

Village of Arcanum Council Meeting
June 11 2019
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order:

Mayor Baumle opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance along with all present members of council.

Roll Call:

Council Members Jerry Boolman, Bonnie Millard, Tim Philpot, Eric VanHoose, answered to roll call. A motion was made by J. Boolman to excuse B. Vencille and R. Genovesi. T. Philpot seconded. All present voted yea. Motion passed. Also present were Bill Kessler, Nicole Pohlman, Toni Stanley, Tim and Barb Deis, Karen Shepard, Sam and Angela Pankratz, Tia O'Brien, Marilyn Graff, Sharon Karns, John Hangen, Bruce Shank, Charles and Sarah Billenstein, David Kessler, Thomas Kessler, Donald and Marsha Ditmer, Tracy and Lori Harshbarger, Daniel Benton, Linda Brown, Beth Royer DeLong, Kurt Troutwine, Jim Piel, David Kessler, Don Daphne, Beverly Rench, Kirk Honeyman, Randy Turner, Jim Piel, Tim and Angela Herron, Troy Troutwine, Donovan Brown, and Jeff Yeomans

Minutes – Corrections and Approvals:

Mayor Baumle asked for approval of the minutes of May 28, 2019. A motion was made by B. Millard to approve the minutes from May 28, 2019. J. Boolman seconded. E. VanHoose abstained. All others present voted yea. Motion passed.

Approval of Properly Appropriated and Funded Expenditures:

Mayor Baumle asked if there were any questions regarding the approved expenditure list. The Fiscal Officer added one additional item to the list. A motion was made by B. Millard to approve the voucher register with amendment voucher received through June 11, 2019. E. VanHoose seconded. All present voted yea. Motion passed.

Amendments to Agenda:

Mayor Baumle asked for any amendments to the agenda. None were made.

Comments from the Public: Mayor Baumle asked for comments from the public.

Randy Turner stated that grass was overgrown at a local vacant house. The length of the grass was 24 inches. Village Administrator stated that he is taking care of the issue at the house but must follow the current ordinance which gives a land owner 30 days. T. Philpot stated that the Service and Leisure Committee is working on a new ordinance which will change the time limit to 7 or 10 days.

Barb Deis stated that she would like to see the council minutes posted online. Mayor Baumle stated that all but the most recent minutes were posted online. He explained that once the previous meeting's minutes are approved at tonight's council meeting, those minutes would then be posted online.

John Hangen asked when the storm sewers would be cleaned. Village Administrator B. Kessler stated that cleaning will begin shortly now that the Street Department has completed repairs to the village pool.

David Kessler thanked the council for opening the old city building for those who wanted to take a tour of it. Roughly 30 people took the tour. He asked for those who want to speak tonight to maintain professionalism when making their comments. D. Kessler stated that he had four topics to cover at the meeting.

1. The old municipal building – he asked that it not be sold for a period of five years so that a planning committee could be formed to find a viable alternate use for the property.
2. The location of the new building should be rethought because downtown is struggling and the last thing needed is another vacant building in the center of town.
3. Fiscal responsibility – how will the village cover the cost of the new building?
4. The status of the old municipal building.

Angela Herron stated that the people should have a vote regarding construction of the new municipal building.

Charles Billenstein stated that he was not against the new building but wanted it to be a focal point for the village and not be hidden. It should be in the center of town where everyone can see it as they come into the village.

Melissa Carmean stated that she would like to see the old municipal building maintained.

Ruth Collins stated that she would like more information about the old building and wants to see it restored. She understands the police department needs a separate building which could free up space in the old municipal building.

Lori Harshbarger stated that she would like to see the old municipal building restored.

Tia O'Brien stated that she would like to see more bids come in for the restoration of the old building to be sure that a new building is the best option. She also stated that she was distressed that it appears that basic maintenance of the old municipal building has not been performed.

Linda Brown stated that there seems to be a loss of pride in the old municipal building and that the village residents need to be better informed regarding the status of it.

Beverly Rench stated that it would be shameful to let the old municipal building deteriorate further and would like to see it restored.

Jim Piel stated that a planning committee is needed to decide the future of the old municipal building. The building has a lot of history and it should be preserved.

Jim Deis stated that the historical status of the old municipal building is important.

Barb Deis stated that Twin Township is one-third owner of the old municipal building. The history of the building shows that needed maintenance has never been a priority and this is not a recent problem.

Karen Shepard asked about the status of the \$2.5 million-dollar loan awarded the village by the USDA. She understands that the loan was approved but the village has not used any of it. Village Administrator B. Kessler explained that the award from the USDA was similar to a construction loan and the village would not draw upon the funds until construction begins on the new municipal building. He explained that the loan would be paid back over a 30-year period from the General Fund. Mayor Baumle explained that a vote was not put on the ballot because existing funds are being used for the project.

Sharon Karns asked if it has been determined that the old municipal building is a historical building. B. Kessler stated that the process was started in the past but never completed.

Marylin Graff stated that she was in favor of the preservation of the old municipal building.

Marsha Ditmer stated she agreed with David Kessler and that a new building should be in the center of town.

Donald Ditmer stated that the people of the village should agree on the location of the new building.

Sam Pankratz stated that the old municipal building should be preserved much the same as done in other cities. He also stated a concern for those who have to walk to the municipal building to pay bills and that the proposed location of the new building would prohibit them from doing so.

Angela Pankratz stated that she understands a new building may be necessary but would like to see the old building preserved for city work. She would be in favor of a new building for the police department.

Thomas Kessler stated that the council should address ways of better informing residents regarding village information.

Troy Troutwine stated that he is in favor of preserving the old municipal building and asked how Twin Township is included in the meetings. T. Philpot stated that the township has been kept up to date on the status of the building.

Barb Deis stated that the township offices are now in the historical building.

Tracy Harshbarger stated his concern regarding the old municipal building and that something needs to be done to preserve it.

B. Millard stated she appreciated the attendance. She also stated that an increase in taxes is not being considered. The expenses are budgeted to the amount of revenue coming into the village. If there is a surplus, then it is rolled to the next year.

Mayor Baumle asked how much was budgeted for annual maintenance on the old municipal building. J. Boolman stated that it from \$50K to \$70K year. This amount was not for renovation, just annual maintenance.

J. Boolman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He also stated that due to years of neglect, the old municipal building is in need of major repairs but no one is in a hurry to get rid of it. The location for the new building was chosen because the village already owns the property.

Tia O'Brien asked if the council had considered not using a prevailing wage in the construction of the new building. The Council responded this was not an option because it was a government building.

Mayor Baumle stated that he was on a podcast recorded by the Early Bird and used it as a marketing tool to get the word out about Arcanum. It will be available via the web, Roku, and YouTube. The new building will go forward and has been in the planning stages since September 2017. Looking back through the minutes, the Community Improvement Corporation meeting recorded numerous people at the CIC meeting regarding the planning of a new municipal building. The mayor wants to see a planning commission formed to solve the problem of the old building. The council is not looking to get rid of the building to the highest bidder.

Tia O'Brien asked about the council to consider putting ordinances in place regarding the upkeep of industrial buildings regarding regular maintenance.

Village Solicitor N. Pohlman cautioned against getting the old municipal building designated as an historical until more research is conducted.

Administrative Reports:

Mayor: The mayor was approached during Old Fashioned Days with a request that a stop sign be placed at Hatfield and West George.

A ribbon-cutting was conducted this evening for opening of Main Street Pizza.

A ribbon-cutting for the wastewater treatment plant is being postponed until it is completely operational. Perhaps some time in August or September.

The ground-breaking for the new municipal building is scheduled for July 16, 2019.

Kaupt Pharmacy is closing due to lack of business. The mayor reached out to the owners to see if the closing could be delayed, however they have chosen to go forward with the closure.

The mayor performed his first marriage ceremony recently.

Village Solicitor: Nothing at this time.

Village Administrator: ODOT is a day ahead in the construction of the bridge on East South Street/Alternate 49.

Water had to be shut off on East South Street on Monday morning due to the replacement of a water valve and the paving of the bridge. An alert was sent out via the Code Red app regarding the water shut-off. Some residents were concerned they didn't get informed about the water issue. This caused 25

additional people to sign up for the app. The water was off until 11:00 a.m.

The repairs on the North Main Street bridge will commence immediately upon completion of the bridge on East South Street. B. Millard asked about the timeline for the repaving of Alternate 49. B. Kessler stated that it is now scheduled for some time in 2020 or 2021.

The village applied for an ODNR grant. The application was accepted but has not yet been approved. The \$50K grant is for the placement of playground equipment and new backstops at the ball fields. This is a recurring grant which is meant to encourage continued investment in the village parks. Eventually the repaving of the parking lot at the fields may be completed.

T. Philpot stated that for this grant, the village provides 25% of the money and the grant provides 75% of the money.

Shawn Smith from Utilities department submitted a request to move his vacation days past his anniversary date and extend it until December 31, 2019. This was due to the Utility Department being short-staffed. A motion was made by B. Millard to extend Shawn Smith's vacation days to December 31, 2019. E. Van Hoose seconded. All present voted yea. Motion passed.

Fiscal Officer: Nothing at this time.

Committee Reports:

Service & Leisure Committee: T. Philpot stated that an ordinance has been prepared to move forward with the West North Street project which will be brought at tonight's council meeting.

Working with Mote and Associates to get property assessments on sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and driveway approaches. Once the estimates are complete, the information will be mailed to the residents. A tentative public meeting for the residents on West North Street project is scheduled for July 15, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

The North West drainage project is moving forward to alleviate some of the drainage problems. The county commissioners gave approval to take the request to the state level.

In late August, a company will come in to test for leaks at the village pool.

Work on the new grass ordinance has begun.

The trash removal contract expires December 31, 2019. Comments are being taken regarding the bidding process.

Sidewalk repairs are being considered due to safety issues where some portions are cracked and raised several inches.

The next Service and Leisure Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 17, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. at the municipal building. A motion was made by T. Philpot to change the price of admission to the pool to \$2.00 during baseball tournament weekends this summer. B. Millard seconded. All present vote yea. Motion passed.

Safety Committee: Acting Chief Zellers stated that the 2019 Dodge Charger should arrive sometime in August. The time between picking up the new cruiser and the time it will go into service will be approximately 45 days due to the addition of village graphics and the installation of safety equipment.

The cost of the MARCS radios will be \$5,615 for two portable radios. Acting Chief Zellers asked that money be put into the 2020 budget for the replacement of radios. The police department has nine portable radios and three radios in the police cruisers.

Mayor Baumle stated that 36 people have applied for the village police chief opening. Those applications are currently being reviewed.

Utility Committee: E. Van Hoose stated the committee's latest meeting was held on June 3, 2019. The highest bid for the digger truck was \$10,600.00.

Underground work at Woodside and Meadowlawn. Two transformers have been set and three more to complete.

Discussion of manning issues regarding the wastewater treatment plan with upcoming retirements. Positions for an open Water I Operator and Wastewater I Operator to get trained as a Wastewater 2 Operator have been posted.

Work was conducted on the Lineman I and II wage scales. B. Millard expressed concern that the wage scale be constructed to encourage long-term employment for those who fill the positions. A motion was made by B. Millard to amend the Lineman wage scales as follows: Lineman Apprentice - \$17 to \$20/hr; Lineman II - \$21 to \$24/hr; and Lineman I - \$25 to \$28/hr. T. Philpot seconded. All present voted yea. Motion passed.

Planning Committee: J. Boolman stated the tour of the old municipal building went well. Most of the questions have been answered regarding the old building.

Personnel Committee: Mayor Baumle stated he would like to have a Personnel Committee meeting to look at a division of workload. He asked that a meeting be scheduled and he be informed of the day and time of the meeting.

Finance and Audit Committee: B. Millard stated that Village Solicitor N. Pohlman is working on drafting a new village credit card policy. The Authority Easy-Pay for bill payment should be online by September 1, 2019. The one-percent cost of living increase will go into effect on the June 3, 2019 pay period.

The next meeting of the Finance Committee is scheduled for June 19, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

Old Business: None at this time.

Unfinished Business:

Ordinance 2019-14 – An ordinance authorizing the expenditure of funds for various activities and events conducted for and on behalf of the Village of Arcanum, Ohio. This is the 3rd Reading. A motion was made by J. Boolman to adopt Ordinance 2019-14. E. VanHoose seconded. All present voted yea. Motion passed.

Ordinance 2019-17 – An ordinance providing for adoption of new Village personnel policies. This is the 3rd Reading. A motion was made by J. Boolman to adopt Ordinance 2019-17. T. Philpot seconded. All present voted yea. Motion passed.

Ordinance 2019-18 – An ordinance establishing a wage scale for the Utility Department. This is the 3rd Reading. A motion was made by B. Millard to amend Ordinance 2019-18. T. Philpot seconded. All

present voted yea. Motion passed. A motion was made by E. Van Hoose to adopt Ordinance 2019-18 as amended. T. Philpot seconded. All present voted yea. Motion passed.

Ordinance 2019-19 – An ordinance establishing a wage scale for the Police Department. This is the 3rd Reading. A motion was made by J. Boolman to adopt Ordinance 2019-19. E. Van Hoose seconded. All present voted yea. Motion passed.

Ordinance 2019-20 – An ordinance establishing a wage scale for the Village of Arcanum Tax Administrator. This is the 3rd Reading. A motion was made by E. Van Hoose to adopt Ordinance 2019-20. T. Philpot seconded. All present voted yea. Motion passed.

New Business:

Ordinance 2019-24 – An ordinance repealing ordinance 2019-21. This is the 1st Reading.

Ordinance 2019-25 – An ordinance for providing for an amendment to the 2019 appropriations of the Village of Arcanum, Darke County, Ohio and declaring an emergency (General Fund, Water Fund, and Electric Fund).

Resolution 2019-16 – A resolution authorizing an agreement with Wichert Insurance for property and casualty insurance coverage and declaring an emergency.

Resolution 2019-17 – A resolution of necessity to levy a replacement tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation for fire protection services for the Village of Arcanum, Ohio (R.C. 5705.03, 5705.192, and 5705.25).

Resolution 2019-18 – A resolution declaring the necessity for the construction of sidewalks along a portion of North Street in the Village of Arcanum and declaring an emergency.

Resolution 2019-19 – A resolution authorizing the Mayor and/or Village Administrator to approve pay requests and change orders for the Village Police Department and Administration Building and declaring an emergency.

Announcements: None

Adjournment: J. Boolman made a motion to adjourn. T. Philpot seconded. Meeting adjourned.