Board Openings – BZA and Redevelopment Commission-

Two letters of interest were presented for the Redevelopment Commission. President Null read the letters and appointed T.J. Kline to the Redevelopment Commission.

Other Old Business:

Member Umbaugh asked if the financials for the ACDC and Argos Festival Committee were available for review. President Null stated none had been provided for this meeting.

NEW Business:

Chuck DeWitt B&R Building-

Mr. DeWitt was asked to look at the B&R Building for structural integrity. He presented a slide show of pictures and stated he felt that the building is sound and fixing it up would enhance the downtown and be beneficial to the Town. Member Harley motioned to allow Mr. DeWitt to have estimates done for the cost of the renovations. Member Byers seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Chuck DeWitt asked the Council's permission to hold a countywide solar workshop hosted by MACOG in the Town Building Council Room. Member Byers motioned to allow MACOG and Chuck DeWitt to hold the meeting in the Town Building Council Room. Vice President Snead seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 2019-17 2020 Budget –

Member Harley motioned to accept Ordinance 2019-17 for the first reading. Member Umbaugh seconded; motion carried 4 to 1 with President Null abstaining due to his affiliation with the Argos Fire Department.

Resolution 2019-15 Meeting Material Resolution –

Member Umbaugh motioned to accept Resolution 2019-15 as written. Vice President Snead seconded. After a discussion Resolution failed to pass with a vote of 1 to 4 with only Member Umbaugh voting for the Resolution.

Other New Business:

President Null called a workshop for September 11, 2019 @ 6:30pm to discuss Stellar and future Housing plans. Member Umbaugh stated the Task Force meets at that time. Member Umbaugh then suggested to combine the two meetings so more people could attend. Everyone agreed.

President Null then called an Executive Session to be held on September 18, 2019 @ 6:30pm to discuss how the Council would like to see how the various boards operates for the Town. Attorney Jones stated to list the reason under IC 5-14-1.5-6.1 Sec 6 (10) B.

CLAIMS

The September 4, 2019 claims which totaled \$344,664.13 Member Umbaugh moved to accept claims #939 through #991. Member Byers seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

OTHER:

Member Umbaugh asked "We didn't pass the resolution, but we had verbally agreed to that earlier. Do we have any kind of a policy in place on when they get information to the Council?"

President Null replied "No if you want something on the agenda you get with Lisa, that is why there is a spot on there for other. Now if there is a Resolution somewhere, I have to remember how long ago it was. If somebody wants on there from outside, like if Pam wanted to get on the agenda and talk like we just let Deb talk. Those people were supposed to be on before so that we knew we could put those in there. I know that has been quite some time ago.

Member Umbaugh then replied, "So we have no rules we just go by the seat of our pants."

President Null stated "No and there is nothing saying that you have to have an agenda either. The agenda is just a guideline but if someone from the public wants to speak it was supposed to be in by Monday and that is written down someplace. Where I do not remember but that was even before.

Member Umbaugh stated "That was never followed."

President Null stated "No not really we let people come in and talk because it is their night. That is the way I look at it. Wednesday night is the public night. It is the regular session to conduct business and them to do their citizen's input. If I am here till midnight talking, then I am here till midnight talking. That is just me that is the people. If they want to come in and talk that is there objective to be able to do that. I am not going to turn anybody away if they want to come in on Wednesday night and talk. It doesn't matter if they come in at five minutes before but no."

Member Umbaugh stated "I am good with citizen input I have no problem with that. It is when things come before us and we are asked pass it to give an opinion on it. I want to be able to look it over ahead of time. I cannot do a good job when it's put in my face and I have to read that during the meeting. That is what happened last time.

President Null stated, "I don't argue that."

Member Umbaugh stated "How can we do a good job as a Council? I don't feel good about it. I think there should be some type of protocol. Maybe I'm crazy but I would like to do a good job for the Town, and I do not think I can when it is just put in front of my face and I have to read it during the meeting. I cannot make a good decision. I would like to think about it and research it."

President Null stated " I would too, but as of right now if we do not want to pass something or nobody is comfortable with it we can table it till the next meeting."

ADJOURNMENT

With no more business brought before the board Vice President Snead moved to adjourn the meeting and Member Harley seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:01 P.M.

Charles R. Snead, Vice President

ATTEST:

Lisa Mullaney, Clerk-Treasurer