

Village of Arcanum Council Meeting
July 29, 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: David Hartley, Eric VanHoose, Ryan Burns, Rick Genovesi and Tammy Bruner. Also in attendance were VA Marcus Ballinger, Solicitor Nicole Pohlman, FO Karen Deao, Jim Herron, Mariah North, Jean Yeomans, Robert Arling, Tyra Clark, Vickie Rhodehamel, Sally Sharretts, and Traci Greve.

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

Meeting Minutes – Corrections and Approvals –

Council Member Hartley moved to approve the Meeting Minutes dated 7/08/2025. Council Member Burns seconded. Councilman VanHoose abstained. All other present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

Amendments to Agenda – Additions of Ord.#2025-22; Res.#2025-18; Res.#2025-19

Comments from the Public – Pool Concerns: Sally questioned why the pool was closing on July 31st and why the water aerobics schedule was changed this pool season. Sally provided council with a list of individuals that attended water aerobics 2 years prior. Councilman Hartley asked if Saturdays were added to the original Tuesday and Thursday schedule, which Sally responded in the affirmative. Sally stated that for 16 years water aerobics has been Mon., Wed., Fri., and all of the participants have scheduled their summers around those days, so changing to Tues., Thurs., & Sat was challenging. Sally said water aerobics use to also be on Saturday mornings and Monday evenings a few years ago. Mayor advised that the schedule changed to accommodate more swim lessons. Sally asked why swim lessons couldn't be on Tues. & Thurs for a whole month. Councilman Hartley asked how many attend water aerobics currently, which Sally did not know, as she hadn't been attending. Sally said she doesn't like that a lifeguard is being paid to be at water aerobics, as she doesn't think it is necessary due to the age of those attending water aerobics. Sally stated that one Saturday the Manager had 3 lifeguards on duty for water aerobics. Sally stated she wants water aerobics moved back to Mon., Weds., & Fri. She further said that the seniors want their time back, if not, they want a room here during the winter so they can play games, so they can have an open house. Another resident asked if the pool would open next year and what the hours may be. She stated that closing at 6pm makes it hard for working families to attend. Mayor advised that Council will look at the pool numbers once the Fiscal Officer has all those numbers put together, and what the General Fund has available to start with next year. The General Fund always has to provide startup funds to the pool every year for supplies. Councilwoman Bruner stated that she use to attend only the evening water aerobics because of her work schedule, however, the reason for the schedule change was because the pool makes more money on swim lessons, and are having to turn kids away because there aren't enough spots available. Sally stated that the pool can have both, with the water aerobics having Mon., Weds., & Fri., and the swim lessons could have Tues. & Thurs and make their lessons be three weeks long instead of two weeks long. VA stated that the Village was trying to accommodate the large amount of requests for swim lessons, and the Village wants to make sure for the safety of the younger swimmers that these swim lessons are more available. VA stated that getting the swimmers in at a younger age to learn proper swimming techniques is better for everyone. Sally reiterated to extend their schedules to three weeks. VA stated that it also has to do with scheduling, and Kellie Eikenberry is a great Pool Manager, and she has had numerous conversations with parents, and based on that feedback, she provided Council with the dates and times that were best suited for swim lessons. VA stated that the pool has had numerous changes over the last few years, some being a new pool manager the last two years who has been amazing, and changing vendors to offset some of the cost. VA stated that there have been numerous comments about the pool closing next year, and to set the record straight there has never been any talk about closing the pool because the Village doesn't like the pool or doesn't want the pool. The VA stated that the biggest problem that the Village runs into every year is after the pool closes and sits all winter, the Village has no idea come early spring what the winter damage will be to the pool. The pool is already 25 years past its life expectancy, and every year it's a gamble of whether or not the walls are going to crack when it's being filled, or the sidewalks around the edges cracking and falling in. The Village puts about 4,000 gallons of water into the pool a day, which then requires twice the amount of chemicals to be used, and all of this makes the pool very inefficient because it's so old. 25 years ago, the pool really should have been taken out of service and replaced, but that wasn't something back then that Village financially could have done. The VA stated that despite all of this, every year the Village wants to open the pool. The VA stated that last year the Village started to track more in detail the expenses of the pool, and last year at the end of August, the pool lost \$7k, and that is what caused this year's shortened season to some degree. He stated that the pool rates stayed the same and the pool passes stayed the same but those would have been raised if the season continued into August. This season has been a great season, with changing vendors, and the Village picking up and delivering the items to the pool, in the hopes to at least break even this year. The reason for these changes is to sustain us into the future, so that the pool doesn't have a loss of \$14k at the end of the season, so the goal is to get that loss way down. Sally stated that the water aerobics is there for 45 minutes, and if they would have gotten the 33 people there, that would have been \$1,400 to start the pool off. VA stated that is a great number, but the swim lessons bring in a lot more. Sally interjected that the pool can have both, and the pool is charging them \$45 dollars and cutting them out of two weeks at the end and two days a week. VA stated that these decisions were not made with the intent to cut anyone out of anything at all. 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intent was to help the pool be a little bit more efficient. The VA stated that the Village relies on residents to come to Council and express their concerns and hopes for the future. The VA stated that Council and himself are very progressive, and they make adjustments and changes to see if things can be better, it's not always about staying the same, it's about what can we do to make it better, and to think long term about things. VA stated that he is definitely listening to all these concerns for next year, and there are no plans to not open next year. The Village is worried, especially if the levies this fall do not pass, as it is a small request but a huge implication for the Village, when it comes to having gaps of \$14k every year within the budget. It would be great if the Village could use funds like the electric fund to help the pool fund, but that's illegal to do. VA stated that the Village have already committed some funds for design plans of a new pool, as that is the ultimate goal to provide a better one that is safer, with zero entry. The first design was a design with a price tag of about 7 million. The VA stated that it's important to pass the upcoming levy, because the Village doesn't want to go to the community to ask for money for a pool, when the Village is having problems convincing resident's that we need money for daily operations. The question was asked if swim lessons were offered in the evenings, which the VA stated that there were swim lessons in the evening. The individual then asked if that is why the pool closed at 6pm. The VA stated that closing earlier each day and shortening the season was to cut back on wages. The VA stated that the last several years the general attendance has been down, and unfortunately the weather plays a role into all of this. VA said maybe next year the opening time and closing time can be pushed back an hour, so that we're open later in the evening for families. Sally brought up again that one Saturday there was three lifeguards for water aerobics with each getting paid \$12 per hour, and water aerobics doesn't need three lifeguards. VA stated that the Pool manager adjusts when lifeguards come in, the day of, based on the number of patrons currently at the pool. Robby Arling, a current lifeguard, stated that lifeguards are never scheduled more than two at one time, and typically, one comes in the morning and opens and works till 3pm, another guard comes in and works 1-5pm, with a third guard coming in and working 3pm till close. He stated that Sally probably saw on that Saturday was the guard working water aerobics, then the opening concession stand worker, followed by the regular opening guard. Councilman Burns stated that Council does not sacrifice one demographic for another, and that they are doing the best they can to provide an amenity to the whole village, with the tight tax dollars that the village receives. Councilman Burns stated that realistically this is a business decision on the taxpayer dollar, and what the Village really needs is the levies to pass, and tax dollars so that Council can ensure that everyone is represented in the community. It really is not about one demographic or another, but what can the Village provide to the best of our abilities to everyone in the Village. Sally said that she understands, but what she is saying is that for 16 years water aerobics has done fine and, they brought 33 people in, and all of a sudden, they don't count anymore. Mayor and Council stated that this not the case, and everyone matters. Sally stated that if it was run better, the Village would make money, and they'd be happy. Mayor stated that they've heard the complaints and asked if anyone else would like to speak. Mariah North asked if many parties have been scheduled in the evenings with the pool being closed in August. Her concern was that many local organizations like baseball and the school have always had end of the season pool parties in August to celebrate, and were not able to do that this year for the kids, and if there was a way to stay open later for those things. Mariah stated that she feels like the pool needs to be open for at least part of August, so these special things can still happen for the kids, as all the kids look forward to them. She went on to say that in general kids still want to go to the pool in August to visit with their friends and have fun, and her kids were very disappointed about this, and she doesn't want to take her kids further away to another pool. She stated that after the pool survey was done, there was never any updates on it. She stated that it would have been nice for the Village to come back with more information. She stated that the Troy pool is always full and has a splash pad inside the pool, and that families from Arcanum go there because they can count on the hours. Troy also has a swim team, and it would be nice if Arcanum had their swim team swimming at Arcanum again. Mariah said Kellie Eikenberry would be a great person to connect with that because her kids are on a swim team. Mariah believes that majority of the residents would be okay with the pool closing for parties and swim meets since it's for Arcanum activities. She also stated at one time pizza was being served at the concessions, and it was nice to have more than just ice cream and pretzels. But she is thankful that there is food, shelters, and baby pool available. She likes attending the Arcanum pool because everyone knows each other, everyone helps each other to watch over all the kids, and it's nice knowing all the lifeguards. She believes that a lot of people are just disappointed that there is nothing in August for the kids, and especially for teenagers now, what is there for them to do in town. She believes that a lot of parents fear another thing being lost for kids to do in the community, like the bowling alley, something that's fun and good, and keeps them from causing trouble. VA stated that the survey was just to determine what type of pool the community would prefer in general, and those results were communicated to the public by Facebook and Village newsletter. VA stated that the operating levy is for the general fund, that does indirectly affect the pool. VA stated that the survey showed that majority of the community wanted an aquatic center, and that's what was given to the engineers, and they came back with a cost of 7 million. Now the village is actively tweaking those designs to lower the cost. The VA stated that the Village applied for just a splash pad grant and the Village was not awarded the grant, but the Village will be reapplying. VA stated he understands Mariah's concerns in August in regards to the pool parties and such, but with last year losing \$7k in August, and looking at the bigger picture of just having the pool be operational in general, it made sense. The Village does not want to not have a pool, but there will be some growing pains between now and then, on how much the current pool operates. Having just the pool be open in August for pool parties, still means that the chemicals have to be running 24/7 which costs a lot of money. The Village will be looking at all the pool expenses and revenues for the year, and then Council will reevaluate what next years season will look like. Sally

stated that she wants more communication from the Village Council to the public. Sally stated that no one told the seniors when water aerobics started this year. VA stated that everything was posted on Facebook and in the Village newsletter with many flyers being posted at the Admin Office and at the pool itself. VA asked the question to better serve; how would she like to be contacted. Sally then stated that the public needs to know what is going on with their facilities, and the pool needs to be advertised in April with when water aerobics starts, with it being put in the paper. Sally stated that it use to be put in Vicki's column, and there was nothing in there. VA stated so the paper would be a good communication, which Sally stated or Facebook, with VA reiterating that it was put on Facebook. Sally mentioned using CodeRed, which the VA stated that the Village last year started using CodeRed a lot for things like this, and the Village then began receiving a lot of backlash for using it for these things, so the Village has backed off using it so much for things that can be posted on Facebook, or within the newsletter. VA stated that maybe in the future people will have to sign up to attend water aerobics so there can be better communication. Sally stated that majority of people read Vicki's column, with the mayor stating that she sees majority of the early birds not even being picked up from driveways. Mariah stated that the water in the pool in the beginning of the season is extremely cold, and asked if it could be filled sooner so that it had more time to warm up. VA stated that the pool does get filled early, but people just don't realize it, at which Mariah stated that that is wrong as she lives close by and it never gets filled until after school is out that the pool starts being filled. Mariah stated that people are upset that there is a whole bunch of money going into the park, and why was a new bridge made right next door instead of replacing the bridge at the pool. It's a great investment for sure, but then everyone sees that nothing is being done at the pool. She believes that the community would help to up keep the pool with painting and such if they were asked. VA stated that the funds received for the Park and the bridges were through a grant towards the park, and it would have been illegal to use those funds towards the pool. Mariah asked if grants have been allowed for in regards to the pool. VA stated that there are no grants for pools anymore. The CDBG grant could maybe be used for the pool, however, that grant is usually applied for to update the streets. Mariah asked if the school would be able to be part of paying for the pool if a swim team was able to be at the pool. VA stated that the Darke Co. Swim team was offered to come to Arcanum, however the Darke Co. Swim Team decided to stay at Greenville. The VA went on to say that the team decided this because the Village couldn't say for sure that we would open every year, due to the state of the pool, because if the pump were to quit working that would end the ball game for the pool, if the sides were to cave in that would also be the ball game for the pool, and the Darke Co. Swim team didn't want to risk that. VA stated this is why the goal is to get a new pool, so that way those types of activities can happen in Arcanum. Councilman Genovesi asked the VA how many gallons of water is the pool losing a day, at which the VA advised was 4,000 gallons a day. Genovesi went on to say that filling the pool up sooner would just add to the overall expenses of the pool. And this is just an amenity, but it is an important amenity to the Council and the Village, and Council is trying to balance out using taxpayer funds wisely, but still trying to keep an efficient pool open for residents. He said this is why the Council is talking about levies, because one day this pool realistically is not going to exist, because it's just going to continue to deteriorate beyond repair, and Council is trying to think ahead as much as they can. Losing \$7k in taxpayer dollars in August for the pool, isn't okay either, so Council is just trying to balance all of it out, to still have the pool, but not just throwing taxpayer money away. Councilman Genovesi stated that there will definitely be better communication. Another individual in the audience asked about how the splash pad will work in regards to also wasting water. VA explained how the splash pad would work in regards to wasting water. Mayor stated the difference in water for the pool is that it is treated water with chemicals, and the water at the splash pad is not treated water. The individual then asked in the future if the levy passes what are the plans for the pool. VA stated the Village is still deciding on what kind of funding would be needed for such as, loans or an income tax. VA stated that it's been brought up about having an activity center as part of the new pool, that could be rented in the winter for events. Mayor stated that the Village has to come up with a good design and cost, before we can say that this is the percentage we have to put on to generate the money from taxes.

Administrative Reports –

Mayor: None.

Solicitor: None.

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

- Solar Generation Charge – VA would like to change the language where it would work similar to the PCA, and it would allow the VA to make the adjustment based on what Sawvel recommends, and then he notifies Council about it. Council Member Hartley moved to allow the VA to move forward with the language change for the Solar Generation Charge. Council Member Bruner seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.
- Donation – The Harleman Family has donated \$500 to Village. The VA suggested that the donation be given completely to the Fire Department for their help in finding the Harleman's missing family member. Council Member Hartley moved for the \$500 donation be given to the Fire Department. Council Member Burns seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.
- Sewer Department – A blower went bad and needed replaced, and \$12k needs to be moved from the Miscellaneous line to Operating line to cover the cost. Council Member Burns moved that \$12,000 be moved from the Sewer Fund Misc. line to Operating line. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.
- Park Signs – Some complaints have been made about E-Bikes not being allowed on the park paths. Councilman Hartley suggested regulating the speed instead of not allowing at all. Councilman Burns

wasn't sure if all e-bikes had speedometers on them, but he does know that many residents utilize e-bikes. Councilman Bruner stated that with the e-bikes being faster would it not cause a safety issue. Mayor stated that regardless of the type of bike being used, everyone needs to be safety aware. Councilman Burns suggested a speed of no more than 5 miles per hour. Council agreed to allow E-bikes but to place speed limit signs on the paved path. The additional preserve regulation sign has been delivered and installed by the north bridge. Councilman Hartley asked if there is egress and ingress for EMS on the pathed path. VA stated that there are many ways for EMS to get to the paved path.

- Landlord Letter – VA passed a draft copy of a letter that will be sent to landlords concerning the new requirements in regards to utility services.

Fiscal Officer: June 2025 Reconciliation, Check Registers, YTD Fund Report, and Income Tax Spreadsheet were provided in Council Packets.

- Authorized Expenditures
- A CD will be coming due on August 1st. FO will not be renewing the CD, but will be placing majority of it into Star Ohio, with a small percentage staying in the General Fund.

Fire: Nothing to report.

Safety: Nothing to report.

Utility Committee: Nothing to report.

Finance, Audit, & Personnel: Nothing to report.

Street & Service Committee: Nothing to report.

- VA stated that Harvest Fields will be paved in the next few weeks.

Leisure: Nothing to report.

- Splash Pad – It was been discussed moving the location from Ivester Park to the ball park. Motes has given a new design quote of \$3,600 if moved to the ball park. VA suggested doing a survey to the community on where they would like to have the splash pad, and Councilman Burns agreed. Councilman Burns brought up how congested Ivester Park could become with everything new being put in. Mayor advised that the Park & Rec committee felt that as well, and that it would be best in the ball park. VA stated that it was more 50/50. Mayor stated that Randy Baker is concerned about all the leaves causing issues and how shaded it was in the area. Randy would prefer that it be at the ball park with now having a water source with S. High being reconstructed. It was also mentioned that having it at the ball park, it would be someplace for the south end of town kids to get too easier than having to go all the way to the north side of town. Councilman Hartley thought Ivester Park would be good because of all the shelters and there is a lot of activities already there. Mayor said that there is a concern of the kids running across the street in Ivester from the playground to the splash pad. VA stated there's just so much available at Ivester Park, and there are no restrooms at the ball park, unless AJBS has them open for ball games. Councilman VanHoose asked if those restrooms could be unlocked during the day, at which the VA stated that during the summer AJBS has the contract for the restrooms at the ball park. Councilman Burner stated she would like to see the splash pad at the ball diamonds, because at Ivester Park its just so shaded, and you don't want shade when you're at a splash pad, and there is just so many leaves in Ivester Park.

Planning: Nothing to report.

- Committee discussed different alternatives for the brick streets. There is no grant available to replace the bricks themselves, and that is what really needs to be done. VA showed the committee a few different designs for the intersections of the brick streets. Committee dismissed brick stamping because it's costly to maintain.
- Committee discussed street lights for N. Main Street. Access thought they could get the Village 95/5 funding for the project.

Old Business –

1. **Ordinance 2025-19-** An Ordinance Amending The Planning And Zoning Code Of The Village Of Arcanum, Ohio. (2nd Reading).

New Business –

1. **Ordinance 2025-20** - An Ordinance Levying The Assessment Of The Construction Of Sidewalks On Main, South, Pearl, East, First, And Albright Street In The Village Of Arcanum, Ohio And Declaring An Emergency. Council Member Hartley moved to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 2025-20. Council Member VanHoose seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Hartley moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-20. Council Member VanHoose seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Hartley moved to declare Ordinance 2025-20 an emergency. Council Member VanHoose seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed
2. **Ordinance 2025-21** - An Ordinance Providing For An Amendment To The 2025 Appropriations Of The Village Of Arcanum, Darke County, Ohio And Declaring An Emergency (Ivester Park Expan Proj-OPWC). Council Member Burns moved to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 2025-21. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Burns moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-21. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members

- voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Burns moved to declare Ordinance 2025-21 an emergency. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed
3. **Ordinance 2025-22** - An Ordinance Providing For An Amendment To The 2025 Appropriations For Current Expenses And Other Expenditures Of The Village Of Arcanum, Darke County, Ohio And Declaring An Emergency (East/First/Albright/South Sts). Council Member Vanhooose moved to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 2025-22. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member VanHooose moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-22. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member VanHooose moved to declare Ordinance 2025-22 an emergency. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed
4. **Resolution 2025-18** - Resolution Authorizing The Village Administrator To Apply For, Accept, And Enter Into A Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) Agreement On Behalf Of The Village Of Arcanum For The Design Of The Water Tower Replacement Project; And Designating A Dedicated Repayment Source For The Loan And Declaring An Emergency. Council Member Hartley moved to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution 2025-18. Council Member Bruner seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Hartley moved to adopt Resolution 2025-18. Council Member Bruner seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Hartley moved to declare Resolution 2025-18 an emergency. Council Member Bruner seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed
5. **Resolution 2025-19** - Authorize Application To The Ohio Public Works Commission For Funding For The Water Tower Replacement Project In The Village Of Arcanum. (1st Reading).

Council Member Hartley moved to enter into executive session to discuss compensation and employment of public employees. Council Member VanHooose seconded. All present council members voted yea. (8:11pm).

Council Member Hartley moved to exit executive session where we discussed compensation and employment of public employees, with no action taken. Council Member VanHooose seconded. All present council members voted yea. (8:23pm).

Council Member Hartley moved to enter into executive session to discuss possible purchase or sale of property. Council Member VanHooose seconded. All present council members voted yea. (8:24pm).


Council Member Hartley moved to exit executive session where we discussed possible purchase or sale of property, with no action taken. Council Member VanHooose seconded. All present council members voted yea. (8:31pm).

Council Member Hartley moved to allow the Village Administrator to present an offer to Dick Mathias of \$67, 400 for the purchase of real estate. Council Member VanHooose seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

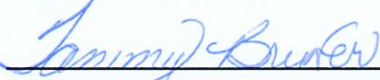
Announcements – None.

Adjournment – Council Member Hartley moved to adjourn. Council Member Bruner seconded. All present council members voted yea. Meeting adjourned at 8:32pm.

ATTEST:


Bonnie L. Millard, Mayor


Karen L. Deao, Fiscal Officer


Jerry L. Boolman, President Pro-Tem