

Village of Arcanum Council Meeting
April 30, 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: Rick Genovesi, Jerry Boolman, David Hartley, Ryan Burns, and Tammy Bruner. Also in attendance were VA/Police Chief Marcus Ballinger, Solicitor Nicole Pohlman, Fiscal Officer Karen Deao, Ed Bruner, Ty Smith, Nolan Yeomans, Nicole Yeomans, Jason Blumenstock, Kinzie Fourman, Amy Fourman, Josh Fourman, and Keirstan Fourman.

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

Meeting Minutes – Corrections and Approvals – **Council Member Boolman moved to approve the Meeting Minutes dated 4/9/2024. Council Member Burns seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.**

Amendments to Agenda – Addition of Ordinance 2024-11.

Comments from the Public – None.

Administrative Reports –

Mayor Millard swore in to office, Officer Keirstan Fourman.

Mayor:

- Advertising for the Fire Chief position.
- Property Assessment reimbursement has been received for the painting of the Kollmeyer barn.
- Form for Energizing Service Inspected by Licensed Electrician When Not Required by Local Governmental Inspection has updated language and was represented to Council.
- Preservation Society is asking Council for a letter of support for their application to the Hart Family Fund for Small Towns. Council Member Hartley moved to approve a Village Council letter of support for the Preservation Society in their efforts to apply for a grant through the Hart Family Fund for Small Towns. Council Member Burns seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.
- Violations – Remaining 2023 - 3 property maintenance and 8 sidewalks. Several residents who did not qualify for the Group Shaving Project have been sent letters on their sidewalks. 3 property maintenance violations are being sent to Common Pleas Court. 2024 Violations- 1 sign removal, 14 property maintenance/sidewalk, 4 inoperable vehicles.

Solicitor: Nothing to report.

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

- Sewer Forgiveness for 1 Parkdale Drive. Resident was not home to detect a leak under a concrete slab. Council Member Hartley moved to approve a Sewer Forgiveness for 1 Parkdale Drive in the amount of \$166.50. Council Member Boolman seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.
- Personnel – Officer Keirstan Fourman will begin work on 5/6/2024.

Councilman Burns confirmed with the VA that the business incentive recanting letter had been sent to Vikramsit Boparai.

Fiscal Officer: March Check Recon., 1/4 % Fund Report, Check Registers, and YTD Fund Report were provided in the Council Packet.

- Authorized Expenditures from 3/27/24 – 4/30/2024.
- March Reconciliation – Anthem payments are in transit.
- Fund 413 has been added to the YTD Fund Report.

Safety: Nothing to report.

Utility Committee: Nothing to report. Next meeting is scheduled for 5/8/2024 @6pm.

Finance & Audit: Report given by Jerry Boolman.

- FO gave an update on the utility customer who had donated monies to the Utility Department for work they performed on the resident's property. Funds were deposited to the Utility Department.
- 2023 Audit – Audit should be completed by the end of next week. FO advised committee that the Village will have a few small findings from the State Audit.
- Discussed the current blanket PO procedures. FO will be looking at reducing the amounts currently on blanket POs, and trying to eliminate some of the large blanket PO's that some of the departments have.
- Tax Department – Discussed the Tax Administrator having so many residents coming in on Tax Day to have their Income Taxes prepared. Will be looking into doing something different for next year, possibly charging for preparing income taxes, to alleviate so many individuals flooding the Tax Administrator on Tax Day.
- Discussed the March Reconciliation.
- Fire Fund – There is not enough monies in the Fire Fund to cover the painting of the interior of the building. Committee will be asking Council to transfer the needed funds from the General Fund to the Fire Fund for the expense.
- Discussed the failing automatic gate at the electric building. Cost for new internal controls will be

approximately \$10K. Council Member Hartley moved to approve repairing the gate at the Utility Department in the amount of \$9,850. Council Member Boolman seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

- Discussed the Operating Levies for this November Ballot.

Councilman Boolman addressed the entire Council on whether Council should eliminate the renewal levies and allow the VA to go after a total 1.5% Income Tax, or to place the levies on the November ballot, and the deadline to begin that process is very soon. Councilman Burns clarified with the VA that the 1.5% Income Tax would replace the General Fund 1.6 Mil Levy, General Fund .5 Mil Levy, and Parks & Pool 1 Mil Levy, at which the VA confirmed. VA stated that if the 1.5% Income Tax passed the Village would return the 3 mentioned levies to the residents. VA reminded those present that the Income Tax would encompass individuals who either live or work within the Village. VA stated that Greenville and Versailles both have a 1.5% Income Tax, and the Village is the 3rd largest entity in Darke County with a 1% Income Tax. The Village functions at a high level of infrastructure and street repairs, and it makes sense to move away from going after additional property taxes and go towards Income Tax. Councilman Burns asked if this would help with the new pool reconstruction, at which the VA stated that the pool would not be a part of this, as the pool would need to be 1% on its own, and would be something to consider down the road. VA stated that the monies received by the additional .5% Income Tax would go towards the Village portion of the grants for street reconstruction, the side street repairs that don't qualify for grants, beautification of the Village, brick crosswalks, etc. VA believes that the community needs to see specifically how and where the funds from the .5% additional Income Tax are going to spent. VA gave a breakdown of 80% - Streets & Capital Improvement, 20% Pool Operation – Maintenance – Parks. Mayor reminded everyone that the levies only effect property owners, where Income Tax would be income only. VA stated that if the .5% passed, then the Park & Pool Levy fund would go away. Mayor stated that in her personal opinion that is concerning because the Village counts on that \$30K every year for the pool & parks. VA stated that if the .5% Income Tax passed the revenue for those would increase to \$77K every year, and if it didn't pass the levy would stay on. Solicitor commented that the 1.6 Mil & .5 Mil Operating Levies would need to be on this November ballot or they are gone. Mayor commented that the levies on the March election failed by only 6 & 49 votes. Councilman Boolman stated that they would have to be put back on the ballot for November or they disappear completely. Councilwoman Bruner asked what happens if Council chooses to put a .5% additional Income Tax instead of the two operation levies on the November ballot, and the .5% Income Tax fails. Councilman Boolman stated that the Village would lose \$26K. Councilman Boolman asked when the Parks & Pool levy is up. VA was not for sure on when the renewal would be for that levy. Councilman Hartley commented that the school is going for a levy in November, and the Village would be competing against that. Council stated that they would not ask the residents for the levies and a .5% Income Tax increase, it would be one or the other. Councilman Burns asked for the VA to explain how the 40-year property tax levies work in terms of funding for the community. VA advised that the funds do not have a specific task, but are used where ever funds are needed throughout the village. The funds really get spread around through multiple projects every year in different departments, or areas of the Village. VA stated that voters may pass an Income Tax, if the Village specifically says what the funds will be used for, and not just generalizing the funds like the levy funds. Councilman Boolman would like to see what the reduction impact would be based on a \$100K home, if there would be an additional Income Tax and the 3 levies are given back. VA stated that in regards to the Income Tax 1% versus the 1.5%, the Village has a median income of \$48,625, and at 1% the tax year would be \$486.25, and at 1.5% the tax year would be \$729.38, with a difference of \$9.35 bi-weekly. Councilman Burns asked we know how many people work here but do not live here. The FO stated that the school has the largest amount of people who work but do not live in the Village. Councilman Hartley stated that going to 1.5% Income Tax would put the Village similar to the other larger entities in Darke County. He went on further to say that he feels sticking everything on the ballot will overwhelm the residents, but a 1.5% Income Tax would be legitimate to go for. The mayor advised that in regards to the Operating Levies, the .5 was \$6.76 per \$100K, and it would have gone to \$18 per appraised value as a replacement. On the 1.6 levy residents were paying \$12.46 per \$100k, and would have gone up to \$56 per \$100K. Councilman Boolman stated that for the levies a person would have been paying \$70-80 more for a \$100K appraised home, and with the 1.5% Income Tax a resident would be paying \$200-300 more. Councilman Burns stated that he feels most of the residents want the community to look nice, and even though there is a difference in cost...to be able to offer different amenities, and newer street projects, he feels that it could be beneficial to the community in the long run to put the property tax levies back on the ballot. Mayor advised that the residents own the sidewalks and curb, it is their responsibility to take care of them. VA stated Council had discussed to set aside some monies not to pay for the sidewalks and curbs, but pay the upfront cost, and assessed on the residents' taxes over a few years. If Council would choose to go with the .5% Income Tax increase, the VA asked Council to allow him funds to work with Access Engineering on visual brochures. Councilwoman Bruner stated she'd hate to see an income tax, but at least the Village would be nice, and she felt that the levies were just placed on the ballot at the wrong time with the property values just going up. Mayor stated that the VA held public meetings for the levies on the ballot in March, but in total only about 10 residents attended. Mayor stated that she's been asked since the failure of the levies, what things will no longer get done in the Village. Council mentioned things such as, snow removal, leaf & limb pickup, etc. Something will have to suffer, even though it was only \$26K. Councilwoman Bruner stated that at some point something will have to be done either now or later, because the cost to do things is going up. Councilman Genovesi stated the economy isn't going to get any better, and inflation is just going to keep going up. He wasn't surprised that the levies have failed the past two elections, as it is just bad timing to ask residents to pay more. He went on to say that there is a

difference in wanting the money and needing the money. He does not agree with asking citizens for money that we don't need. If it is a necessity, he is all for it, but he does not agree with asking residents for more money if it's not needed. He knows that that may be an unpopular comment, but that is the truth and is where he stands. He feels the Village needs to be fiscally responsible and not ask residents for money that the Village does not need. The VA stated that the Village will need it, as the Village is going to run out of funding when it comes to the ¼%. Councilman Genovesi wants to make sure that the Village can show the citizens that the money is needed, not just wanted, then we have a chance of passing it. The citizens have to be showed that the money is needed, and it's important that the residents understand that. Mayor stated that the payments now for street repairs are starting to eat up all the ¼% that was meant for capital projects. Councilman Boolman agreed that we don't need the money at this very moment, the books are balanced, and there is an excess in the funds. New homes are coming into the Village, which is increasing the tax base, and with the economy being the way it is, he doesn't see anything passing at this time, with almost doubling the resident's quarterly income taxes. He continued by saying that he knows that we're going to eventually run out of money between all the projects, but it is a ways down the road. Councilman Boolman feels that there has been a lot of positive changes in the Village, with bringing people in, increased wages to keep good people, and the Village still has a balanced budget, and will buy the Village some time. Councilman Burns reiterated that everyone wants a nice community, and he feels that there is a fair amount of people in the community that work outside the county where the wages are higher than the average in Darke County, but they live in our community because it is nice. He continued with we want to keep those people in the community, and we want to keep our community looking nice, he feels it is a fair question to ask the residents for an additional .5% income tax to maintain this beautiful community we have. Councilman Burns stated that it's worth considering the .5% income tax if the Village wants to stay up with the surrounding communities, otherwise the Village could lose residents to those communities. Councilman Hartley stated on the question of whether the money is needed now, probably not, but will the Village need it, maybe. An advantage of .5% increase in income tax would be that your retired residents wouldn't be affected, as they would be with the levies which was a complaint he had heard concerning the levies. But waiving the three mentioned levies, and just go with the .5% that puts the Village even with the other communities, and he thinks the Village may not need the money right now, but the Village will at some point in time, as all cost across the board are going up. He states that all taxes are going up, and everyone thinks about that. He stated it would be a 50/50 chance on whether an additional .5% income tax would pass, but he would support a .5%. Mayor Millard suggested tabling the discussion till the next meeting for everyone to mull it over a little bit more. Solicitor stated that anything going to the ballot has to be done 90 days prior to the election, but the Village would need 2 rounds of legislation passed prior to that. Mayor expressed concerns about having the Village on the ballot along with the school. Councilman Boolman and Genovesi agreed that they would like to hear Councilman VanHoose's thoughts. Council verbally agreed to table the discussion further until the next meeting. Local Ty Smith commented that all Council made valid points, and it's just finding the middle ground. He continued by saying that the economy now is tough for people, and even if you do get a small raise, it doesn't keep up with the cost of inflation and interest rates. He stated that if you let the Village go downhill and don't fix things, it'll cost more in the end, so really, it's just doing a little bit at a time and try not to bleed so hard on both ends. Councilwoman Bruner stated for those that live here but work out of town, will have to pay both towns' taxes.

Service and Leisure: Report given by Tammy Bruner. Next meeting is scheduled for 5/7/24 @6pm.

- A third catch basin has been installed. East Woodside still needs to be finished.

Councilman Hartley stated that the catch basin on Woodside was set to low, and will cause some issues.

- Karson Wright has completed CDL training.
- TNR program has begun.
- Parks - Parks & Rec Committee has been cleaning the creek banks, and looks very nice. Fertilizing and seeding of the paths will start this week.
- Pool – Planning is in full swing. 13 guards will be hired. Will be hiring 4 cashiers this year. Pool info has been released. Health Dept. will be inspecting at the end of May. Committee recognized Julie Miller for her efforts with the pool and the Village.

Personnel: Nothing to report.

Planning: Report given by David Hartley.

- Traffic Light Project – No time table yet for completion, as the correct poles have not been delivered. VA corrected that since the meeting the poles have arrived. Committee discussed possible uses for the incorrect poles, and was mentioned possibly the park. Will be referring to the Park & Rec Committee for input.
- M&T was awarded the Street Bid by the County. The Village was not able to approve or deny the award, however, the Village will retain oversight of the work.
- Reviewed the proposed activities by the Park & Rec Committee for the grant funds in Ivester Park & Nature Preserve. Committee approved a preserve rules and regulations sign in the amount of \$465.

Access Engineering has already had a surveyor for Ivester Park & Nature Preserve to begin the cost estimates for the activities desired for the grant funds. Mayor noted that Franklin Monroe Schools were in the park today using the newly installed Gaga Pit. Several Council Members noted that they have seen the Gaga Pit getting a lot of use.

- Discussed the proposed .5% Income Tax increase.

New Business –

1. **Ordinance 2024-07** – An Ordinance Establishing A Fee Schedule For The Village Of Arcanum, Ohio. Exhibit A. (1st Reading).
 2. **Ordinance 2024-08** – An Ordinance Establishing Water And Sewer Tap Fees For The Village Of Arcanum, Ohio. (1st Reading)
 3. **Ordinance 2024-09** - An Ordinance Establishing A Sign On Bonus For The Village Police Department. (1st Reading). Council Member Genovesi moved to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 2024-09. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Genovesi moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-09. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.
 4. **Ordinance 2024-10** - An Ordinance Establishing A Police Cadet Program For The Village Of Arcanum, Ohio. Exhibit A. (1st Reading). Council Member Genovesi moved to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 2024-10. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Genovesi moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-10. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.
 5. **Resolution 2024-10** - A Resolution Authorizing An Application To Darke County For The CDBG Community Development Neighborhood Revitalization Program For The Funding Of The Village Of Arcanum Improvements Project And Declaring An Emergency. Council Member Boolman moved to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution 2024-10. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Boolman moved to adopt Resolution 2024-10. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Boolman moved to declare Resolution 2024-10 an emergency. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed
- Mayor and VA gave Council an overview of the projects that the grant would be utilized for.
6. **Ordinance 2024-11** - An Ordinance Authorizing The Transfer Of Funds To Various Funds As Provided In The 2024 Annual Appropriations Ordinance, And Declaring An Emergency. Council Member Boolman moved to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 2024-11. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Boolman moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-11. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Boolman moved to declare Ordinance 2024-11 an emergency. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed

Announcements – Mayor will be giving a proclamation on May 9th for “We Are The Majority Awareness Week” at the school.

Adjournment – Council Member Hartley moved to adjourn. Council Member Bruner seconded. All present council members voted yea. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

ATTEST:



Bonnie L. Millard, Mayor



Karen L. Deao, Fiscal Officer



Jerry L. Boolman, President Pro-Tem