

Village of Arcanum Council Meeting
June 30, 2026
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, Tammy Bruner and Chloe Price. Also in attendance were VA Marcus Ballinger, Admin Spec. Julie Miller and Lori Trittschuh.

Meeting Minutes – Corrections and Approvals –

Council Member VanHoose moved to approve the Meeting Minutes dated 6/9/2026. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

Amendments to Agenda – Addition of Res#2026-09.

Comments from the Public – Lori Trittschuh would like to have no bicycle on sidewalk signs placed on South Street, as she has had issues with bicycles outside her business. The issue was sent to Safety Committee for discussion.

Administrative Reports –

Mayor:

- Pool update – Julie Miller went over the pool season so far with Council. Attendance is steady and good for the cooler temps. Compared to last year at this time, the pool has brought in almost \$3k more. Season passes sold are matching 2025. Lifeguards have been very receptive to their new wages with fewer issues on getting shifts covered and no issues getting pool parties covered. The pool has not received any negative feedback so far. The new pool steps have still not been delivered, but it was emailed that they should be here the first week in July. Council was okay with returning the steps if they do not arrive by the end of the first week in July.
- Mayors Meeting – Discussed electric aggregate, which doesn't pertain to Arcanum, and zoning requirements for data centers. Mayor asked if Council would want to add those requirements to the Zoning book or possibly a Moratorium. Mayor is to take the data centers to the Planning Commission. Also discussed at the mayors meeting was the property tax abolishment that failed making it to the ballot this year.
- State Rep. Jonathen Newman was able to secure State funds to be used towards Arcanum's Splash Pad Project.
- .5% Income Tax Legislation – Mayor advised that the legislation was back on today's agenda. The Solicitor advised that the legislation looks different due to the fact that there was already an existing ordinance which makes this ordinance an amendment to be able to place it on the ballot. The Solicitor just wanted to pass on that this is just normal paperwork to place the .5% on the ballot for the residents to vote on. The mayor went over the last several months on how and why Council had decided to place the .5% on the ballot for the residents to vote on. Councilman Hartley stated that the resident that expressed his concerns at the last meeting made some good arguments on the topic, and there was no one present at the meeting on a fixed income saying they would like their real estate taxes reduced, but Council listened to the gentleman's story, and took it hook, line, and sinker. He stated that Council has to think about the community, and where they are headed, and what is going to be in the future. Council can't just say because of one person, well if you don't want to pay more income tax, alright, we won't put it on for the community to make a vote, which is where it gets decided. If the community says no, then its no. But then at least they, the community, decide. Council shouldn't be deciding not to put something on the ballot, just because one person says they don't want to pay more income tax. Councilwoman Bruner stated for her, if at some point there isn't going to be real estate taxes, her biggest concern isn't street repair, but is losing the police, fire & rescue. Councilman Burns stated that was the contingent of the argument is that the burden of the amenities of the Village will be passed on to those who are working, not those of retirement age, the working individuals would be funding for the whole Village. Councilwoman Bruner stated that if you eliminate all of the real estate and levies, and just have the .5% income tax, is it really that much of an increase compared to what you are getting back on your real estate taxes? Councilman Burns stated that it's not about the increase or decrease, it's about shifting the burden from one demographic to another is what the gentleman's point was at the previous meeting. Councilwoman Bruner said that you can't say that all retiree's do not have income, a lot of retirees still have to continue to work. Councilman Burns stated that there is no falseness in that the majority of the income taxed will be shifted to those working to support an entire Village, which is not equal to where we are today, that was the gentleman's concern. Councilman Hartley stated that the reduction or elimination of real estate taxes is not going to go away, it's a national item, they are going to have the signatures, he guesses there are going to be enough for 2027, and if the .5% does not get put on the ballot now, and then property tax goes away, then the community is going to say why weren't you ready for this? What are you going to do now without the police department? What about the Fire Department? The Village is going to be saying, well we don't know because we didn't plan for that. Well, the Village should have, the Village should have at least said, you can vote on whether you want it or not, if you decide no...that's for the community to decide whether they should or should not. The mayor stated that she remembered from one meeting that the school is going to be in the same predicament, and so they will be putting on an income tax as well, and her understanding from Council, was they wanted to get the jump, and get it on this year instead of possibly competing with the school, and at least Council is being proactive. Councilman Burns stated that this is a hot topic nationally, and there are two factors...there's the shifting of burden from one demographic to another, and then also, the conversation which is nationally around removing tax from real estate, to where there is also a balance of power shift from those who have real estate versus those who don't own real estate. So, it's a complicated topic, and if it can't be solved in Council Chambers, then it needs to be solved at the ballot.

Solicitor: Not present.

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

- Downtown parking lot is in the process of being redone. Currently there is flower beds separating the parking lot from the sidewalk and those are being removed. VA was thinking about putting flower pots up there, however, he is uncertain if the Garden Club would be able to help manage those. Another idea was brought up of putting benches there instead for lower maintenance. The VA presented Council with 5 different styles of benches that could work for that area. The VA said that it will probably only be 2 benches and they are not overly expensive. Council was asked to initial which bench each of them preferred. Mayor asked about the entrance that is currently there for people to walk through, and what is the size of it. The VA said that it is about 6ft wide. The mayor said that to beautify the area, would it be possible if Council goes with the benches, to put one flower pot in the center. Councilman Burns suggested asking businesses to sponsor the benches. The VA said there are several organizations in town that may be willing to help pay for the benches. Councilman Hartley suggested adding a small decorative iron fence to the area.
- Server – Every 5 years the Village purchases a new email server and administrative server. The current version of CMI is an inhouse version, and with moving to Tyler that is going to be moved to cloud based, so that server is going to become obsolete. Email and Microsoft are moving away from physical servers to cloud based servers as well. The VA stated that the Village was planning on moving to an email cloud server next year, but with switching to Tyler the Village needs to do that now. Funds will need to be moved to allow the purchase of the new email system. This move will allow the Village to move to Microsoft 365 and improves the security of the Village which would make the Village more compliant with the State. Councilman Burns asked if it would be possible for Council Members to have an email setup for each of them on this new server. VA said that it is possible, but each Council Member would have to decide whether they want an app or token to access their email. Council Member Boolman moved to allow moving \$15,000 from the General Fund- Miscellaneous to General Fund-Building Maintenance. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.
- IWorks – VA would like to purchase zoning software at an annual cost of \$2,700. The software is cloud based and updates to the software do not cost anything additional. The software will be more efficient in the years to come with approximately 60-70 violations done each year. The mayor believes that the software is very user friendly and thought the software was very good. The Software will also archive all previous year violations for easy searching. The company has offered the Village to only charge the \$1,800 set up fee and free service for the remainder of 2026. Councilman Boolman asked if there was any municipality locally that has used the company, in which the VA and mayor responded no one in Darke County. VA stated that the City of Eaton gave a raving review. General discussion followed amongst Council and VA. Council Member Hartley moved to allow moving \$1,800 from the General Fund- Miscellaneous to General Fund-Operating for the purchase of the zoning software of IWorks. Council Member Boolman seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

Fiscal Officer: Check registers, May Reconciliation, ¼ Fund Report and YTD Fund Report were provided in Council Packet.

- Authorized Expenditures 6/10/26-6/30/26

Fire Department: Not present.

Safety: Nothing to report. Next meeting will be 7/7/26 @ 7pm.

Utility Committee: Report given by Ryan Burns.

- Water tower replacement – There are two scenarios for funding. One option is a CDBG CI grant with OPWC grant, and the second option is just the OPWC grant. The committee recommends option one, which will only leave the Village paying \$76,599 per year loan payment over 30 years, where option two will be a loan payment of \$97,595.
- Discussed a possible land development within the Village, and what that business relationship will look like with the homebuilder. The builder is just in the planning phase, and the committee recommends the issue be sent to the Planning Committee, where they can discuss the next steps.

Finance, Audit, & Personnel: Nothing to report.

Street & Service Committee: Nothing to report.

Leisure: Nothing to report.

Planning: Report given by David Hartley.

- Committee discussed Home Occupations/ Farm Stands in the front yards, as it violates the Zoning Book section 16.4. Committee recommends the VA to ask those individuals that operate those stands to move them to their porch, or off their property, and file for a permit.
- Discussed the Benanzer Subdivision Development regarding the sewer tap fees and sidewalks. Mike Bowers presented a housing analysis, which was very comprehensive. Benanzer has not purchased the property yet, but the Village still wants to have a plan put together for if/when Benanzer buys the property in regards to sewer tap fees, sidewalks, size of streets, etc.

Old Business –

1. **Resolution 2026-08 - A Resolution Accepting The Bid For The Sale Of Certain Real Estate. (2nd Reading).** Council Member Burns moved to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution 2026-08. Council Member Boolman seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Burns moved to adopt Resolution 2026-08. Council Member Boolman seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

New Business –

1. **Ordinance 2026-13** - An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 2025-06 To Increase The Municipal Income Tax By 0.5% Per Annum For A Continuing Period Of Time For The General Municipal Operations, Maintenance, New Equipment, Extension And Enlargement Of Municipal Services And Facilities And Capital Improvements Of The Village Of Arcanum, Ohio And Authorizing The Question Of Such Increase To Be Placed On The Ballot At The Election To Be Held On November 3, 2026 And Declaring An Emergency. Council Member Hartley moved to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 2026-13. Council Member Burns seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Hartley moved to adopt Ordinance 2026-13. Council Member Burns seconded. Councilwoman Price voted No. All other present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Hartley moved to declare Ordinance 2026-13 an emergency. Council Member Burns seconded. Councilwoman Price voted No. All other present council members voted yea. Motion passed
2. **Ordinance 2026-14** - An Ordinance Authorizing The Transfer Of Funds To Various Funds As Provided In The 2026 Annual Appropriations Ordinance, And Declaring An Emergency. Council Member Boolman moved to waive the three-reading rule for Ordinance 2026-14. Council Member VanHoose seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Boolman moved to adopt Ordinance 2026-14. Council Member VanHoose seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member Boolman moved to declare Ordinance 2026-14 an emergency. Council Member VanHoose seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed
3. **Resolution 2026-09** - A Resolution Authorizing The Village Administrator To Enter Into An Agreement With Choice One Engineering And Declaring An Emergency. Exhibit A. Council Member VanHoose moved to waive the three-reading rule for Resolution 2026-09. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member VanHoose moved to adopt Resolution 2026-09. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed. Council Member VanHoose moved to declare Resolution 2026-09 an emergency. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed

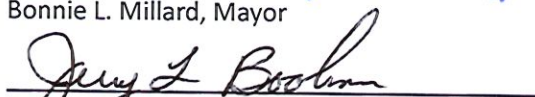
Councilman VanHoose asked to revisit the replacement of the certain manhole covers within the Village. He stated that they can damage a plow, and if he would hit one with his car and it caused damage, he would want the Village to pay for those repairs. He asked for the rest of Council to reconsider not having those manholes fixed. The VA stated that he didn't have the exact cost to fix those presently, but it was about \$25k to have those fixed. VA said that if it isn't done this year, he plans on putting in the 2027 budget. Councilman VanHoose said that is fine, but it would be cheaper now since the company is giving us a break since they are already here for another project. Council Member VanHoose moved to proceed with having the manholes fixed in 2026. Council Member Bruner seconded. Council Members VanHoose, Bruner and Boolman voted yea. Council Members Hartley, Burns, Price voted no. Mayor Millard voted as the tie breaker in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Announcements – Mayor announced that the 2026 Purple Heart Ceremony will be on September 10th.

Adjournment – Council Member Boolman moved to adjourn. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.

ATTEST:


Bonnie L. Millard, Mayor


Jerry L. Boolman, President Pro-Tem


Karen L. Deao, Fiscal Officer