

**TOWN OF ARGOS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 06, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER -

President Snead called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL -

Present for the meeting: President Snead, Vice President Shawn Harley, Members Erica Partin, Ed Barcus, Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Mullaney and Attorney Jones. Member Gary Schue was absent.

MINUTES -

Minutes from November 15, 2023, Regular Session were submitted for approval. Member Barcus motioned to accept the minutes as written. Vice President Harley seconded. Motion carried 3 to 1 with Member Partin abstaining due to absence.

CITIZEN INPUT -

Resident Diane Balkama received 3 ordinance violations. One for leaving trash cans at the curb and two for weed violations. After a long discussion, Vice President Harley motioned to reduce the fines to \$150.00 for the weeds and dismiss the trash can violation. Member Barcus seconded; motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Balkama agreed to pay the reduced fine.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ARGOS FIRE TERRITORY ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION:

Member Barcus motioned to open the public hearing at 7:18pm. Member Partin seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Resident Bob Byers spoke in favor of the additional appropriation of \$100,000.00 to pay on the new remounted ambulance.

No one spoke against it.

Member Barcus motioned to close the public hearing at 7:22pm. Vice President Harley seconded; motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS -

Award Bids for Water Project-

After a discussion, Member Barcus motioned to award water project contract one to George Kountoupes Painting Co. and contract two to Haskins underground. This motion will allow President Snead to sign the contracts with both companies after Attorney Jones reviews them. Vice President Harley seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Report -

Attorney Jones was asked at a previous meeting if the Council can waive the rules and pass an ordinance on all three readings without all members of the Council present. Attorney Jones stated that he researched this and per the Town Code 30.36 it explains how the Council must have a quorum present to suspend the rules and the motion must be unanimous. Then they can pass the Ordinance on all three readings.

Attorney Jones is still talking with Mediacom's attorney to finish the lease agreement.

Attorney Jones then stated he spoke with Justina at the State of Indiana Unemployment office about the difference between paying unemployment insurance and being a self-pay employer. After a discussion the Council agreed not to change at this time.

With no more business to present to the Council, Member Barcus motioned to accept the attorney's report. Member Partin seconded; motioned carried unanimously.

Other Old Business -

A discussion was held about the Ordinance allowing chickens in town. Attorney Jones will review how to allow chickens without the resident having to have a hearing through the BZA.

NEW Business -

Resolution 2023-07 Year End Employee Stipends -

After a short discussion Member Barcus motioned to approve Resolution 2023-07 as written. Vice President Harley seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2023-08 - Additional Appropriation Argos Fire Terr. Equipment Fund-

After review Vice President Harley motion to approve Resolution 2023-08 as written. Member Barcus seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2023-09 - Lease for Ambulance-

After a discussion Member Barcus motioned to table this Resolution until all the documents listed in the Resolution were provided. Vice President Harley seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 2023-15 Deer Field Loan-

This ordinance loans money to the Deer Field TIF Fund in anticipation of taxes. After discussion Member Barcus motioned to allow the suspension of rules to pass the ordinance on all three readings. Vice President Harley seconded motion carried unanimously.

Member Barcus then motioned to pass Ordinance 2023-15 on all three readings. Vice President Harley seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 2023-17 Salary Ordinance 2024-

After review Member Barcus motioned to allow the suspension of the rules for the ordinance to be passed on all three readings. Member Partin seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Member Barcus then motioned to pass Ordinance 2023-17 on all three readings with a statement that the Argos Police will receive no less than a \$1.25 per hour pay increase for 2025 and 2026. Member Partin seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Employee Handbook Version 01/01/2024-

A copy of the employee handbook for 01/01/2024 was presented for review. After a short discussion, Vice President Harley motioned to adopt the Argos Employee Handbook version 01/01/2024. Member Barcus seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Other New Business -

Member Barcus stated he was informed there is an individual living in the storage units behind Casey's gas station. Attorney Jones stated that it was a civil matter and not for the town to take action. After a discussion, Chief Rudd stated he would investigate the matter.

CLAIMS -

December 06, 2023, claims which totaled \$1,553,707.15. Member Barcus moved to accept claims November 16, 2023, through December 4, 2023, Member Partin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Top 5 Claims-

Lake City Bank (Investment) -	\$1,000,000.00
IMPA -	\$242,851.40
B&B Roofing and Construction -	\$75,000.00
Payroll #24 -	\$60,009.50
AIM Medical Trust -	\$35,584.81

ADJOURNMENT -

With no more business brought before the board, Member Partin moved to adjourn the meeting and Member Barcus seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Charles R. Snead, President

ATTEST:

Lisa Mullaney, Clerk-Treasurer