

Village of Arcanum Council Meeting
April 8, 2025
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, David Hartley, Ryan Burns, Jerry Boolman, Rick Genovesi, and Tammy Bruner. Also in attendance were VA/Police Chief Marcus Ballinger, Admin. Specialist Julie Miller, Ed Bruner, and Derrick Robinson.

Meeting Minutes – Corrections and Approvals –

Council Member Boolman moved to approve the Meeting Minutes dated 3/25/2025. Council Member VanHoose seconded. Council Member Hartley abstained. All other present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

Council Member Boolman moved to approve the Special Meeting Minutes dated 3/31/2025. Council Member VanHoose seconded. Council Member Genovesi abstained. All other present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

Amendments to Agenda –

Comments from the Public – Derrick Robinson with Benazer Custom Homes, addressed Council on the water & sewer tap fee increases that were passed last year. Robinson, is concerned that the increase is extremely high, in comparison to other municipalities in Darke Co., as well as, other surrounding out of county entities. Robinson stated that home building costs have sky rocketed, and building affordable homes is becoming extremely difficult, and sales have significantly slowed down. Robinson also stated that tap fees in general do not make any sense since there is no real service provided, unless it is a property being annexed into the Village. Robinson asked Council to consider returning to the old water & sewer tap fees, otherwise he will not continue to build homes in the Village. Robinson wants to continue to invest into the community, but is not willing to pay higher fees to do so. General discussion and questions were asked with Council and Derrick Robinson. VA asked the Utility Committee to schedule a meeting to revisit the water & sewer tap fees, and invite Derrick Robinson to attend, as well as, possibly Arcon. Robinson asked Council that since he was not aware of the increases, and for the home he is getting ready to start he had figured on the old rates, if Council would allow him to receive the old tap fee rates for this home.

Administrative Reports –

Mayor:

- The Arcanum Library was not awarded their grant to build a gazebo with free wi-fi. They will reapply for the grant.
- T-N-R Program – Residents have been calling complaining about the stray cats in town. VA has put three traps out and caught three cats within a 24-hour period. Mayor spoke with the Darke Co. Humane Society stated that the Village account has \$325, and then with the Humane Societies match it would be \$650, which would do approximately 9 cats. Mayor stated that last year the allocated \$1K was missed and no funds were sent to the T-N-R program. Mayor asked if Council would entertain allocating a \$1K this year to the T-N-R program. Councilman Hartley moved to approve \$1,000 from Community Environment to be used for the T-N-R program at the Darke Co. Humane Society. Council Member Bruner seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

Solicitor: None.

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

- Utility Level Billing – To be able to add a late charge to those level billers who are late on their monthly bill, CMI needs to know what percentage of the late fee goes to what account. VA asked Council to approve a 50/50 split between the Utility Fund and Water Fund. Council Member Hartley moved to approve splitting the level billing late fee 50/50 between the Utility & Water Fund. Council Member VanHoose seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.
- Water & Sewer Tap Fees – VA stated that in the past week in speaking with Benazer and Arcon concerning the increased water & sewer tap fees, Arcon also was not aware that the price had increased and sold a home based on the old rates. Arcon is asking Council for a one-time price reduction to the old tap fees for the home that just sold. Arcon hence forth has no issue with paying the new increased tap fees. Councilman VanHoose suggested allowing Arcon and Benazer, each a one-time price reduction on tap fees. VA stated the Arcon's home in question is a sale of a house, not a spec house, where prices can be adjusted prior to the spec being built, and Arcon would request that he also get a spec house as well. Councilman Boolman stressed how important it is to have Arcon and Benazer to come to the Utility Committee Meeting that will be set to discuss the water & sewer tap fees. Councilman Boolman also spoke on the possibility of Council giving incentives to those companies that come into the Village wanting to build "x" number of homes in the community. Councilman Hartley commented to Derrick Robinson that the Council wants his business. Councilman Boolman moved to have Arcon Builders and Benazer Custom Homes to each be allowed to have one sale home and one spec home at the old water &

sewer tap fee rate of \$2200. Councilman Hartley seconded. Councilman VanHoose abstained. All other present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

Fiscal Officer: Check registers were provided in Council packets.

- Authorized Expenditures 3/26/25 – 4/8/2025
- FO attended the State Auditor's Fiscal Officers Seminar.
- State Auditor's are still requesting items for the 2024 Audit. Auditors are hoping to be completed with the Village Audit within the next 2 weeks. A few minor issues have been noted, but as of now there is nothing of significance.
- Tax Season is in full swing. The recent Attorney General letters in March that were sent out to those residents that are delinquent, has been fruitful.

Fire Chief: Not present.

Safety: Nothing to report.

Utility Committee: Nothing to report. Next meeting is set for 4/22/2025 @6pm

Finance, Audit, & Personnel: Nothing to report.

Street & Service Committee: Nothing to report.

Leisure: Report given by Tammy Bruner. Committee met on 4/8/2025 @6pm.

- Splash Pad grant was not awarded. Will reapply for the grant when able.
- Darke Co. Park Grant – Committee discussed what projects to submit for the grant. Committee decided on refencing the tennis courts, a new net for the pickleball court, and dugouts at the ball diamonds. VA will get estimates for each project for the next committee meeting.

Councilman Hartley asked when the Ivester Park projects would be completed. Mayor stated that most of it would be in May, but the bridges would be in June.

Planning: Nothing to report. Next meeting is set for 4/14/2025 @5pm.

Old Business –

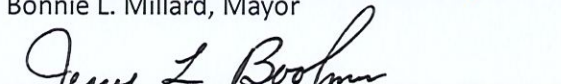
1. **Resolution 2025-06** - A Resolution Authorizing The Village Administrator To Enter Into A Pole Attachment Agreement With Brightspeed Of Ohio, Inc. Exhibit A. (3rd Reading). Council Member Boolman moved to adopt Resolution 2025-06. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.
2. **Resolution 2025-11** - A Resolution Declaring The Necessity For The Construction Of Curbs, Sidewalks & Approaches On North West Street In The Village Of Arcanum. Exhibit A & B. (2nd Reading).

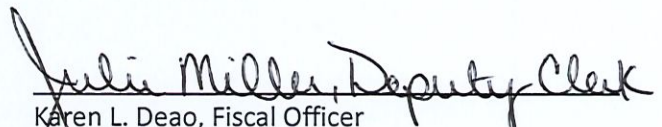
Announcements – None.

Adjournment – Council Member Boolman moved to adjourn. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

ATTEST:


Bonnie L. Millard, Mayor


Jerry L. Boolman, President Pro-Tem


Karen L. Deao, Fiscal Officer