

**TOWN OF ARGOS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Mark VanDerWeele called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present for the meeting: President Mark VanDerWeele, Vice President Suzanne Umbaugh, Members George Null, Casie Rowe, Dustin Johnson, Clerk-Treasurer Patty Jones and Town Attorney Derek Jones.

MINUTES

Minutes from the August 19TH Regular Session were submitted for approval. Vice President Umbaugh moved to accept the minutes and Council Member Rowe seconded. The motion carried with Member Null abstaining.

JANE HALL

Argos librarian Jane Hall discussed the Indiana Bicentennial for 2016 and what the library was doing as a participant.

CITIZEN INPUT

Residents Chuck Calhoun & Mark Pike expressed concerns for parking situations in town. Mr. Calhoun has taken issue with “No Parking” signs while Mr. Pike does not have two off street parking areas on his property.

Jim Ely, resident living at 410 South Michigan Street, talked about drainage issues causing major flooding on his property and basement during times of rain. Utilities Superintendent Jim Burroughs said that he would come and look at the situation to see what can be done.

OLD BUSINESS

Attorney Report:

Attorney Derek Jones said that the Ruh residence is now compliant and hooked up to the town sewer system.

Council Member Null moved to accept the Attorney Report and Council Member Johnson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Openings- MC Tourism, Maple Grove Cemetery:

No letters of interest this meeting.

Trees & Landscaping:

After a brief discussion Council Member Null moved to table the subject and Vice President Umbaugh seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

RTC Fiber Optics:

President VanDerWeele spoke to the Council about RTC’s plans for bringing fiber optics to Argos in phases. The fiber will greatly benefit the school and many businesses in and outside of our industrial park. The fiber will also be another “tool” to market the investment property

south of town. President VanDerWeele said that he has had discussions with the County Commissioners about help in funding the fiber to Argos as they (the county) have helped to fund the Metronet to Plymouth. President VanDerWeele expects the amount needed from the town to be under \$200,000 and asked the Council to get a "letter of intent" to RTC so that they could move forward. Member Null moved to give RTC a letter of intent and Vice President Umbaugh seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Budget Update:

Clerk-Treasurer Patty Jones set a tentative budget workshop for Wednesday, September 9TH at 6:30 PM with Eric Walsh from H.J. Umbaugh & Associates.

NEW BUSINESS

Salaries:

Utilities Superintendent Jim Burroughs moved employee Joe Stone from the Street Department to Water Operator in April and expressed how pleased he is with the job he has done and is requesting the Council to make Joe the official Water Operator and consider a wage increase for him. Council Member Null felt that the Water Operator position should have been advertised just as the other positions have been.

Vice President Umbaugh moved to make Joe Stone the Water Operator and Council Member Rowe seconded. The motion carried four to one with Council Member Null opposing.

Jim Burroughs explained the apprentice lineman increases are based on the top lineman base pay which is currently set at \$22.10 per hour. Mr. Burroughs requested that amount be changed to \$26 per hour which would keep us competitive with other municipalities.

Vice President Umbaugh moved to increase employee Joe Stone's wage to \$21.50 per hour retroactive to July 1ST and Council Member Rowe seconded. The motion carried four to one with Council Member Null opposing.

Council Member Johnson moved to change the journeyman lineman top pay to \$26 per hour effective January 1ST, 2016 and Council Member Null seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Roll-Off Dumpster:

It was agreed to use the roll-off dumpster for construction materials in September because of the large item pick up in October. Mr. Burroughs will set up the 10 day timeframe with Allied Waste.

Front Counter:

Clerk-Treasurer Jones would like to move forward with the quote of around \$800 from Tracy Thayer to widen the front counter of the Clerk's Office and to put in a sliding window for more personal communication with the customers. Mr. Burroughs' suggestion was to extend the counter to the doorway and have an all open concept. Clerk Jones disagreed stating that it is unnecessary to extend the counter that far and that the security of the office is compromised. President VanDerWeele told Mr. Burroughs to get the information for what he wants and bring it back to the Council.

CLAIMS

Clerk-Treasurer Jones read the top five claims which totaled \$97,602.64. The total claim docket was in the amount of \$130,038.09. Council Member Rowe moved to accept claims 851 through 903 and Council Member Null seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

With no more business brought before the board, Council Member Rowe moved to adjourn the meeting and Vice President Umbaugh seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM.

Mark VanDerWeele, President

ATTEST:

Patty Jones, Clerk-Treasurer