

Village of Arcanum Council Meeting
September 9, 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, Jerry Boolman, and Rick Genovesi. Also in attendance were VA Marcus Ballinger, Solicitor Nicole Pohlman, Admin. Spec. Julie Miller, Missie Shilt, and Karen Shepard.

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

Meeting Minutes – Corrections and Approvals –

Council Member Hartley moved to approve the Meeting Minutes dated 8/26/2025. Council Member VanHoose seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

Amendments to Agenda – None.

Comments from the Public – Karen Shepard asked if any portion of the park grant was paid for by the tax payers. Mayor stated that \$261K of tax payer dollars was used as match funds. Karen asked if the residents were made aware of that, because she couldn't find anything in the 2025 minutes. Mayor stated that the grant began several years ago, and it would have been told to residents in the Village Newsletter and Council Minutes at the start of the grant. Karen stated that at the last Council Meeting she attended, she was very overwhelmed because she didn't understand a lot of what Council was doing, because she's never been to council meetings. She went on to say that she felt bad for the couple that couldn't pay their sidewalk bill, and she didn't feel that Council showed them any empathy. She stated that she went to her daughter who explained a lot about Council, and she now has a better understanding and respect for what Council does. Karen stated that many people have asked why she went to the Council meeting, because Council doesn't really care, and she does not believe those statements are true and she comes because she has questions. Mayor stated that is very important for residents to attend Council meetings, and she wishes more residents would come and ask questions, and Missie Shilt is the only resident that regularly attends. Karen stated that some people may not come because they don't feel comfortable coming into the Council Chambers. Mayor asked Karen what she thought should have been said to the couple that couldn't pay their sidewalk bill. Karen thought maybe saying something like, "We'll see what we can do." Mayor stated that she couldn't say that then because Council had already voted on everything, and had she said that it would have been leading them to believe there was some hope, and she didn't want them to be mislead on that impression. Mayor went on to say that she felt that the couple's issue was paying the full amount in 30 days, but then they realized that they could make payments through out the year prior to being assessed each year. Karen also asked if the levy passes, how much will it generate for the General Fund. Mayor stated that it would generate around \$120K. Karen asked how Council is going to market the levy to help it to be passed in November. Karen stated that she really wants it to pass, and she thinks putting something out like the school does with pie graphs on what the numbers are for revenue and expenditures would be helpful, along with a graph that shows possibly how the levy dollars are going to be spent. Councilman Hartley stated that in the past Council has held town hall meetings to give residents more information about the levy and how the funds would be used, with less than 10 people coming to the meetings combined. Karen suggested having an open meeting in the park, and having the meeting advertised in the newsletter. Karen stated that she has had many people tell her that they will come with her to Council meetings to express their concerns, but yet none of them follow through with actually coming. Councilman Hartley stated unfortunately, many other towns have industry that supports the community in many different monetary ways, and Arcanum does not have that, and is why the Village has to depend on property & income tax. Karen wishes she could get more residents to be involved with the community and work with Council. Missie Shilt suggested Council going door to door and having face to face conversations with residents about the levy.

Administrative Reports –

Mayor:

- Trick-O-Treat – The 31st falls on Friday, and many residents over the years has asked for Trick-O-Treat to be on Halloween. Mayor asked Council what they thought about trying Trick-O-Treat on Halloween for this year and doing daylight & nighttime hours. Council had discussion on the pros and cons on moving Trick-O-Treat for this year. All Councilmembers agreed that the comments from residents seem to be split. Councilman Boolman thought having it on Halloween in the evening was a great idea, as Halloween is about being out when its dusk and dark, and adds to the fun of it. Councilman Hartley agreed that when he was growing up it added to the fun of Halloween, but when its dark kids do wonder here and there. It was mentioned that the school already has the Bean Supper and Halloween Parade scheduled for October 30th, and there is currently no football game scheduled for October 31st. Council Member Boolman moved to hold the Villages 2025 Trick-O-Treat on October 31st from 5:30pm – 7:30pm. Council Member VanHoose seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

Solicitor: Nothing to report.

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

- Police Chief will be giving a public speech on Identity Theft for an organization.
- The 4 acres that the village will be purchasing will need to be surveyed. No closing date has been set. Seller did request that the road being built on the 4 acres be named after him.

Fiscal Officer: Nothing to report.

Fire: Not present.

Safety: Nothing to report.

Utility Committee: Report given by Ryan Burns. Committee met on 9/2/25. Next meeting is scheduled for 9/17/2025 @ 6pm.

- EPA Sewer Drainage for surrounding communities – In beginning discussions and 5+ years out.
- Water Tower Grant- On track, and there is no Village match, and additional grants may be available. Project may start in 2026.
- Upgrading Utility Software – Current software program is hard to work with. Staff has met with Tyler Technologies and their program is very progressive, user friendly, and has lots of benefits for streamlining office procedures. Committee recommends the topic be moved to the Finance Committee.

VA stated that the pole analysis that Brightspeed was required to have done, shows 14 utility poles that are either overloaded or heavy, and the recommendation is to have those replaced.

Finance, Audit, & Personnel: Report given by Jerry Boolman. Committee met on 9/9/25.

- VA will be sending a letter to residents affected by the East/First/Albright Street Project. Committee recommends delaying certifying the assessments to the Auditor's Office for one year to allow residents additional time to pay towards their bill.
- Discussed preliminary wages for 2026
- Executive Session for compensation of public employees

Council Member Boolman moved to delay certifying sidewalk assessment to the County Auditor for one year for residents affected by the East/First/Albright Street Reconstruction Project. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

Street & Service Committee: Nothing to report.

Leisure: Mayor reported. Committee met 8/26/25.

- Discussed possible changes to the design of the new community swim pool. More research is needed.

Councilman Burns stated that the committee feels that the design could be scaled down to save money. VA further stated that based on some feedback after the committee meeting, that it was suggested to not have the proposed Community Center be part of the pool, but part of Ivester Park.

Planning: Nothing to report. Next meeting is scheduled for 9/15/25 @ 5pm.

Old Business –

1. **Ordinance 2025-26** - An Ordinance Amending The Rules And Regulations For Electric Service To Customers Of Arcanum Water And Light. Exhibit A. (3rd Reading). Council Member Boolman moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-26. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.
2. **Resolution 2025-22** - Resolution Accepting The Amounts And Rates As Determined By The Budget Commission And Authorizing The Necessary Tax Levies And Certifying Them To The County Auditor. (2nd Reading)

New Business –

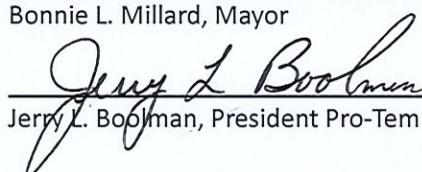
1. **Ordinance 2025-27** - An Ordinance Providing For A One Time Credit To Certain Village Residents For Lead Testing Performed By The Village. Exhibit A. (1st Reading). Council Member Boolman moved to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 2025-27. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Boolman moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-27. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

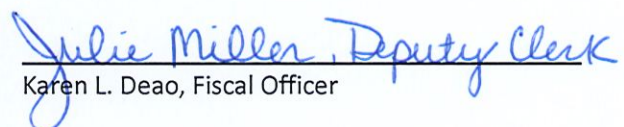
Announcements – Purple Heart Ceremony on September 11th @6pm. LMI worksheets will be given to Council Members the first week of October, to be completed by the end of October.

Adjournment – Council Member Hartley moved to adjourn. Council Member VanHoose seconded. All present council members voted yea. Meeting adjourned at 19:36pm.

ATTEST:


Bonnie L. Millard, Mayor


Jerry L. Boolman, President Pro-Tem


Julie Miller, Deputy Clerk
Karen L. Deao, Fiscal Officer