

Village of Arcanum Council Meeting
May 14, 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, Eric VanHoose and Tammy Bruner. Also in attendance were VA/Police Chief Marcus Ballinger, Solicitor Nicole Pohlman, Fiscal Officer Karen Deao, and Greg Billing

Council Member Boolman moved to excuse Council Member Burns. 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 4/30/2024. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

Amendments to Agenda – Addition of Resolution #2024-11; 2024-12; 2024-13.

Comments from the Public – Greg Billing from the Darke County Visitor’s Bureau talked about some of Darke County’s upcoming events. Discussed the new Visitor’s Bureau Community online event calendar. Greg asked that if there are any community events for Arcanum to please let him know so that he can promote those events. He also talked about “Selfie with Annie”. The Visitor’s Bureau will have a summer intern this year.

Administrative Reports –

Mayor:

- Next Council meeting will be held at the Fire Station.
- Old Town Hall/Opera House – Mayor presented Council with an example lease agreement. The Preservation Society is not interested in purchasing the building at this time, but is interested in leasing the building. Solicitor does not believe you can put stipulations on how the building can be used if it is advertised for lease. Councilman Hartley stated that if the Village leases the building, we would still have to provide property insurance on the structure. VA stated that the Preservation Society was originally interested in purchasing the building, but found out that they could not get property insurance on the building due to its current state. The Village is able to carry property insurance on the building, because it was insured prior to construction being started. Preservation Society would, therefore, like to lease the property. Solicitor stated that the Village could put some items in the ad, such as if the Village would like it to be a longer-term lease. Solicitor would have to look into if stipulations are allowed within the lease, after being advertised. VA stated the Preservation Society, does not have the funding to pay for utilities, but they are able to pay for 2/3 of the property insurance each year. The Preservation Society advised the VA that they would not be able to pay for the utilities for another 10 years. An option for the Village would be to cap the amount of utilities that the Village would pay for each year, such as \$2,500. This amount would cover what is currently being used in utilities. Councilman Hartley asked who currently covers insurance on contents. VA stated that right now everything is under the property insurance umbrella. Councilman Hartley stated that if any part of the building is subleased, the Village’s insurance will no longer cover content, just the structure. He went on to say that the Preservation Society, and any sublessee would have to have their own content insurance. Councilman Genovesi asked if at any time during the advertising process, could the Village decide not to lease the property. Solicitor stated that the advertisement can state the Village can reject any and all bids. Councilman Genovesi stated that that verbiage should be part of the advertisement. Mayor asked Council’s thoughts on the stipulation of the property not being used for the leased purpose for 6 months. She expressed the concern that once those who are active now in the Preservation Society, are no longer, who will continue their efforts with the building. Councilman Hartley stated that should the Preservation Society disbands, then the lease is terminated regardless. General consensus of Council was to move towards leasing the property to the Arcanum Preservation Society. Solicitor advised that the Township owns 1/3 of the property and she would have to consult with their solicitor first. Solicitor also stated that per statute the property would have to be no longer used for a public purpose, and the Township still meets there, so that could be an issue. It was thought that the Township has begun meeting at the Historical Society. Solicitor questioned if the Township would be willing to gift their 1/3 to the Village. VA stated that they would be willing to do that, but the issue would be storage of the Township truck, which is in the garage of the Old Town Hall. Mayor feels the next step is sharing the leasing idea to the Township. Solicitor advised that she would speak with the Township Solicitor, and then come back to Council.

Solicitor: Nothing to report.

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

- Mosquito spraying has been scheduled for the year. Darke Co. Health Department will be paying for the 4 sprayings.
- High grass warning signs have been placed around the Village.
- An individual would like to purchase a tree from Browns Nursery and have the tree planted in the park in memory of her husband. The individual has asked to have the cremation remains planted under the tree. VA stated that it is legal for this to be done, if the Council approves it. Councilman Genovesi stated that he

felt that this is a great way to honor a loved one. Councilman Boolman and Councilman Hartley echoed the statement. VA suggested putting restrictions on the type of stone markers that could be placed at donated trees. Councilwoman Bruner felt it is a good idea, but that the Village should be approached first by individuals wanting to plant trees in the park. Councilman VanHoose asked if the Village would do the planting. VA stated that the Village employees have done that in the past, but Browns does a great job of planting the trees. Council Member Hartley moved to allow individuals to plant tree in the park with cremation remains and a marker. Council Member Genovesi seconded. All present council members voted yea.

- Generator Back-up – USDA loan requires us to have the generator backup that is located in the Admin copy room, and the generator has went bad and will be \$18K to replace. The VA has requested a quote to only replace the hardware inside the cabinet. VA stated that there has never been any maintenance agreement for the generator backup. Councilman Boolman stated that typically these backups are hooked into the servers and generator. VA stated that he is not aware of it being connected to the server, but it could be.
- Levies/.5% Income Tax – VA and Mayor have been meeting to discuss both issues. VA stated that the Village needs approximately a year to prepare to put .5% Income Tax on the ballot. A year would allow for a solid plan/presentation to Council and to the residents of why this is needed, and what the funds will be used for. In the next 1.5 years the Village will be using a majority of the 1/4 % for the pending street projects, and the financial records will show that additional funding for sustainability will be needed by the residents. VA suggests placing the levies back on the ballot and if it passes, opt to give it back to the community and ask for the .5% in its replacement. Councilman Genovesi spoke with a resident, and the resident conveyed that with the economy's current high costs, more taxes would be a struggle, but the resident didn't have a complaint against the Village in general. Mayor stated that with it being a Presidential Election, there may be more voters. Councilman Boolman questioned whether the levies would be replacement or renewal, at which the mayor responded replacement. Mayor advised that if they passed the Village would gain extra funding, and if it fails the Village would lose around \$26K. Councilman Boolman stated that he would be in favor of placing the 2 levies back on the ballot in November as replacement levies. Councilman VanHoose and Hartley agreed with Councilman Boolman. Councilman Boolman went on to say that if it doesn't pass, then the Village could start work on the .5% Income Tax moving forward. Councilman Genovesi stated that may be at that point the economy could be better. Councilman Hartley stated that his problem is that the Village is not on par with Greenville or Versailles, and they both have heavy industry that brings in a lot of revenue, and the Village does not, and the Village probably needs the income tax more than they do. The Village is the third largest entity in the County with no industry. Mayor stated that the last income tax increase was in 2010. Councilman Genovesi stated that it is just bad timing, and had it been a few years earlier it would probably be a different story. Councilwoman Bruner said that if you don't ask, you won't know. Council Member Boolman moved to move forward with placing the .5 & 1.6 Mil Replacement Operation Levies on the November ballot. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea.

Fiscal Officer: Delinquent Balance Report and Check Registers were provided in the Council Packet.

- Authorized Expenditures from 5/1/24 – 5/14/2024.
- Will possibly be changing the employee withholding schedule for medical/dental/vision insurance. By going to withholding semi-monthly versus bi-weekly (24 weeks versus 26), will hopefully help with the monthly reconciliation.
- 2023 State audit has been complete, and will be available for public inspection by 5/28/24.
- Delinquent Taxes – Years '16 - '18 have been submitted to the AG; some '19 & '20 have as well. Total outstanding Income Tax due to the Village is \$45,654. Tax Administrator is not able to contact any resident prior to Oct. 15, 2024 for tax recoupment, and can only assess a onetime penalty of \$25.00, due to H.B. 33.

Safety: Nothing to report.

Utility Committee: Nothing to report.

Finance & Audit: Nothing to report.

Service and Leisure: Nothing to report. Next meeting is scheduled for 5/21/24 @6pm.

Personnel: Nothing to report. Next meeting is scheduled for 6/4/24 @6:30pm.

Planning: Nothing to report.

Old Business –

1. **Ordinance 2024-07** – An Ordinance Establishing A Fee Schedule For The Village Of Arcanum, Ohio. Exhibit A. (2nd Reading) Council Member Boolman moved to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 2024-07. Council Member Genovesi seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Boolman moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-07. Council Member Genovesi seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.
2. **Ordinance 2024-08** – An Ordinance Establishing Water And Sewer Tap Fees For The Village Of Arcanum, Ohio. (2nd Reading). Council Member VanHoose moved to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 2024-08. Council Member Genovesi seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

Council Member VanHoose moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-08. Council Member Genovesi seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

New Business –

1. **Ordinance 2024-12** - An Ordinance Providing For An Amendment To The 2024 Appropriations For Current Expenses And Other Expenditures Of The Village Of Arcanum, Darke County, Ohio And Declaring An Emergency (Fire Fund, General Fund, Ivester Park Expand Proj-OPWC). Council Member Boolman moved to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 2024-12. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Boolman moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-12. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Boolman moved to declare Ordinance 2024-12 an emergency. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed
2. **Ordinance 2024-13** - An Ordinance Authorizing The Transfer Of Funds To Various Funds As Provided In The 2024 Annual Appropriations Ordinance, And Declaring An Emergency. Council Member VanHoose moved to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 2024-13. Council Member Boolman seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member VanHoose moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-13. Council Member Boolman seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member VanHoose moved to declare Ordinance 2024-13 an emergency. Council Member Boolman seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed
3. **Ordinance 2024-14** - An Ordinance Amending The Income Tax Code Of The Village Of Arcanum, Ohio And Declaring An Emergency. Council Member Hartley moved to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 2024-14. Council Member Genovesi seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Hartley moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-14. Council Member Genovesi seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Hartley moved to declare Ordinance 2024-13 an emergency. Council Member Genovesi seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed
4. **Resolution 2024-11** - A Resolution Authorizing Certification To The County Auditor For The Collection Of Delinquent Utility Bills And Declaring An Emergency. Exhibit A. Council Member Boolman moved to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution 2024-11. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Boolman moved to adopt Resolution 2024-11. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Boolman moved to declare Resolution 2024-11 an emergency. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed
5. **Resolution 2024-12** - A Resolution Authorizing The Aug. 1, 2023 – May 14, 2024 Utility Write-Off Accounts And Declaring An Emergency. Exhibit A. Council Member VanHoose moved to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution 2024-12. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member VanHoose moved to adopt Resolution 2024-12. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member VanHoose moved to declare Resolution 2024-12 an emergency. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed
6. **Resolution 2024-13** - A Resolution Authorizing Certification To The County Auditor For Nuisance Abatement Fees And Declaring An Emergency. Exhibit A. Council Member Genovesi moved to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution 2024-13. Council Member Bruner seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Genovesi moved to adopt Resolution 2024-13. Council Member Bruner seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Genovesi moved to declare Resolution 2024-13 an emergency. Council Member Bruner seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed

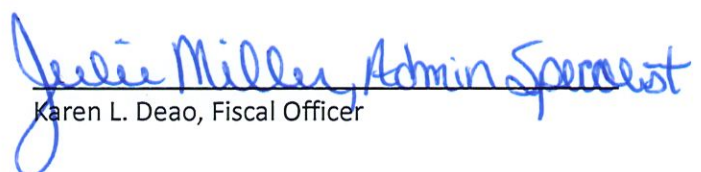
Solicitor advised that she would prefer not having emergency legislation, when possible, especially so many at one meeting.

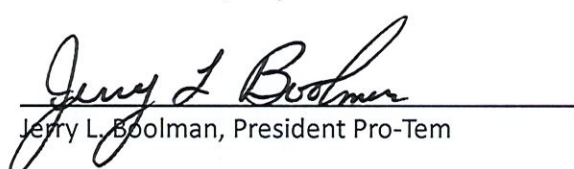
Announcements – None.

Adjournment – Council Member Hartley moved to adjourn. Council Member Boolman seconded. All present council members voted yea. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

ATTEST:


Bonnie L. Millard, Mayor


Karen L. Deao, Fiscal Officer


Jerry L. Boolman, President Pro-Tem