

**TOWN OF ARGOS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER:

Council President Dustin Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:39 PM.

ROLL CALL:

Present for the meeting: President Dustin Johnson, Vice President George Null, Members Juli Stauffer, Suzanne Umbaugh, Craig Ellis, Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Mullaney and Town Attorney Derek Jones.

MINUTES:

Minutes from the January 20th Regular Session were submitted for approval. Vice President George Null moved to accept the minutes and Member Juli Stauffer seconded. The motion carried 3 to 2 with Members Umbaugh and Ellis abstaining due to not being present at the meeting.

CITIZEN INPUT:

Sheila Beers who lives at 110 Logan St. asked for the ordinance that deals with fences be amended so that her neighbor who is installing a privacy fence, could not put it up where it obstruct her view when pulling out of her driveway. After discussion it was determined that Mrs. Beers has not spoken to her neighbor and would do so before bringing the matter back to the council.

Mr. Mark Umbaugh also wanted to know if the Town Council has or is working on a five-year plan. It was determined that the council wants to work on that but has not started one so far. Also Mr. Umbaugh wanted to know if the council is planning on spending money on the downtown shouldn't the buildings be inspected first. He brought up state of buildings up town. He asked if the Fire Department inspects buildings for fire codes. It was determined that they do not and usually neither does the county inspectors. Mr. Umbaugh brought up that the ordinances that are currently in place to govern the state of the buildings should be enforced. Vice President Null brought up the cost associated with condemning buildings and having them torn down. Nothing was decided at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

Attorney Report:

Attorney Derek Jones suggested that Mrs. Beers talk to her neighbor regarding the fence issue. He stated that he received the archived documents regarding the REMC issue and that he forwarded a copy to Jim Burroughs and Jamie Lindstrom to review. Attorney Jones stated we published the ad for the town truck, we will be accepting bids through February 26th. Bids will then be read at the March 2nd meeting. Attorney Jones stated he had the mowing contract for the cemetery completed and would provide copies to the council members. He reinforced the need to get this published and bids accepted so the work could start early May. Last item Attorney Jones presented was a draft of a resolution for establishing the Downtown Business District Revitalization Program. Council Member Umbaugh stated she would like to see a licensed and bonded contractor to perform the work needed and for the town to require a building inspection before agreeing to help pay for any work. After a lengthy discussion Attorney Jones agreed to revise the resolution to include that whomever performs the work to the buildings present a liability policy that covers it and that the building owner would have to present an inspection of said building performed in the past 12-month period.

Vice President Null moved to accept the Attorney Report, Member Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointments for Redevelopment Board:

President Dustin Johnson appointed Marilyn Jones and the rest of the council appointed Paul Stearns and Kristin Fishburn. Vice President Null motioned to accept the boards appointments. Member Stauffer seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Cemetery Board Appointments:

President Johnson read a letter of resignation from Cemetery Board Member Johnson. President Johnson then appointed Republican Janet Luce' for a 4-year term, Republican Ruth Milliser to a 3-year term and Democrat Janice Mullaney to a 2-year term.

Ordinance 2016-1 Salary Ordinance:

This ordinance increases Todd VanDerWeele hourly wage \$.25 per/hour for obtaining his CDL license. It also provides a small stipend to be applied to his next payroll check for the hours worked from 11/24/2015 - 12/31/2015. Vice President Null moved to suspend the rules and accept the ordinance as written. Member Ellis seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Green Summit Monument:

Member Umbaugh asked President Johnson if he was able to reach the people who wanted to help with the monument for Green Summit. President Johnson stated he emailed the interested party and got no response. He will try to phone and email them again.

Board Openings/ MC Tourism Board and Cemetery Board:

No one said they were interested.

Other Old Business:

No old business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointing the Utility Clerk:

Attorney Jones stated that there is a resolution that separates the Utility Clerk position from the Clerk/Treasurer position. This has not been implemented in the past but needed to be addressed. The Utility Clerk position would need to be appointed January of each year as written. Member Stauffer motioned to appoint Clerk/Treasurer Mullaney as Utility Clerk and Member Umbaugh seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Employee Health Insurance - Employee payroll co-pays:

Brian from TCU Insurance explained in the earlier workshop that the employee health insurance premiums had increased as of January 1,2016. The council was presented with two options. Option 1 co-pays figure is designed to be about 10% of the Town's cost, but averages employees into three tiers. Each employee within the tier is treated the same regardless of age. Option two is 10% of actual cost. Member Ellis motioned to choose option 1 Member Stauffer seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2016-1 Power Tracker:

Vice President Null motioned to pass Resolution 2016-1, Member Umbaugh seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion for Work Shop over Utility Disconnects and Net Metering:

After a discussion Vice President Null motioned to set workshop for Wednesday Feb. 17th @ 7:00 P.M., Member Stauffer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Other New Business:

Clerk/Treasurer Mullaney informed Council that Earl Grossman requested the town donate a burial plot to Mr. Mark Birney since he worked off and on for the town and had no family. Member Ellis motioned to donate lot only. Member Stauffer seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Also Clerk/Treasurer Mullaney presented Marshall County Visitor Book for consideration to place ad promoting town. Council agreed to discussion with Argos Schools and Park Board to see if we could all work together to market the town, schools and Parks. Member Ellis attended the MCEDC meeting and thinks we should do more to market the Town of Argos

CLAIMS

Clerk-Treasurer Mullaney presented the January 20th claims which totaled \$110,1194.25. Member Umbaugh moved to accept claims 114 through 172 and Council Member Ellis seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

With no more business brought before the board, Vice President Null moved to adjourn the meeting and Council Member Stauffer seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Dustin Johnson, President

ATTEST:

Lisa Mullaney, Clerk-Treasurer