

Village of Arcanum Council Meeting
March 26, 2024
7:00 p.m. Regular Session

Call to Order – Mayor Bonnie Millard opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance along with all present members of Council.

Roll Call – The following council members were present: Eric VanHoose, Rick Genovesi, Jerry Boolman, Ryan Burns and Tammy Bruner. Also in attendance were VA/Police Chief Marcus Ballinger, Solicitor Nicole Pohlman, Admin. Spec. Julie Miller, Bruce Shank, Sandi Baker, Hope Baker, and Faith Baker.

Council Member Boolman moved to excuse Council Member Hartley. Council Member VanHoose seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

Meeting Minutes – Corrections and Approvals – Council Member Boolman moved to approve the Meeting Minutes dated 3/12/2024. Council Member VanHoose seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

Amendments to Agenda – None.

Comments from the Public – Girl Scouts Faith and Hope Baker gave Council an update on their Bronze Award Project of a Gaga Pit in Ivester Park. Installation will take place mid-April, and the troop will be placing 3 signs on the octagon (info on the Bronze Award, Game Rules, and Donor list). Troop is still looking at which material to use for the floor of the octagon.

Administrative Reports –

Mayor: Asked the question to the Solicitor in regards to when the Village needs to begin the process of resident assessments for the upcoming street project. Solicitor advised that there is a time frame for that process, but will need to check into it further for a concrete answer.

Solicitor: Nothing at this time.

Village Administrator/ Police Chief: VA Report was provided in Council Packets.

- Village Liquor Petition – VA discussed with Council if they would have interest in beginning the process of attempting to change the majority of the Village from “Dry” to “Wet”. Currently there are few areas in the Village that are considered “wet”, and this has caused some issues. The process is long and intense, with many different obstacles from several different State agencies. The VA stated that he doesn’t believe tax payers should pay for this adjustment, but Julie and himself would be willing to do the work to get the process completed, if local community groups would be willing to cover the cost of the associated fees. Council Member Genovesi stated that he had no problem with moving forward with the process, and if successful, it might help attract new businesses to the Village. Council Member Boolman also agreed. Admin Specialist stated that even if the Village was successful in having more “wet” areas in the Village, individuals would still have to apply for a liquor permit from the State, and could still be denied for a variety of reasons. She also advised that the Solicitor would need to be heavily involved in the process. Council Member Burns asked if this would cover “DORA’s”, and it was advised that a “DORA” would be a separate permit that would need to be petitioned. The Darke County Board of Elections will be researching the current petitioned areas from the last 60-70 years, to establish correct boundaries of wet/dry for Arcanum’s two precincts. Council Member Burns questioned whether the admin hours spent on the process would be overtime hours or regular hours, with the VA advising that the project would be regular hours. Council gave the VA and Admin Specialist verbal approval to move forward with the process.
- Personnel – Officer Taton Bertsch has submitted his resignation. Council Member Genovesi moved to accept the resignation of Officer Taton Bertsch effective March 14, 2024. Council Member VanHoose seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

Fiscal Officer: Check Registers were provided in the Council Packet.

- Acceptance of Properly Appropriated and Funded Expenditures.
- Finance Reports will be presented at next Council Meeting.
- FO is attending the AOS Fiscal Officer training this week, which will go towards her continued education requirements.
- State Auditors have begun requesting items for the 2023 audit. Auditors are using a Share Point File for obtaining information from the Village.

Safety: Nothing to report. Next meeting is scheduled for 4/2/24 @6pm.

Utility Committee: Report given by Ryan Burns.

- Discussed a Utility customer who has implemented a solar system on their property, and will need to be removed from level billing per Ordinance.
- Utility Department is needing a vehicle replaced. Troutwine’s was able to secure a truck under budget, and the truck has been delivered. The old utility truck will be utilized by the Street Department.
- A chicken farm is going in outside the Village, and will be getting utilities from the Village. Being Zoned Ag, property has less required oversight in regards to electricity infrastructure. Committee is reviewing an AES form/program that the Village could potentially implement that would put all responsibility on the electrician who does the chicken farm installation.

- Water/Sewer Tap Fees – Discussed updating the Fee Schedule to include all Village Fees, instead of updating each individual ordinance for an updated fee. Water & Sewer tap fees will be split with 60% to Water and 40% sewer. Meter prices will not change for either. Randy Baker stated that the Village does not currently charge residential tap fees, only commercial.
- Discussed the contract with Access Engineering to demolish the Green Water Tower and construction of a new water tower on Albright Street. Committee recommends to Council to allow the VA to enter into said contract with Access Engineering.
- Water/Sewer Credit- It was proposed to the committee to allow residents a credit of up to \$300.00 a year for watering lawns/gardens/flowers, etc. Utility Committee unanimously voted down the credit to residents for watering, and the proposal will not be brought to Council.
- Grocery Store – It has become clear that a grocery store will not be going into the Orme Hardware building. The owner has begun renting the space out as a warehouse. Committee will begin retracting the business incentive credits and exploring how to recoup any credits given to property owner thus far.

Finance & Audit: Report given by Jerry Boolman.

- Executive Session was had for the purpose of compensation of a public employee.

Council Member Genovesi moved to have Tax Administrator Alycia Wright, moved to Step B of the wage scale effective next pay cycle per the supervisor's request. Council Member Boolman seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

- Reviewed the February Financial Reports. February is not closed yet, as there was a billing error with Anthem.
- Discussed the State Audit; Audit will cost \$15,642 and the audit should be completed in May.
- Discussed in general: Land purchase, State Highway Funds reimbursement for street light project, sidewalk assessments. Access Engineering will determine the assessment amount of sidewalk and curb.
- PD Personnel – Chief Ballinger would like to start recruiting police cadets, with the Village paying for the cadet's Police Academy tuition along with a Village salary. Cadets would be required to sign a 5-year agreement, and would have to reimburse the Village the cost of the Police Academy should they leave earlier than the 5-year requirement. Cadets would not be eligible to receive the \$5K sign-on bonus.
- Property & Liability insurance will increase 15% for 2024.
- Discussed the failed levies and the different options the Village has moving forward. VA will be researching a new income tax this summer. VA would like to have the Planning Committee determine how the potential funds will be used. Council Member Boolman advised that the Planning Committee should put together their list, and then the Finance Committee will meet to review what the Planning Committee decided on. VA suggested to have Access Engineering do a cost estimate for replacing curbs and asphalt on several side streets, as some of the monies from the income tax increase would go towards this type of activity. The Village would have to pay Access additional funds to do this, as it would not be part of a grant. Council Member stressed that he wants to see what the impact is to the homeowners or the tax payers of the Village should Council go out for an Income Tax increase.

Service and Leisure: Report given by Tammy Bruner. Next meeting is scheduled for 4/9/24 @6pm.

- Discussed 2 catch basins. Greenmoor's is complete; Woodside will need to have new tile and will work on that this spring.
- Several potholes around town have been addressed.
- New floor drains at the Street Department have been installed.
- Karson Wright is attending CDL training the next several weeks.
- Discussed the Clean Ohio/OPWC Grant; waiting on the Parks & Rec Committee to make decisions for preliminary desired activities.
- Discussed in general: pool, tennis/pickleball courts, TNR program. 6 live traps have been purchased and will be distributed to the TNR volunteers for set up.
- AJBS – John James attended the meeting and discussed the Sports Parade to be held on May 4th. Parade route will be from the Field House to the ball diamonds. Bleacher boards for the ball diamonds have been painted and being reinstalled.
- Boy Scouts will be moving their items from the Scout House to the new shed behind the building. Scout House will be able to be rented out this year to residents.
- Discussed the Street Bid Opening on April 2nd, at the County level.
- Darke Co. Parks Grant – Committee discussed submitting an application for the ball diamonds for new dugout roofs and fencing.

Council Member Genovesi moved to allow the VA to apply for a grant through the Darke County Parks District for new roofs and fencing on the ball diamond dugouts. Council Member VanHoose seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

Personnel: Nothing to report.

Planning: Nothing to report.

New Business –

1. **Ordinance 2024-06** - An Ordinance Establishing 2024 Community Pool Rates For The Village Of Arcanum. (1st Reading). Council Member VanHoose moved to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 2024-06. Council Member Bruner seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member VanHoose moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-06. Council Member Bruner seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.
2. **Resolution 2024-08** - A Resolution Authorizing The Village Administrator To Enter Into An Agreement With Access Engineering Solutions, LLC For Engineering Services. Exhibit A. (1st Reading).

Announcements – None.

Adjournment – Council Member Boolman moved to adjourn. Council Member VanHoose seconded. All present council members voted yea. Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

ATTEST:



Bonnie L. Millard, Mayor



Karen L. Deao, Fiscal Officer



Jerry L. Boolman, President Pro-Tem