

Village of Arcanum Council Meeting
December 9, 2025
7:00 p.m. Regular Session

Call to Order – Jerry L. Boolman, President Pro-Tem 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, Rick Genovesi, Tammy Bruner. Also in attendance were VA Marcus Ballinger, Fiscal Officer Karen Deao, Solicitor Nicole Pohlman, Sandy Hartley and Ed Bruner.

Meeting Minutes – Corrections and Approvals –

Council Member Hartley moved to approve the Meeting Minutes dated 11/25/2025. Council Member VanHoose. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

Amendments to Agenda – None.

Comments from the Public – Ed Bruner – The Village is looking very nice.

Administrative Reports –

Mayor: Nothing to report.

Solicitor: Oath of Office were administered to David Hartley, Eric VanHoose & Jerry Boolman.

Council Member Hartley moved to nominate Ryan Burns to Village Council effective January 1, 2026. Council Member VanHoose seconded. Council Member Burns abstained. All other present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Solicitor Nicole Pohlman gave Ryan Burns the Oath of Office.

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

- AMP Scholarships interviews have been completed and Arcanum's nominations have been selected.
- Planning Commission met to review the school's stadium project phase 3.
- Crisis24 is replacing CodeRed, and the VA has started his training. General discussion on how Crisis24 works compared to CodeRed. Once the new Tyler Software is completed, the Village will use Tyler to communicate with residents, and Crisis24 will not be renewed.
- AMP-T – Had a recent meeting concerning a new substation. Meeting was just a starter meeting, and the project would still be 5-6 years out.
- Personnel – Randy Baker has 48 hours of vacation that he still needs to use, however, he is nearing his anniversary date and will not be able to use all of those hours by then. He is asking for Council to allow him to carry 48 hours over, with said hours to be used by the 2nd pay period of 2026. Council Member Hartley moved to allow Randy Baker to carried 48 hours of vacation past his anniversary date, and is to be used by the 2nd pay period of 2026. Council Member VanHoose seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

Fiscal Officer: Check registers were provided in Council Packet.

- Authorized Expenditures 11/26/25-12/09/25

Fire Department: Not present.

Safety: Nothing to report.

Utility Committee: Nothing to report.

Finance, Audit, & Personnel: Nothing to report.

Street & Service Committee: Nothing to report.

Leisure: Nothing to report.

Planning: Nothing to report.

Old Business –

1. **Ordinance 2025-32** - An Ordinance Providing For Wages For The Village Of Arcanum Employees For Calendar Year 2026. Exhibit A. (2nd Reading). Council Member Burns moved to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 2025-32. Council Member Bruner seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Burns moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-32. Council Member Bruner seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

New Business –

1. **Ordinance 2025-36** - 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 (Fire Fund). Council Member VanHoose moved to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 2025-36. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member VanHoose moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-36. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member VanHoose moved to declare Ordinance 2025-36 an emergency. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed
2. **Resolution 2025-32** - A Resolution Providing For The 2026 Organizational Meeting And Regular Meetings Of Council For The Village Of Arcanum, Darke County, Ohio. (1st Reading). Council Member Hartley moved to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution 2025-32. Council Member Bruner seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Hartley moved to adopt Resolution 2025-32. Council Member Bruner seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

3. **Resolution 2025-33** - A Resolution Authorizing Certification To The County Auditor For The Collection Of Delinquent Utility Bills And Declaring An Emergency. Exhibit A. Council Member Hartley moved to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution 2025-33. Council Member VanHoose seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Hartley moved to adopt Resolution 2025-33.
Council Member VanHoose seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Hartley moved to declare Resolution 2025-33 an emergency. Council Member VanHoose seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed
4. **Resolution 2025-34** - A Resolution Authorizing The January 1, 2025 – November 18, 2025 Utility Write-Off Accounts And Declaring An Emergency. Exhibit A. Council Member Hartley moved to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution 2025-34. Council Member VanHoose seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Hartley moved to adopt Resolution 2025-34.
Council Member VanHoose seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Hartley moved to declare Resolution 2025-34 an emergency. Council Member VanHoose seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed

Council Member Hartley motioned to enter into executive session to discuss the possible sale or purchase of public property. Council Member Boolman seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. (7:22pm).

Council Member Hartley motioned to exit executive session where they discussed the possible sale or purchase of public property, with no action taken. Council Member VanHoose seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. (7:31pm).

Council Member Hartley motioned to take the necessary actions to place the Village old well field property located on Dull Road out to bid and to have a land survey completed. Council Member VanHoose seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

Announcements – Councilman Genovesi stated he would like to clear a matter up, that he feels is of great importance. He apologized to Councilman Burns if he puts him on the hot seat. Councilman Genovesi stated that he and Councilman Burns had a conversation approximately a month and a half ago, and he wanted to speak about that conversation, and he stated that Councilman Burns could speak about the conversation if he so chose to. Councilman Genovesi stated that a month and a half ago him and Councilman Burns had a conversation after a council meeting about Mr. Ballinger, about how the Village would be better off if Mr. Ballinger was to choose one job, and do it full time, and the Village would find someone else to do the other job full-time, rather than Mr. Ballinger working part-time in the Police Chief position and Village Administrator position, trying to do both jobs. Councilman Genovesi asked Councilman Burns if that was an accurate description of their conversation. Councilman Burns said that he would just add that, he had received feedback during the LMI study, from residents that shared that sentiment with him, while he was going door to door with the surveys. Councilman Genovesi stated that he had received that same feedback from residents, and he had made that loud and clear to everyone on Council. Councilman Genovesi thanked Councilman Burns for his honesty. Councilman Genovesi asked Councilman Hartley if he had whispered in his ear about any of this, about we have to get rid of Ballinger, did he whisper into his ear about negative things about Mr. Ballinger, etc.? Councilman Hartley stated that Councilman Genovesi indicated that to him. Councilman Genovesi said but did I say that we had to get rid of Ballinger, did I whisper into your ear that we have to get rid of him tonight? Councilman Genovesi stated he never whispered into anyone's ear. Councilman Genovesi asked Councilman VanHoose if he came to him complaining about Mr. Ballinger, saying we have to get rid of him? Councilman Hartley advised that Councilman Genovesi shared the feedback. Councilman Genovesi stated that yes, he absolutely shared the feedback with everyone. Councilman Genovesi stated that what he is asking is if he ever came up to anyone and tell them that Mr. Ballinger has to go, we have to get rid of him. Councilman Genovesi asked Councilman Hartley and VanHoose the question again. Councilman Hartley stated that he didn't recall the conversation. Councilman Genovesi asked the question to Councilwoman Bruner and Councilman Boolman. Councilwoman Bruner stated that she didn't know what he was talking about, and Councilman Boolman stated no. Councilman Genovesi thanked both of them. Councilman Genovesi stated that obviously it's being said the he was whispering into Council's ear trying to get rid of Mr. Ballinger. So, he finds it important to clear this matter up now, because he will not have his integrity questioned by anyone. And with that being said, he wanted to thank Councilman Boolman. He was the one person in the room for 7 years, that has sat by him and stood by him through council, and that he appreciates him very much. Councilman Genovesi then stated that he was now resigning from Council, and wished everyone a good Christmas. Councilman Boolman thanked Rick Genovesi for his service. Rick Genovesi then left the Council Chambers. Councilman Boolman stated that there is now an opening for council. Council Member Hartley moved to accept Rick Genovesi's resignation from Village Council effective immediately. Council Member VanHoose seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

Solicitor stated that Council would need to advertise for the open council seat. Councilman Boolman directed the Fiscal Officer to advertise for the remaining term of the open council seat. Councilman stated that he did have one letter of interest from the advertisement ran at the beginning of the month that he could reach out to if no one else submits a letter of interest. Solicitor stated that it would be fair for Councilman Boolman to reach out to the one individual from the beginning of the month to see if interest was still there. Solicitor stated that Council has to appoint someone within 30 days of today. General discussion was had on the interview and appointment process. Councilman Boolman stated that on Jan. 6th, 2026 open council seat interviews will be at 6pm followed by the Organizational Meeting at 7pm.

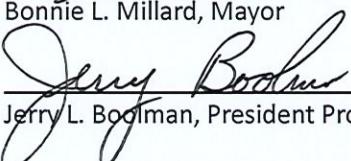
Village Administrator Marcus Ballinger asked to respond to the previous comments. VA stated that in fact comments were made to his administrative office, as well as, employees of the village. VA stated that it was wrong and it shouldn't have happened. If there was an issue it should have been brought to the mayor first, or to himself. VA stated that not everyone is going to like that he does both jobs, but there is a difference between things not getting done, and things are getting missed and the Village is going down a wrong path versus things are actually getting done the way they are supposed to be getting done, and that he's not obviously overworked. He stated he is not going to argue his position, as it is what it is, and not everyone has to like it. But he's not going to allow other council members to be called out, and say that people in the Village are speaking. He stated that certain council members were spoken to, and it's a fact that things were said. VA stated that things wouldn't have been said unless it was true. Councilman Boolman stated that he had spoken with Mr. Genovesi earlier in the day and encouraged him to reach out to Mr. Ballinger and to just talk. The VA stated that he has tried, but the issue with the pool, seems to be something that they can't get past, and he doesn't feel that his actions were appropriate in the matter, or the way he has been with council the last several months. Councilman Hartley stated that he sees the work the VA does both as VA and Police Chief, and he strongly supports what the VA is doing and handling the jobs. He went on to further say that people are going to complain because they see something and they think it's not right, but he thinks it's just in their minds, and if they don't really understand what the VA does or how to do it. He believes the VA is a huge improvement in what the Village had before, and he appreciates him. The VA stated that the Mayor and him had a conversation after the last council meeting, because he doesn't feel like the mayor, council, or himself really addressed the community properly on the model of the Village. He didn't take it as when Council placed him in this situation, he felt like he was placed in this situation because of trust, timing, and the situation at the time. It wasn't a model being set for the next 30 years that the VA would also be the Police Chief. He assumed at some point in time when he retired from the police side, he would just stay on the administrative side as long as Council still wanted him to. And from that point the two positions would be separated again. He thinks it might be a good thing to reach out to the community, probably through the Mayor's Newsletter, and some other forms, and explain this to the residents. And further more if the VA felt, or anyone felt that he wasn't being able to handle both jobs then, the jobs would be separated again. But he believes that an explanation that this isn't the way it's going to be forever may calm some people down. He further stated that he knows that with current officers on the Police Department there isn't a single one that wants to do both positions, they would just want the Police Chief position. Councilman Hartley stated that he believes that when the situation started it was more of an experiment, but it hasn't been an experiment for some time, it has succeeded. Councilwoman Bruner agreed with Councilman Hartley, and went on to say that during the LMI surveys she went to 54 homes on the north end, and not one person made a comment about the VA, and only a few commented about the mayor. Councilman Boolman and Hartley also stated that they didn't have anyone comment on the VA. Councilman Boolman stated that a lot of financial reason drove the council to the model of having a VA/Police Chief. Council had also tried both positions being full-time, and part-time, and neither was working out, so it was time for a change. He believes that the change is working very well, and with like any new position there is learning curves. The only thing he sees is them as the Village, and Ballinger as a Village Administrator is that they need to lean on our experts that the Village pays a lot of money to; the engineers, lawyers, etc., that deal in this environment all the time to make sure we don't get caught up in loose ends, that will upset the constituents. Because the last thing Council wants to do, and Council wants to make sure that they are doing the best they can do for the constituents. Councilman Hartley stated that they don't expect the VA to be perfect, but they expect him to learn from his mistakes, and everyone makes mistakes. The Solicitor stated that she has been through a lot of Police Chiefs and VA's, and the current VA is an improvement.

Adjournment – Council Member Hartley moved to adjourn. Council Member Bruner seconded. All present council members voted yea. Meeting adjourned at 19:48pm.

ATTEST:



Bonnie L. Millard, Mayor



Jerry L. Boolman, President Pro-Tem



Karen L. Deao, Fiscal Officer